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Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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February Report

March 2, 2013

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Dear brethren, family and friends,

This report is dated later than is my usual practice because the February work was almost exclusively the mission to India, and that trip is on its final leg as I write (aboard the Newark to Detroit flight). There have been great blessings to the work in the U.S., but first let me tell you about my fourth mission to India.

My 20th trip outside the U.S. began on the last day of January with a flight from Detroit to Hyderabad via Frankfurt and Mumbai. Mumbai may be better known to most Americans as Bombay; India changed the names of several cities a few years ago, and even some Indians forget at times. The city is about mid-way down the west coast of the country. I have never preached there, but have made flight connections there twice. I don't recommend that airport if you can avoid it, but that route usually saves me a good bit of money. Landing in Hyderabad about 7:30 AM on February 2, I began my longest mission yet to India. Pictures and daily reports are on the Facebook page, *Confirming the Churches*. Please "like" the page and promote this work if you are a Facebook user.

Let me say plainly (because some of you have heard the news and have asked) that, though there is tension on several levels throughout the country just now, we never felt personally threatened of any danger. During the 3rd week, while we were away from the city, a terror group detonated two bombs in Hyderabad, along the route that we had for two weeks taken daily to the school. Sixteen were killed, and over 50 injured. The terrorists were protesting the execution of one of their convicted associates. In an unrelated incident the previous night we encountered a road block under the control of the Communist Party of India: they were stopping only commercial trucks. We were allowed to pass without comment or incident. We consciously kept a low profile while in the city, and met with peace and hospitality wherever we went.

My first preaching appointment was 12 hours after arrival (I don't usually have a time and sleep adjustment period after flying, so I "hit the ground running"). It was to a Pentecostal group. Those who followed the daily updates may have thought that I preached an unusual number of times to such groups. There were 5 in the month. My co-worker, host and translator, T.V. Samson Raj, has been studying with a man named James who is a leader in that first group, and has influence with the others we visited. Samson thinks that James is not far from obeying the gospel, and I agree with his assessment. In every one of these churches scattered across the state of Andhra Pradesh we saw a good reception to some very bold and direct preaching of the apostles' doctrine. In each church we enrolled BCC students, in two of them Samson arranged follow up visits, and from one we saw 3 baptisms. We think that there is reason to expect that at least one of these whole churches (maybe two) will convert to Christ in the near future. Please pray for that outcome.

Altogether I preached 29 different lessons on 55 occasions in 31 locations, including five sectarian churches, one public school, three tribal villages, and one squatters' camp. We accounted for 71 baptism, including 2 in that squatters' camp (marking the beginning of a new church), 4 in the tribal villages – and 6 sectarian preachers. In coming days I may add details – people stories – of some of these to the Facebook page and the web site (www.acts1541.org). The work of *Confirming the Churches*, of courses, is preaching the basic original lessons of apostolic days both to strengthen churches in organization, worship, personal spiritual life and evangelism, and to train preachers. As most of my preaching in February was in churches with incomplete training and organization, I preached in India the same kind of lessons developed for American churches. Those lessons were: ●The Beginning of the Church (Acts 2); ●The Challenged Church (I Thess. 4 & 5); ●Blessings of Redemption (Eph.5); ●The Way to Perfect Peace (Isa. 26:1-4); ●The Gospel of Christ; ●Overview of the Bible; ●The Gospel of Christ; ●Paul in Thessalonica: A Pattern for Preachers; ●Conversion to Christ; ●Personal Bible Study Habits; ●A Reason to Praise God (Psalm 117); ●First Works (Rev. 2:1-7); ●The Message of Jude; ●The World Book and the Word Book (Psalm 19); ●Focus and Persistence: Preachers, Keep

Preaching; ●Seven One's (Eph. 4:4-6); ●Turned to Serve (I Thess. 1:9-10)); ●Making Disciples & Training Preachers; ●God in the Midst of Idols (Athens in Acts 17, and India in 2013); ●Why Did God Let That Happen? (the day after the twin bombings); ●Children of God (Matt. 18 & 19); ●Why churches Grow Weak and Die; ●The Bible is Profitable (II Tim 3:15-17); ●The Lesson Jonah Learned; ●Hospitality; ●The Value of Heaven; ●Evidence of the Creator; ●Hand-clapping: Unauthorized and Unaccepted; ●The Church of the New Testament.

My three most recent missions to India have begun with teaching in International Bible Academe in Hyderabad. After a week in the classroom, I spend the rest of my time working with the graduates of the school and the churches they serve. This time I taught two subjects in the school: "Basic Facts of the Holy Spirit" and "The Epistles to the Thessalonians." In connection with the first course, I had prepared a book, which we published there in a 48-page study guide. I have copies of this book for sale at \$2.25 each, and also the 56-page book I published there last year: "A Teacher's Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews" for \$2.95. All proceeds of book sales go directly back to printing and distribution of literature. Two tracts were left with the printer; other tracts and study guides have been requested, and some are in the works. Almost no literature is in the hands of churches outside the larger cities; much would be eagerly and profitably used if it were available. With your help, I am doing what I can to make it available. We'll do the same for the mission churches in America when asked to do so.

After the second day of the Holy Spirit lessons in the classroom, Samson asked if I would consider teaching it all again before a TV camera. He likes the way I make difficult concepts easy to understand, and wants to make these lessons available nationwide in India. It took more than two weeks to make the arrangements, and one week of recording, but we finally took delivery of the finished project on the day before I left the country. The company that did the work did not deliver what we had in mind, so we want to do some further editing and add some graphics, but what we have is useable, if more than necessarily intricate.

During February the Nettleton church in Jonesboro, Arkansas committed to helping this work on a monthly basis. This is a church with a great reputation among all who know them, a long history of faithful service to the Lord around the world, and a great deal of love and brotherhood at home. It has long been my joy to visit in their assemblies, and to come to know many of the members. Their participation in this work will be a blessing to thousands. Welcome, Nettleton.

We are pleased to welcome back the Gravel Hill church in Dover, Arkansas, whose support literally kept our work alive in Ukraine in the 1990's. In fact, we were seriously wondering whether we could even go to Ukraine, until they came through with a sizeable contribution that made the whole 6 years possible, encouraging and fruitful.

Support is still needed. If you have any thoughts on who might be interested in hearing about this work, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you for your prayers. I pray daily for you also. May God bless you mightily.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
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Contributions:

Greensboro Road church	\$250
Egypt church	\$100
Harrisburg church	\$100
Nettleton church	\$200
Gravel Hill	\$200
Drucilla McIntire	\$15

(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)

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