



SPIRITUAL SWORD MISSIONS INDIA JONES NEWSLETTER



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Greetings to all from India. The month of February has been a very busy and productive month. I greatly appreciated the helping hands, heart, and mind of brother Kirk Hiscock at the Mustard Seed Village and the Rainbow Village. It is always a blessing to me and the children to have American brothers and sisters come and work with us.

The children are doing well. We have added two little girls and two boys this month and this weekend I will bring three more orphans from Karbi Along to the villages. As always there is a need for adoptive parents to help care for the children.

The building of the new Theophilus English Medium School is underway with the cement foundations and walls being poured. Our contractor plans to have the three large school buildings completed by December. We expect, if funding is available, to pay for the building and then furnish the classrooms and offices by the end of December and begin the new school year of 2018 in the new school. I am in great need of special contributions to make this government approved school a reality. Please help as you can!

Our Antioch program continues to grow and adapt to the different challenges we face in the cities of Argatala, Dimapur, Jorhat and Kalampong. Two families are in training at present for Kohima and Dimapur. Brother Peter and I will move the Antioch training center to Guwahati at the end of this year or the first of 2018. In addition we will train a family to begin the work in Aizawl - the capital of Mizoram.

A large part of the Antioch program includes converting denominational preachers in the villages and retraining them to be preachers of the one true church. So far this year we have trained nine preachers and graduated them. They are now converting their former denominational members into the congregations of Christ's Church.

Our village evangelisms continues to produce many converts. Almost weekly I receive reports of new conversions.



Preaching to a denominational group in Argatala.



Baptisms among the Chakma



Speaking about Jesus to a group of college students.

A Visitor's Perspective by Kirk Hiscock

It is 6:30 pm and Garry and I are just sitting down in his humble cottage for dinner. We had just earlier finished the evening devotional with the boys. The cottage is modestly furnished consisting of one bedroom, a bathroom, and a single room containing a small kitchen and living and dining area. The water to the cabin is not fit to drink and all consumed water must be bottled or otherwise purified. There is no exterminator service here and crawling spiders or other bugs and creatures are possible to be found in the abode. By U.S. standards this would not likely meet one star hotel accommodations.



Kirk preaching at MSV

This evening there is a knock at the door. It is sister Nancy and her friend, Jasmita who enter. Sister Nancy has Typhoid fever and tonight she is battling a 102 F fever. She is heavily bundled in blankets as she sits down and Garry begins to evaluate her medical condition. Not long after she sits she breaks down and cries. Without hesitation Garry makes the decision to drive her to the nearest hospital which is nearly an hour away. No dinner for him this evening.

Another evening in Rainbow village Garry performs routine medical evaluations of the girls. This is done not only for the benefit of the girls, but also for yearly documentation to accommodate the government oversight. This evening he is deeply saddened as he reviews the past doctor's work on a badly burned girl named Sucramoni. She was set on fire as a child by her Grandmother who determined she no longer wanted to care for her. This is too common a practice still in this remote corner where the world's eyes do not go. Garry works until bedtime until he has completed his examinations.

Another evening Garry and I sit together at dinner and he shares with me the evangelistic work he is consumed with. He tells me the story of how he was speaking God's word in a part of India (Mon district, Nagaland) where denominational influence is great. At the end of his speaking to them he learns of a plot where some of those who did not like his message sought to kill him. He left that area and now he seeks to return. As he relays the story he pauses for a moment to compose himself as he is beset with emotion for (I am guessing here) what he feels is his failure for leaving the work earlier under threat of life. A work that most of us would never even dare to enter into initially.

