



Win Encourage Disciple Others

A Pastor Sacrifices for God's House

We travel to other countries in part to encourage and mentor local pastors and believers. Often, however, we return home with stories of how we have been stirred by the sacrificial service of believers in other lands.

One such story involves Indian Pastor John Mark. For over 10 years, this particular pastor sacrificially gave his time and treasure to build a church. The building was constructed piece by piece as the pastor struggled to raise funds for material and labor. A truly impressive edifice arose from his prolonged efforts – one of the nicest churches I saw in the entire area.

Providentially, our visit coincided with the church's completion. My colleague, Rev. John Hathaway, and I were invited as honored guests to preach at the dedication service. We both noticed that Pastor John Mark did not speak at all during this service. His brother led the service while he sat by and wept like a child throughout, overcome with joy because of God's goodness in providing this building.



God so blesses his soul and honors his ministry with souls?"

John Mark's selfless service is representative of many of those we work with in S. India. These men are true heroes. It is an honor and a privilege to come alongside of them in ministry, building up God's Kingdom in this land long known for its heathen temples and idols!

Ukrainians Attend Marriage Conferences Despite Economic Hardships

While we Americans have been suffering the worst recession since the Great Depression, Ukrainians share the effects of the worldwide financial meltdown. The church in Ukraine is struggling with sky-rocketing food prices, high unemployment, and shrinking money values. We find that ministry there is likewise more difficult than in some parts of the world.

Despite these difficulties, Barnabas Ministries was able to bring some help and encouragement in 2009 by hosting marriage and family seminars in Berdyansk and Uzhgorod. Our guest speaker was the Reverend Bernard ("Butch") Heath of Crisis Family Counseling in Hobe Sound, FL. At both events attendees ranged from newlyweds to grandparents, all seeking to create more God-honoring marriages and homes. Host pastors Sergey Bogomazyuk and Sergey Karpenko are both alumni of Kiev Wesley Bible College.



After the service, John Mark led us next door to his own house for dinner. We were astounded to find he lived in a hut with walls made from mud and dung stucco, a thatched roof of palm leaves, and a dirt floor.

I could not help thinking, "This man is perfectly willing to live in a hut, sacrificing his health and earthly comforts, in order to build that beautiful house of worship for the glory of Jesus Christ in this Hindu town. Is it any wonder

Orphan Home Remodeled in Record Time

In 2003, Pastor Samuel of India purchased a 2-room house to provide a home for destitute children. With incremental improvements to the house the ministry grew to serve 15 children living in 3 rooms. In America, this would constitute dangerous overcrowding, but in India, it's a great improvement over life on the street where children scavenge for food in garbage heaps.

Last March Pastor Samuel shared his concern that 13- and 14-year old girls were forced to sleep in the same room with younger boys and girls. Because these girls were coming "of age," the need for separation was becoming critical. Plans have been drawn to build a new orphanage to house 50 children. But that project will take time to fund and build. The children needed space NOW!

I asked if there was a temporary solution. He explained that he could add 3 rooms to the current structure for just \$5000. Barnabas Ministries was able to provide \$3000 on the spot and promised to send the balance in the next two months. Our conversation about this matter occurred on a Thursday. I left India to return home on Friday. The following Monday, I received pictures via email that showed the footers being poured for the new addition!. By that Friday, they had erected walls. In 4 weeks time, the entire structure had been expanded by 3 rooms and completely remodeled. I thought to myself: "We couldn't have the paperwork for this kind of project done in Tennessee that quickly!" The "new" building provides separate sleeping quarters for 20 boys and girls along with nice living and dining areas.



This kind of industry and stewardship on the part of our Indian partners motivates Barnabas Ministries to become more involved in those ministries. We look forward to expanding our role of encouraging, mentoring, and partnering with Indian pastors and believers..

Internet

Please visit <http://www.barnabas-ministries.org/> for more information about Barnabas Ministries and pictures of these activities. You'll find a list of needs and a place to [Donate](#) on the site, as well.

India Ministry Continues to Grow

Our ministry in India includes three components, each described below and all of which continue to grow and bear fruit.

Pastor's Conferences

In 2006 and 2008, we conducted very successful training conferences that were attended by hundreds of Indian pastors and church leaders. Plans are in motion for a large S. India conference set for March 1-3, 2010. We are excited to bring **Dr. Michael Avery**, president of God's Bible College in Cincinnati, OH, as our keynote speaker as we prepare for over 500 pastors from all over S. Central India!

Church Visits

One way we come alongside of pastors is to go with them to the humble places where they preach. Most are pioneering in Hindu communities where they face opposition or outright persecution. Few have "churches" but will gather new believers under brush arbors, in homes, and in makeshift tents -- anywhere that they can meet to worship God, learn His Word, and serve one another. We want to help them build some new churches in the coming year.

Open-Air Evangelism

Barnabas Ministries is committed to evangelism. In India, we assist the local church in these efforts by preaching at open-air evangelistic meetings. We estimate that from 70-90% of those attending our meetings in these heavily Hindu communities are not believers. Those who follow Christ publicly often do so at great cost because of family and community rejection. Despite the cost, however, we see people seeking God and publicly confessing Christ at each meeting!

2010 Activities and Needs

Your tax-deductible donation will help Barnabas Ministries serve the Indian church in the following ways:

- Pastor training conferences (\$15k)
- Orphan home building for 50 children (\$50k)
- Two new houses of worship (\$6k each). One of these churches will be built near a Mosque and on property donated by a Hindu man!