

इठठव तहचाड़ गेरवीड

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Fall 2010

Dr. Faiz Rahman CHAIRMAN/FOUNDER



Dear Beloved Sponsors and donors:

This coming October will mark 42 years that I have been a follower of Jesus Christ. I walked away from Islam in October 1968. Those early days were hard and I faced my share of persecution and scorn for becoming a "Christian." Even now when people ask me why I am a Christian (I have kept my Muslim name), I always begin by answering: "I don't know what to do with Jesus..." His Name is not so much etched as it is ploughed into human history. If I could rationalize away Jesus and put Him into a box, I would go amok into the world... but He is my magnificent obsession, the incomparable Christ, the soon coming King of all the earth. In the words of the old hymn: There is a Name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth...O How I love Jesus, because He first loved me.



And serving Him has implications – the definition of righteousness must include social justice for the poor and oppressed. We have to "love mercy, ... to do justly and to walk humbly before our Lord."

At my Phoenix office, when I lift my eyes off my computer screen, I gaze at the map of Orissa (now known as Odisha) and its 31 counties and I weep... every time. We have 17 Dream Centers in Orissa, with a little over 1000 children. I want to

plant at least one GNI Dream Center in every county in that State—a State bereft of hope and joy—a State at the bottom of the country with tens of thousands of people in deep jungles that grind out their lives in deprivation and poverty. And there are children... thousands of children. I do not ask why they are there, I only ask God to enable me to bring them hope and a future. (Continued on back page)



LINKING RESOURCES WITH HURTING PEOPLE



My first trip to India in June of 2010 was definitely an opportunity of a lifetime. If I had to pick one word to describe the experience it would be humbling. All aspects of the trip from the exposure to the life of the people of rural India, to the visiting of the Dream Centers, left me in awe and truly feeling thankful.

I went to India with little notion of what to expect for the two week venture -- and I can say, without reservation, the trip surpassed any of



all of my expectations. Prior to the trip my primary concern is the weather that we would face, and while June in India was undoubtedly HOT and HUMID, the weather by no means categorizes my experiences while there.

From the first Dream Center we visited in Kalimpong where 'high-risk' girls (having been saved from forcibly working in brothels) are now provided with a chance to pursue their dreams of becoming nurses, doctors, teachers, pastors, etc it was evident that GNI is doing God's work. The word of God is being planted into these dear children - that God has a plan for their lives, that they can accomplish their dreams and, perhaps most importantly, that they are LOVED.



What is truly humbling is that so many the children at the Dream Centers come from such broken pasts, having experienced terrors that most of us can't fathom, yet their joy and capacity to love and trust in God is astonishing. The Leper children and families have been outcast from their villages with many locals telling them that they have been cursed by the gods and that they are a forgotten, dejected people. These children learn to realize through their time at GNI that despite what society has told them, they are not forgotten: they are prayed for, they are special,

and that Jesus loves them. As these children come to believe in God's promises for their lives, their renewed hope is evident through their beaming smiles and powerful praise & worship sessions.

While at the Koraput Dream Center we were approached by a grandmother who was pleading for her grandson, of approximately 4 years of age, to be accepted to the center. As she was relaying their family story to Dr Rahman, tears were welling up in the boy's eyes. I had initially thought that this precious boy was crying because he did not want to be admitted to the Dream Center for fear of being separated from his remaining family -- as it turns out the child was crying because he wanted so desperately to get into the Dream Center. One of our team members offered to sponsor the boy, making his acceptance into GNI possible. When he was

told he could join the GNI family, his entire disposition instantaneously changed and he become one of the happiest children in Koraput as a radiant smile stretched across his young face. The Good News India Dream Centers are beacons of light for both the children and the rural India communities.



All of the GNI directors and, (of course), all the children were incredibly welcoming... the singing, dancing, skits, and testimonials given at each of the 14 Dream Centers we visited will stay with me for a

lifetime. There were truly too many experiences to share...

For those who sponsor a child, donate, or pray for GNI, your contributions and prayers are literally changing lives of thousands of children in India.

Thank you to Dr Rahman and the entire Good News India team for making the tour a truly amazing experience. I look forward to future opportunities to return to India with GNI!

Pray for India!

