



Ebenezer Gospel Mission

Nothing is Impossible for You

Pastor. Thomas Abraham

On a personal level, 2012 had been a turbulent year, as super storm Sandy literally hit us hard. I had the unfortunate opportunity to witness the devastation it brought, not only to my own home and belongings, but also to many near and dear ones. In the wake of the storm, Bro. Mathew Joseph and his family wholeheartedly welcomed us into his own household and made us feel right at home. Words cannot express our gratitude to both him and all of you for your letters, calls, emails and prayers which upheld us during the ordeal. Despite having been displaced from my own home for over 2 months, we were able to make necessary arrangements for the mission trip to India in the beginning of 2013. From a missions perspective, it was another blessed year. Year after year, God reminds me through the mission field that nothing is impossible for Him. This year, we were in the mission field from the end of January until the end of April and

fortunate to have the General Overseer and Missions Director of IFCA, Pastor Michael Player and Pastor Dale Russo, with us. In addition Smitha Mathew a young medical doctor from New York was with us for a short period of time. Read on to the next pages for a brief summary of their experiences in their own words.

Large scale conventions were held at Thiruvannamala, in Tamil Nadu, a 3-day convention in Gundalpat, Karnataka, a workers seminar at Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, six conventions were held in small and medium sized cities in Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal. In many villages in these states, we conducted baptisms, held feeding programs and training seminars. We were also able to conduct 3 village church dedications!

The highlight of this year was the National Pastor's seminar in the city of Kottayam. The three day event was a true blessing for

workers who came from all over India. Even though most of our ministers work in remote villages, they shared the diverse experiences with each other working under the EGM umbrella. These are the victories that help me trust



Rev. Michael Player, Rev. Dale Russo, Pastor Abraham and Mrs. Abraham with a group of children at the Child Care Center in Andhra Pradesh

★ God for EGM's many needs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- * Three new Churches dedicated
- * Started a new Missionary Training Center in the state of West Bengal
- * Conducted 75 Baptisms
- * Recruited five new missionary workers



.... and India was home



India is a country of overwhelming beauty but in great need. In the

midst of this divergence are Brother and Sister Thomas Abraham and Ebenezer Gospel Missions, effectively ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and dying. This past March, Brother Michael Player, our IFCA General Overseer, and I had the privilege and honor to be with the Abrahams for a week of ministry. Although I have known them for a number of years, I discovered there is so much I did not know about them and Ebenezer Gospel Mission.

First, Brother and Sister Abraham are persons of great strength and stamina! Every day, we ministered in four or five different localities, which meant our travels began about 8:00 A.M. returning to our quarters at approximately 11:00 P.M. It was so inspiring to see Brother and Sister Abraham along with Brother Joseph Abraham ministering

tirelessly among the people who were hungry for the Word of God! Every single place we ministered was filled to capacity with young and old, (some of whom waited several hours for our arrival), with hands raised singing and worshipping the Lord with all their hearts, soaking in the Word and then fervently coming forward for prayer believing and expecting the Lord to do mighty things in them and through them. It did not matter to those believers whether it was early in the morning or late at night, whether they were in a building, on the roof of a building, or outside under canopies, they eagerly and expectantly entered into the presence of God and God revealed His power and might! It was so refreshing and empowering for me personally to be in those services and I was especially blessed to see how many young adults, young people and children were there fully engaged in every aspect of the service.

I discovered the Abrahams have a great heart and passion for those who live in the villages and rugged mountain areas where few, if any, ministries go. Through Ebenezer Gospel Mission they are fulfilling the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 10 verses 14 and 15: "How, then, can

by Rev. Dale Russo

they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"



Rev. Michael Player, Rev. Dale Russo, ministering in a remote village Church in West Bengal

steps of their spiritual father, Brother Thomas.

Although we ministered mainly in one state, the Abrahams have a burden for all of India. As we talked about Ebenezer Gospel Mission, he shared with me all the different states in which they are ministering and their plans to continue to expand as the Lord supplies. With what I experienced in just one week, I firmly believe that Brother and Sister

Abraham through Ebenezer Gospel Mission will have an impact upon India far greater than any one could ever image for our God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all we could ever think or imagine!

On a personal note, Brother and Sister Abraham along with their leadership team are tremendous and gracious hosts, always considering the welfare of their guests, even when their plans are challenged. Due to some health issues, I was not able to travel on some days. But Brother and Sister Abraham cared for me just as if I was a son of theirs. They took special precautions in everything for my welfare and for Brother Player's. Truly, I felt like one of the family and India was home.

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"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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I hope that everyone of you will spend some time with the Abrahams getting to know them better, sensing their heart and passion, seeing the extent of

their burden, understanding their strategy and join with them by supporting their ministry. Of course, no matter how much you think you know about them and Ebenezer Gospel Mission, you really will not know them until you minister with them in India.

