

Dear Praying and Partnering Friends,

November 2016

It has been a wonderful journey the last two months in the States. I was able to visit many of our supporting churches in Arizona, Colorado, parts of New England, South and North Carolina, West Virginia, Minnesota and now I am in Alaska as I type this newsletter.

I arrived here in the States on August 9th 2016. We had been having water problems in our college and children's home. We were buying and trucking in the water from outside for almost 6 months. We drilled a well in July, went down deep about 350 feet, but couldn't find water. It was all rock. We were disappointed but were just praying for God's mercy. On August 8th we requested the same man who drilled the well to help us drill another well in a different place on the campus. We told him that we did not have money on hand, but could pay him in four installments. At first he was a bit hesitant,



Praise the Lord for the water

but then decided to help us drill another well on August 11th. We went down deeper this time about 500 feet. Praise the Lord we found water. We went even deeper about 650 feet so that we would have enough water for future years. Praise the Lord we have enough water now. It was \$2000. Please pray for this need. Another blessing is that, a couple of weeks later our area received some heavy rains, so much that the weather reporters said that we haven't had that big of a rain in 20 years. Now we have both the wells in the campus giving us abundant water supply. The Lord knows our needs and He answers our prayers.



The Mestlers at a church project in India

The Lord is helping us with our church building projects also. When I was here in the States in 2013, we were praying and raising funds for 14 church building construction projects. Praise the Lord, He has helped us so far to complete and dedicate eight buildings already, and at least five more are getting ready to be dedicated in March 2017. We are praying for \$60,000 to help seven different buildings to be completed by the end of 2017. Can we do it? We cannot of course, but God can. He did help us to complete eight in three years and five more in the next 3 months. We serve a great and awesome God!

We finished our first semester at Shiloh Baptist Bible College. We have 26 students currently enrolled, and eight faculty members, including me who are serving the Lord in the teaching ministry at the college. Plans are being made to have our graduation March 17, 2017. We are thankful and quite excited about these young people coming to our college to receive training and enter into the ministry. We have sent out 80 graduates so far into the ministry. Three of our graduates from Shiloh are now back teaching in the college. This is exciting. We gave a week of break between the semesters and the student body utilized the time by having some sports. I appreciate their spirit.



Sports week at Shiloh

By the grace of God and with the sacrificial gifts of those that love the Lord and our ministry India, we were able to fix the walls of the college building that were falling apart.

Now all the rooms in the college are being used. We are hoping and praying that God would someday give us bigger buildings, so that we can accommodate more students. We cannot have more than 30 students in our present building, but if we built more buildings we can have about 200 on the campus. We are praying and working towards a goal of better facilities, then we hope to apply for accreditation and attract students from all over India who will be able to pay their fees. As a result we would have an independent and self-supported college ministry. We are praying and working with the same goal for our church planting and the children's home ministries too. It would be great to see that someday our churches in India send missionaries out of their churches to the unreached villages in other parts of our country. That is one of the reasons we are now working on church building projects. If we could only help the church planters with the buildings, and encourage them to get their support from their churches, it might take some time, but eventually they could learn to support their own ministries. Moreover that is what the Bible teaches the church to be – self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

Please continue to pray for me and my travels here in the States. God willing I will be flying back to India, my mission field on Nov. 16th. My wife and kids are back in India, I can't wait to see them!

Once again thank you so much for your faithfulness in partnering with us in our endeavors to reach India with the Light of the Gospel. May the Lord bless you and reward you for your love for Him and His people!

Yours for India souls,

Solomon, Sandhya, Johanan, and Jessika