Lynn Preudhomme, Phoenix Arizona

A Day In The Life of a GNI Youth

NYOTI SINGH

Future GNI Teacher ... among our first graduates



5:00 a.m. 5:30 a.m. reshen Up 5:30 - 6:00 a.m. 6:30 a.m. orning Tuition 6:45 - 8:30 a.m. Bathing 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. 9:45 a.m. Lunch at School 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. ree time, Play 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. vening Tuition 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. ivening Chapel 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.

















(Continued from front page)

Recently I was catching a train about 25 miles away from our Boudh Dream Center. I rented an SUV and took 15 of my teenage "daughters" along for the ride. When we got to the Railway station, they were just so delighted – they had never seen a train

before! O, the wonder of seeing a freight train barreling through the Station! They have never been on a train. And I am going to fulfill that wish.... How I love helping our kids to "discover their world." I love to watch their faces when their horizons broaden and their borders stretch. And you know what... they have never seen the Ocean. Well, this Fall, we are going to take about 100 older kids from Western Orissa, by train, to our Dream Center in Puri (a beach town). I want to be there when they see the vastness of the Bay of Bengal for the first time... when the waves come relentlessly to the shores.... I want to be there when they discover God's incredible handiwork of the Ocean. O, it will be a bit costly, but the look in their eyes – priceless.

Fall is here and we in Phoenix are especially glad that the oven is going to be turned off! All our schedules will be full of work, football games, shopping, planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas – the usual fullness of American living. I am especially looking forward to Thanksgiving when our physician daughter from New York visits us for a week in Phoenix.

Let me again say THANK YOU for helping us and standing by us with your financial support. I am extremely conscientious with your gifts to our work in India. We run our office and personal salaries on a very low scale. I do not have any savings, IRAs or any retirement accounts. The Ministry pays me a very modest salary. I do not ever plan to retire... as long as one girl is in danger, or one boy may be sold into bondage, I will work. I will continue going into the pits if you will hold the rope for me.

May His blessings overtake you each day.

Joyfully in Christ's Service,

CONTACT US

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SPONSORSHIP QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about your sponsorship or corresponding with your child, please call us.

Our mailing address:

Please check your old 'return envelopes' and discard any showing P.O. Box 54056.

Giving by Phone

If you would like to give a one-time donation or set up your sponsorship commitment on an auto monthly deduction using your debit or credit card, please call our office.

DESIGNATED FUNDS: GNI will conscientiously honor designated funds for specific projects but reserves the right to use these funds and any excess for ministry expenses at the discretion of the Board.

from a Pastor's Heart

Submitted by Pastor Dan Jones Conklingville Community Church, Hadley, NY

A s I begin to write this I am sitting in the noisiest airport I've ever been in—Calcutta, or as it is spelled now, Kolkata. This is the end of a two-week period that will affect the way I look at life from now on.

Coming to India was literally the dream of a lifetime for me. As a teenager I heard Dr. Mark Buntain speak about India at First Assembly of God in Memphis, Tennessee where I grew up. I had never heard anyone speak with such passion as he. It was evident that the needy of India and especially Calcutta were what his life was all about.

I was so moved then, even as a young person, that I wanted to go right then. I thought at that time that I would be a missionary to India. But as the wise man (or maybe wise guy) said, "Life is what happens while you were making other plans." I finished college, married and entered music and youth ministry. We had children and life just went on. Life at times seems like a river whose current you're caught up in. But God is always working in us. "It is God who works in you to will and to do his good pleasure." He's working even when we're not paying much attention.



So now at the age of 53 I reconnect with Faiz Rahman, a guy I went to Bible College with for a year. That was at Bethany in California. He continued there and went on to become student body president—I just went on. I saw him once a few years later in the 70's shortly after he married Joy, and then we lost contact for about 30 years.

On Facebook, while looking for some other old Bethany classmates, I ran across Faiz. We talked on the phone and he invited me to come to India. At first I didn't think much of the idea, but the Lord planted a seed that certainly blossomed and he graciously provided the funds for me to go.

