

WIN INDIA REPORT #9

FEBRUARY 9, 2008

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Elaine's Home from Moments of Grace in India

I stand amazed — and humbled as I learn more and more of how many of you God used at specific times and in specific ways to start praying for us in India. You couldn't possibly have known all the situations we got into where it was either God's guidance or His direct intervention that kept us safe, courageous, and usable in His service. But we know without a doubt that it was the Holy Spirit working in you to keep us before the throne of grace — and our blessed God was merciful beyond what we deserved.

So lets see if I can recall the Top 10 places where you prayed and God intervened:

1. My big fear of traveling alone was unnecessary. God used a couple of wonderful seatmates, empty planes, counter agents who changed my seat to extra leg room bulkhead or emergency row seats, and early boarding passes to make this my easiest experience in long distance travel.
2. When we needed God's wisdom about which projects to help fund, which to continue or eliminate, which new ones to add, etc. God took all of the decision making out of our hands. He opened and closed doors for us in amazing ways! Either we were informed that we could no longer contribute in the same way because of new India Government regulations, or we were told our funds were no longer necessary for some projects. We were shown a couple of exciting new ministries — including opening a computer school and a sewing training center in an outlying tribal village. Nicole, Tamara, Darin, and I spent many late night or morning hours in devotions, prayer, fellowship, and discussion to make

sure we were all in agreement about what God was saying to us.

3. When we needed informed knowledge about legal donation rules and amounts in India, God had us invited to lunch with the YMCA Director, Mani. One of Mani's best friends "happens" to be a Indian banker, so while we were asking our questions, Mani simply picked up his cell phone and went to his best source of information. We were so fortunate to have such credible guidance and Mani has offered to help any of our ministries that need help with their government paperwork. We thanks God for him and his wife, Sheila.

4. We were just learning that there have been problems at our WIN India Public School (the gypsy families move away, older students at age 14 drop out for marriage and jobs, school uniforms were stolen when many families had to move away during the huge windstorm, etc.). But God has already been working in the hearts of our school leaders, Manoj and Shirly. Rather than abandon the project, they are trusting God to expand the school next year by providing them a location to open a hostel for about 50 students. This will enable the older students, who want so much to learn and continue their education, to have a place to stay and they won't have to move with their gypsy-migrant families.

5. Gypsy tribal leaders complained that we should be digging them a well for water, not putting all the "rich American" money into education. But God brought along someone to remind them that they are illegally squatting on government land and they do not have permission to dig a well. Cool heads and calm words helped us avoid some potentially hot and ugly situations.

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6. So many times when we could not make ourselves understood (because we don't speak Telugu or Hindi), God sent a bi-lingual person to interpret for us: an Indian friend to the restaurant when we were trying to order; a 12- year old boy that speaks 5 languages when we were being tourists at Charminar and being harassed by peddlers and beggars; a phone call from Arun when we needed someone to give directions to the taxi cab or autorickshaw drivers who could not understand English — and we had no idea how to give the correct directions. More than once God's timing was perfect!

7. God's guidance in establishing an OM bookstore account to purchase 4 cases of Telugu Bibles. We couldn't have guessed that one whole case would be asked for by our hotel staff service boys. But God knew and he had them sitting in our room ready and waiting when the time came. And the fact that we picked up 14 English Bibles — and that was exactly the number that was asked for was simply a God-thing.

8. My pharmacist at Group Health remembered my coughs, sore throats, and other ailments that I picked up during previous India travel. She insisted that I take enough medicine, lozenges, etc. to be prepared. Well PTL, I didn't need them. But they did help with some of Tamara, Darin, and Nicole's bug germs.

9. We learned that it is illegal to leave more than \$5,000 US in India with one person in one year. But we were advised to go to Thomas Cook [money-exchange co.] and get Indian Rupees, for which there is no limit on what you can give. Darin and Tamara decided that I could not go alone, so went as my bodyguards. However, God

knew (and we had never been told) that you can only exchange \$2000 US a month per person into rupees. Since all 3 of us were there to show our passports, we could exchange \$6000 with no questions asked. And since it was the last week of January, we could go again the first week of February, if necessary. Several times God made up for our lack of knowledge.

10. Many many times we literally saw the Red Sea part — when it was time to cross a major street with dozens of lanes of cars, busses, motorcycles, autorickshaws, cabs, people, etc., Darin would say we'd better walk down the block to the corner, but Tamara and I would hesitate, pray, look up, and see that there was absolutely no traffic at that moment coming from either direction. A miracle? We think so. But then God protected us from so many near misses, we're sure our guardian angels were on duty 24/7.

For all of these reasons and more which I am still processing, I owe a debt of gratitude to you that stood with us so faithfully. Your prayers, your love and concern, your giving to the needs in India, all made the difference in what God allowed us to do with Him and for Him in India. There will be more stories and reports to come. Stay tuned.

Elaine

[You can write me at writersinfonetwork@juno.com]