Another day we arrive into Arunachal Pradesh enroute to Rainbow village where we are greeted by security. This area of India is infested with terrorists and the Indian government monitors the province very closely. Especially for tourists as myself who seek to enter. After a few minutes of explanation we are free to pass and we enter. Garry relays to me how dangerous it is to drive at night here as the terrorists emerge from the woods and demand tribute to further their cause. Nearby businesses can be seen with "Say no to extortion" as they are frequently targeted for "protection" money. Garry nonchalantly tells me the military major recently told him he was even being discussed among the terrorist group as a target for kidnap and ransom. He does not seem too concerned by this as he jokingly says his wife would not give more than \$100 ransom to have him returned!

Later that same day within the province, Garry, Ng (the Rainbow Village head administrator), and I drive through the province. We pass a young woman on the side of the road sitting there with a lost look. Garry begins to ask Ng about her and we suddenly pull over to speak to a nearby vendor asking of her condition. She is one of the many forgotten in this part of the world. No government programs to care for the mentally unstable here. On our return to Rainbow Village we stop to pick up this woman and put her in the vehicle. The compassion Garry has for this woman is evident as he quotes Heb 13:2: "Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares". We bring her back to the village but later she runs away. After searching for her for some time Garry realizes with sadness the search is in vain. Later we learn she returned 22 kilometers to the same spot. Garry is now seeking a mental home or hospital to take her to. Perhaps later she will come to Rainbow Village.



Garry, Ng with the mental woman by the road

My last day here I am consumed with sadness at the thought of leaving. I have grown such an attachment to the children here as all who visit do. But I leave happy to know these children are so well cared for. One of the blind girls approach and ask if I have pity on them. Blindness, diseases, and various other infirmities are so prevalent here. I am taken back by the question but immediately reply of course I do not pity them. They are in a safe place and they are protected by the Lord. They have medical attention (although more money is needed to give them anything close to the levels enjoyed in the USA), they have food, shelter, and are being brought up with the Lord's word. They do not have the distractions from

God's word as many in the USA have and are more likely to remain faithful until death. I do not pity them, but rather I am envious of them in many ways. I view the love they have for the Lord and for one another and I know this is what God intended as a church family.



Kirk and our blind girl - Anjali

I am blessed to have experienced this in my life. This is by far the most unselfish work to which I have been witness and I leave realizing how puny my efforts have been in comparison. When I see the comforts and safety of the USA that Garry has given up to work from sunup to sunset for the spiritual and physical well being of the children, it serves as a poor reflector of me when used as a mirror of my life. So now it is time to change that man in the mirror.

gives me to much credit for the "sacrifices" I make for the work in India. Certainly, the joys and relationships I build and have with the children, staff and others I work with in the cause of Jesus far more than make up for the few things I give up in this work. I am thankful for all the brothers and sisters in America who make this work possible.

NOTE: I appreciate brother Kirk's humble response to his experiences in India. I am afraid he

Garry

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS



1. **Medical clinics** are always in much demand in the villages and are very helpful in the preaching of the Gospel by letting our lights shine before men. Usually a medical clinic, treating one hundred patients with medicines, cost about \$500.00 I want to do at least six more in 2017.

2. **Furnishings for the new school.**

The greatest need is to buy quality individual desks for the classrooms. A good, durable desk for a student will cost about \$35.00 per desk. At present I need 150 desks (40 small, 40 medium and 70 large desks). Also I need 15 teacher desks at a cost of \$100.00 per desk.

3. **I need vitamins, collected in small bags of thirty each.** Multivitamins, calcium, B6, B12, Niacin, Iron and C. Each bag should be labeled but no need to put the vitamin container in the bags. Send to my home address.

4. **I need two new generators** for the new school and MSV. They cost about \$500.00 each.

5. I need to add to a **“surgical fund”** for surgeries for Jitipon (blind), Lakhilata (liver), four children (braces), Anjali (burns), Bijen (orthopedic surgery).

6. **Building funds** for school completion and to accumulate funds to build the new Mustard Seed II in the future which will be built like the Rainbow Building holding 100 boys.

7. **Antioch church plantings.** I need monthly support to establish congregations in the largest cities for a period of five years at which point they should be self-supporting.



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