I will never forget the first time I walked into a dream center there in Cuttack. I saw about 100 little children, almost all primary school age, sitting cross-legged in perfect rows on a concrete floor only cushioned by thin mats. Their faces were so expectant and their smiles were so radiant. I began to weep as I looked into those beautiful faces—faces of those for whom Jesus died and about whom he said, "Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

I certainly saw a glimpse of the kingdom there in Cuttack and in every other dream center we visited, 14 in all if I'm not mistaken, including two leper colonies. We saw almost 1500 children on our little tour. It was worth all the rough roads and long drives and as I wait here to begin my journey back to prosperous and luxurious America, the difficulties

of the experience fade into insignificance. But I still see those beautiful faces.

It is easy to see the image of God on the face of one of these little It is more children. troubling to see lepers who have been cast out by society and come to the only place that will receive them. Jesus said, "Those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them." (John 6:37—NLT) All of us

are spiritual lepers in God's sight. Yet just as Jesus received the lepers, dined with them and even touched them, God receives us sinners and has not rejected

The lepers we saw come to that place essentially to die. They have nowhere else to go where they are wanted. They



squat on the ground, many with fingers and toes missing from this horrid disease, and one can't help but ask the question, "Why must people who were made in God's image live like this?" Who can doubt that God's beautiful creation has been usurped by an evil power, the prince of darkness himself?

Dr. Rahman says often that GNI is in the business of rescuing prisoners of war, and that is just what it is doing. God neverintendedformenandwomentobe in such awful conditions. Thank God he hasputthesepeopleontheheartsofmen like Faiz. GNI feeds these people and does everything possible to meet their meager needs, like for blankets.

Not the least of the needs addressed by this ministry is the need to help the children of these lepers. They are victims of this disease too, if not in a physiological sense, certainly in a social sense. They are ostracized by the other children they go to school with and would love to have a school of their own. Providing this is on the "wish list" of GNI. May God help all of us to do what we can to make this a reality.

How can you encapsulate in a few words the experience of meeting all these children being cared for by GNI dream centers? My one thought when I stood before my congregation on returning was, "I wish you had all been with me." Words fail me here. The emotion of looking into the faces of those who are truly God's children is indescribable. As a father

of nine I know a little bit about having children on your heart. Going around to the other side of the world doesn't make you forget your own children. You carry them with you everywhere you go. What Paul said about his feelings for the Philippians perfectly describes a father's feeling for his children: "I have you in my heart."

When I saw the children of GNI, I instantly recognized them—not by their brown faces or certainly their foreign tongues—but I recognized them as children who are in God's heart. On my first visit a little song came to my mind, one I had learned in Sunday School as a little white boy in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Clearly the lowest of human society are on God's heart in a special way. The poor children of the world are possibly the most vulnerable group of humanity. They are on God's heart. Are they on your heart?

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

These words from 1 John 4:19-21 point up a simple truth: if we love God, we will love what God loves. If we love God we will love who he loves. And the Bible is clear on this: God loves the world. Reference John 3:16 if you aren't sure.

Jesus truly loves the little children. In

a special way his heart goes out to those who are helpless and weak. The rich and strong can take care of themselves. Little children like those who have been welcomed into the dream centers of Good News India need someone to help them. Thank God someone is there!

As a pastor in my midfifties I've witnessed a lot in "Christian work" all my life. I lived through the TV evangelist scandals of the late 80's, and ahundredotherscandals that weren't covered on the Larry King show. And now having been "on the ground" with

GNI, I can say without any hesitation that if there is a ministry out there that is richly deserving of the financial and prayerful support of those blessed with resources—and if you are an American reading this, I'm talking about you—it is this ministry.

GNI has no posh corporate headquarters, no private jet. It has

onlypeoplewithonemission—torescue POW's from this cosmic spiritual war we are engaged in. (You are engaged, aren't you?)

The famous words of Jesus come to mind here: "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that they might have life and that more abundantly." GNI is offering life to, at present, about 2000 children—and not just physical life through the food, shelter, clothing and medical care given—but spiritual life through teaching the children to follow Christ and give their lives to him.

I am personally thankful to God that he has allowed me the opportunity to be involved even in a small way with Good News India.

Pastor Dan Jones Hadley, New York



God has a special feeling for the underdog. He shows that all through scripture, in the words of the Old Testament prophets about justice for the poor and in the actions of Jesus in socializing and identifying with the down-and-outers of Judean society—the tax collectors, the lepers, and the prostitutes among others.

"Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?" (Jas. 2:5—NLT)







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