Thank you Brother and Sister Abraham for opening up your hearts, your home and

your ministry to me. I will be forever grateful and I am looking forward to my next visit.

Blessings. Brother Dale

Director of World Missions,
IFCA



Workers Conference

On this year's mission trip we were glad to hold a Mission Conference at CSI Retreat Center in Kottayam. It was a blessing to have pastors from all over India and their families

to attend and be renewed from the Word of God. It was also marvelous to witness those gathered, actually meet and edify one another. They were able to discuss their woes and triumphs and encourage one

another in continued service to the Kingdom of God. At the conference, we welcomed 30 more pastors into the Mission as well as ordain 3 pastors from West Bengal and 2 pastors from Karnataka. A recent concern for our pastors is the problem of housing. We are presently working on different

construction projects to repair and remodel church buildings by adding parsonages in areas where it is difficult to find rental homes for our pastors. In spite of the work ahead, we are proud to report that this year we have completed the construction of 2 church buildings in Tamil Nadu and 1 in Kerala!

Churches & more..

Church planting is one of the key ministries of EGM,

and the year 2012-2013 had a flurry of activities. With your financial support we were able to dedicate three churches. Two of which are built in the district of Thiruvannamala in Tamil Nadu State. Brother Mel and Sister Carmen Choutie funded the



building of these churches as a result of them recognizing need when they visited the mission field in 2010. Recognizing the need for clean drinking water, EGM has also embarked on installing bore wells in several villages in need for such basic necessities.



Christian Education

At present we have 240 students studying in our Bible Schools. Just this year we received accreditation from the Asia Theological Association. This is one of many victories as we hope to expand and enhance the education and training our students receive. We are currently constructing a learning facility in West Bengal in order to train up kingdom workers there. We also have our vocational centers to equip women with skills in the trade of sewing in order to help them make a living and contribute to sustaining their families.

Ebenezer Gospel Missions : A Missionary endeavor of IFCA

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Ebenezer Gospel Mission is a registered non-for profit organization established under IRC 501-c- (3) rules with a vision for evangelism, church planting and charitable work.

- EGM operates three orphanages, two Trade Schools, and four Bible Schools.
- Equip the Missionaries by :- Providing Motorbikes, Bicycles, Gas lights and literature to effectively spread the Gospel of Christ.
- Provide financial support to ministries, missionaries, building and maintenance of churches.
- Sponsors medical camps in remote villages, providing primary health checkups, bringing basic health education and AIDS awareness to the illiterate and poor.
- Provide an accredited Christian Education to the Christina missionaries.

Trip of a Life Time

Smitha Mathew



This was a trip that I had wanted to take for most of my young

lifetime. It was a trip that I had not initially planned to take nor did I expect that I could squeeze into my work schedule. But how blessed I am to be reminded that our God would move mountains and certainly schedules in order to allow us to become partakers of His great work. There is a great work being done in India through EGM. I am reminded of this every year when my pastor and ammachi return from their yearly missions trip. More so, by my friends who have also had the joy to be a part of this mission. Each individual has had their own experience and they have taken away something different. Whether it be the church planting, the village ministry, the baptisms, the bible schools, the

widow ministry etc.

I however remember this mission as a series of images and still shots made of faces. The faces of the children that I met at the orphanage ministry in Bangalore. The initial meeting posed a very difficult challenge simply because I could not communicate with them and nor could they communicate with me. As I walked into the small sitting room (which had been transformed partly into a sleeping area) I wondered to myself how I would make a meaningful impact on these children and how we would communicate. But it soon became evident that they would be able to say everything they wanted to say without speaking even a word. As soon as I whipped out my iPhone, we seemed to be able to communicate just fine.

I remember how they so quickly mastered the art of flipping to my camera roll and how they taught me words in their

dialect for all the people and objects in my pictures. They were entranced with a recording that I had made of them singing a song and they found even greater excitement in pointing out and naming their friends in the recordings. A simple act of play allowed the Holy Spirit to move and remind me of something. I may not know where these children will end up in 5, 10 and even 15 years and may never be able to follow them through their lifetime. However, there is meaningful work being done in that place because of the Love of Christ. There is a tangible expression of love to a group of chil-

dren who have close to nothing to call their own. But it is in that place they are taught that Jesus is all they need. If that was the only opportunity for them to hear about the Love of God I wanted them to be able to learn and know that love. It was in the moment of silence that I knew that I needed to do more. To love more, to pray more, and certainly to support more. Who knew that these children would communicate the power of Christ's love far better than I ever imagine I could.....

Smitha Mathew

