

# WIN INDIA REPORT #6

JANUARY 30, 2008

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## Dear Friends and Prayer Warriors,

Praise the Lord! (This is the usual greeting among Christians in India.) We serve the God of many surprises! Yesterday one of our Room Service boys asked Darin for a Bible in English. We went to the YMCA Christian bookstore and bought 14 Good News Bibles.

Today the story got out and when I placed a call for room service breakfast, the boy answering asked if he could also have a Bible. I said yes, if he would come to my room and get it. Well, at 2 pm the parade of boys started -- from both room-service and housekeeping -- in 20 minutes time, we had given away 20 Bibles (some in English and others in Telugu, for those who do not read English)! They were so thankful. We are amazed, since we thought they all were Hindu. But some said that they are Christians and will read their Bible every night. This was such a wonderful blessing that God gave us.

But just now, I received a phone call from a pastor here, Dhanraj, that the father of his wife [Sarah] just died of a sudden heart attack. He asked for special prayers, since they must leave tonight and travel a long distance for the funeral tomorrow. We spent last night at this dear couple's church, our OLIVE HOUSE OF WORSHIP. Then they and their teenage daughter Jerusha and son Jason came to dinner and fellowship with us at our hotel restaurant.

More than 100 people gathered at Olive House Church last night for a special time with our WIN India Team. It was an amazing praise and worship service. We felt like we were with old friends -- and indeed some were, as about a dozen of our

favorite students came from St. John's school [for slum children]. My favorite most smiley boy, Rameesh, came up after the service with the children and asked if I would please lead them in a song. I asked him what we should sing and he replied, I've Got Peace Like A River. They were amazing and could sing the song better than I.

Many people came and asked for prayer for various burdens. Darin, Tamara, and I each had prayer lines stretching across the auditorium. The family that touched us most have 2 deaf children -- who can not hardly communicate, because sign language is not taught in India. But these tragic children and their brothers and sisters were both gracious and beautiful.

A big surprise was to see our orphan, Barnabas. We "adopted" him last year when his mother died at childbirth. He is being cared for by a lady hired to be his foster mom. He is very healthy, rolly-polly, and walking everywhere. I could hardly believe it was the same child as the malnourished small baby we left a year ago. PTL!

We must help finish their church building. They need windows and doors that can be locked. The church has been vandalized several times. So now the table, pulpit, chairs, mats, wall hangings, everything must be removed at night and put in protected storage. The cross on top of the church has been replaced 3 times. These happy servants of Jesus are a lighthouse in the middle of this poor village. Through them many can come to know Jesus.

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Sadly, tonight Tamara and Darin must return home. I still have several tasks to complete here. Keep praying for us as we face the challenges of the next week, especially that God would give us the correct words -- His Words -- for all with whom we come in - contact. Also pray that my niece, Nicole, will experience a quick healing of her torn ankle ligaments.

Thank you for partnering with us in India!  
God called us to be His servants. His grace and strength are sufficient for each day,

Elaine and the Christians in Hyderabad, India

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