



(903)-721-0332

Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
Greensboro Road Church of Christ

P. O. Box 233

Jonesboro, AR 72403-0233

www.greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com



(870) 932-1911

July-August Report, 2015

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

May the peace of God and the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ comfort and guide you every day.

This report was intentionally held back for two weeks because my 6th mission to India began on the last day of August, and I wanted to include a report of that journey in this communication. As it turned out, that was my most disappointing foreign mission trip ever, and the disappointment had nothing to do with the preaching opportunities or the reception of the gospel. On the other hand, this reporting period has some very good personal news.



*Preachers' meeting
in Ibrahimpatnam*

The second and third weeks of every month are planned as writing weeks, and they were so used in July. Some of that writing was given to the Tuesday night Confirming the Churches live online Bible class. Due to lack of sufficient funds for printing and distribution, however, no new tracts were produced. I did write a curriculum for Saline's 2015 VBS, but most of the time was given to correspondence to train and encourage preachers in various countries. This is a growing part of this work, as additional preachers every week ask me to study with them in person and by correspondence. The work of the preacher includes the training of others to preach (II Timothy 2:2), and this has long been one of my favorite activities.

Part of that preacher training is a recurring (about once monthly) Skype visit with StraitGate Preacher Training School in Ambijapeta, Andhra Pradesh, India. Brother Chinta V. R. Raju is the local preacher, and director of the school. Fifteen preachers and prospective preachers meet all day every Saturday, and I join them at the end of the day (which is early Saturday morning here) for a question/answer session.

In the month of July I started dating Sybil Peffley, a long-time supporter of this work and frequent correspondent. Sybil has done a great deal of typing and proof-reading for me, and has been a very good source of ideas and encouragement for every aspect of this work. Shortly after we made our relationship personal we realized that a strong love had grown during these years, and we decided in early August to marry. The wedding is scheduled for October 3, 2015, 11:00 AM in Lansing, Illinois.

During the weekend of August 6-8 I again participated in the annual Michigan Bible Lectures. This year's theme was "The Life of Christ," and my closing lesson on Saturday was "Jesus' Purpose in Coming," beginning with the text of Luke 19:10.

I arrived in Chennai, India about midnight September 1, and had my first preaching appointment at 1:00 the next afternoon. Over the next nine days I preached 18 times and saw at least 24 baptized. This mission was not focused on evangelizing the lost, but on edifying and admonishing the church (including training and encouraging preachers). There were three assemblies of preachers (totaling over 200 preachers) in two cities during those days. The September 3 visit with brother Jutike Lukaiah in Immadicheruvu was especially rewarding to all concerned. Brother Jutike (JEW-tih-key) and his wife had converted from the Baptist faith earlier in the year, and he had been diligently preaching publicly and from house to house for 5 or 6 months. He had been able to gather in his home a more or less regular assembly of students from various sects, but had not yet seen a single convert. After I preached on Thursday afternoon eight souls were baptized into Christ. Our traveling team of four other preachers and myself had a very happy visit with the Jutikes after that meeting! The church in that village had increased from 2 to 10 that afternoon.



*Delivering tracts
to a preacher*

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On the afternoon of the 8th I got sick enough to have to reschedule my evening appointment. That was only the second time in 45 years of preaching that I have missed a preaching opportunity due to sickness; I just don't get sick very often. Wednesday and Thursday were good strong days, but Thursday evening the bug hit me again with greater force. It was agreed by all that I needed to get out of India at the earliest opportunity. We cancelled the last three days of the schedule, and Sybil worked for about six hours to find connections that would get me back to Chicago (a Detroit connection would have taken another half day).



With Vijaya Rao & Suvarna Prasad

I flew out of Vijayawada at 11:00 Friday morning with connections through Chennai and Frankfurt to Chicago, where I arrived at 1:00 Saturday afternoon. The abdominal distress had ended before dawn on Friday, but the weakness and dehydration continued on through the weekend, and it was Monday afternoon before I was strong enough to drive back to Saline. That actually got me home about twelve hours before I was originally scheduled to arrive, but the drive home required another 36 hours of recovery time. Wednesday morning, September 16, I finally woke up feeling right for the first time in a good while. The VA hospital was first on my agenda that Wednesday morning, but I have been healthier and stronger since then than I was all summer.

Sybil and I are planning a 2-week honeymoon in Texas – converting the vacation I already had scheduled there a year ago – and after that will be combining our efforts in expanding the reach of Confirming the Churches. If you know preachers or churches – especially in remote locations in North America – who need help or encouragement, please let us know. We expect to increase our printing and distribution of literature, and are scheduling some time to travel among the churches in the spring and summer of 2016.

Confirming the Churches Bible Class still streams live on YouTube every Tuesday at 7:00 PM Eastern time. You can watch it also on my Google+ page and on our web site at www.acts1541.org/CTCclass.htm. All previous classes are archived on YouTube so you may watch from the beginning of our study of the book of Acts.

Thank you for your support and prayers, and may God bless you.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
alparr@acts1541.org
 Facebook: Confirming the Churches
www.youtube.com/c/AlParr_CTC



You never know where you're going to preach. Look behind me.



Preaching in the tribal area

Contributions received June 15 - August 15:

Greensboro Road church	\$500
Egypt church	\$100
Gray church	\$100
Harrisburg church	\$400
Hazel Park church	\$200
Nettleton church	\$400
David & Gwen Ford	\$200
Lealsha Kensey	\$50
Sybil Peffley	\$400

(Make checks payable to Church of Christ and designate For: Al Parr mission work, and mail to the Greensboro Road church address in the header of this report)