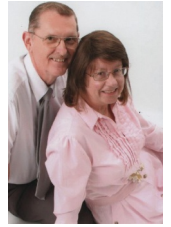


Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al & Sybil Parr
P. O. Box 662
Lincoln, IL 62656-0662
903-721-0332 (or toll-free at 844-650-3223)
www.acts1541.org / alparr@acts1541.org



July - September Report, 2018

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

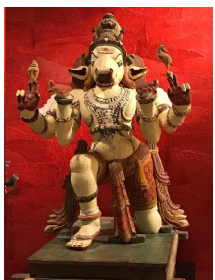
This is a 3-month report because I wanted to include in it this year's mission to India, which was to begin three days after I would have send the usual 2-month report.

At the beginning of July Samson was still with us. We introduced him to a traditional July 4th backyard barbecue, and later a great fireworks display at the Lincoln rec center. We printed some tracts that were short in inventory, and stocked the RV for a brief trip to Pennsylvania. Samson was to stay the next few weeks in Pittsburgh so we took him that far then continued to the eastern part of the state where two churches have supported us in the past. We reported to Coventry Hills and Fogelsville (formerly Allentown), and introduced the work to nine other churches in southeast Pennsylvania. That introduction of the mission included copies of our new brochure (<http://acts1541.org/brochure.pdf>), several copies of assorted tracts (<http://acts1541.org/tracts.htm>), and where possible personal conversations with church leaders.

Sybil and I helped the Lincoln church with a building clean up on August 11. The local sanitation company delivered a dumpster which we nearly filled with unneeded and broken items that had accumulated over more than two decades. The time the brethren spent together was a delight to all. We ordered pizza delivery and enjoyed a relaxing meal after the work was done. Pictures of the day are on the new web site I have been building for the Lincoln church, but at this writing the site isn't loading properly. Perhaps by the time you receive this you might see it at www.lincolchurch.online.

On August 12 I led singing for the Lincoln church, and on August 26 I taught the adult Bible class. Sybil had noticed in her daily reading that God three times spoke of Daniel as a man "greatly beloved," and had asked me what was there about Daniel that rated that endorsement when He spoke of no others in that way. The study and delivery of that lesson were a great joy to me, and the lesson was much commended by the church.

On August 27 we met in Crete with our attorney and the buyer of the farm. We agreed on terms of sale, and set a closing date. I signed powers of attorney and Sybil returned in September for that closing while I was in India. We met with the regular Tuesday lunch bunch in Merrillville before returning home. Two days later Sybil's niece, Sheila, died unexpectedly in Alabama.



The Hindu god Vishnu greets visitors at Mumbai airport

September 3 was the start of my 29th foreign mission, the 9th to India. Due to my starting from a "feeder airport" for the first time, and the plan to meet another preacher along the way who would be making his first trip to India, the itinerary for this trip was the longest I have ever had (seven airports). Due to unexpected delays at two airports and a subsequent missed flight the trip was even longer: 54½ hours from our house to the hotel. Due to a delay in getting his visa approved the other preacher was not able to make the trip, so I traveled alone again. His visa is now in hand and he hopes to go soon.

In Ibrahimpatnam I participated in the first graduation of Krishna River Preacher Training School and the 26th annual memorial preachers' meeting. All 15 students graduated. Six of them were preachers' wives, or plan soon to be. They were given treadle sewing machines which they will use both to sew for their families and to produce some income. Each preacher was given a bicycle (a primary mode of transportation here) to facilitate his work. In the afternoon there were 72 preachers present from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State. I gave each of them copies of six of my tracts. They will copy and distribute those in their areas.



And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5)

The elders and preachers in Ibrahimpatnam send their sincere thanks to the brothers and sisters in Lincoln for the donation of the communion trays and cups.

On my last day in Ibrahimpatnam we had a meeting of preachers and their wives. I spoke concerning Aquila and Priscilla as an evangelistic team. It was a lesson well received by the preachers, their wives, and the local church leadership. That afternoon I taught a ladies' class from suggestions of my wife, Sybil. We looked at examples of women who used their influence for ungodly ends, and of course added scriptural admonitions to refrain from doing as those did.

Visiting Hyderabad again for the first time in five years (except for one overnight last year), I returned to International Bible Academe to teach overviews of Ephesians (with emphasis on chapter 4) and Hebrews. Later I taught "The Church on Pentecost," the second "The Condition of the Lost." This was the scene of many happy days over a 4-year span, but that stretch was interrupted by pressures put upon the director by jealous preachers. I have published a commentary on Hebrews in the Bible Teachers series. A complete video series based on this commentary was published on YouTube a couple of years ago. The first lesson is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SArvbhFma8k&t=14s>.



During this year's visit to Hyderabad I met with several churches that I had not visited previously. The first of those was the Blue Park Church of Christ which meets in the home of brother Samson and sister Christina. In the evening we visited with a sectarian church. Often we are invited by sectarians to preach. I preached here "The Church on Pentecost." I included corrections to some of the departures from scripture that we saw in the conduct of their assembly. As you can see in the picture the children were eager to have a picture made with me after the assembly.



My last week on this mission was the week of the festival of Ganesh, one of many Hindu deities. Devotees come this week to buy one or more statues of their idol, then take it home or to one of many temporary shrines set up in the streets and places of business. Bright lights and loud music – mostly banging drums or anything similar – pervade the streets for the rest of the week. At the end of the festival the idols are brought to the river or lake and tossed in.

One Sunday morning we traveled about 90 minutes west and didn't get out of Hyderabad. We visited a house church started by brother Joseph (a graduate of IBA) in the Bolaram neighborhood. About 30 were in attendance aside from myself, Samson, and brother Vijaya Raju, an IBA faculty member. Most of the members are relatively new Christians but many in attendance are not yet Christians. They come because they respect the preacher and have been studying the Bible with him. Two of them, Hindus, asked at the close of the assembly to be baptized into Christ. They were a mother and an adult son who have been studying with Joseph. The father also has been studying but wants to study further before making a commitment. The mother begged us to continue their studies after their baptism. Of course we assured her that we would. Driving back across the city we saw a saddled camel being led down the street. I have seen camels in the streets of this city three times previously and each time, as today, they were in range too short a time for me to make a picture.

When Hindus have a holiday they are exempted from work. Non-Hindus are called in to take their jobs for the duration. With most of those off-work Hindus in the streets celebrating, the government advised others to stay off the streets, and has authoritatively "requested" that IBA not meet, and that churches not hold public meetings (i.e. they typical Wednesday night assemblies). We used the time for Bible study at home and on the internet. Samson made numerous calls, keeping in touch with Christians to encourage them. We did go down the street for lunch at Chili's (yes, the chain that is across America). It's one of the few places that beef is available in this Hindu country (they worship cows, they don't eat them). I had my first steak in all my years in this country, but more than that I had my first taste of buffalo. Not the familiar American Bison, mind you. This was the ubiquitous in India water buffalo. Looking at the live animal I would never think of eating one. They are ugly, dirty, and skinny, but this steak was surprisingly tender, thick, and tasty.

Heavy rains three days before the end of this mission were followed by the usual high heat. The result was a significantly increased humidity, and that gave me a heavy sinus congestion. That of course brought the headache and disturbed both my speech and my sleeping. On the trip home the pressure changes with the aircraft climbs and descents (three takes-offs and landings) only exacerbated the problem and it was nearly two weeks after returning to the U.S. that I got over it.

I have nearly 100 students in the online Bible correspondence study program of International Bible Teaching Ministries. It's a sound program and a great to do mission work if you can't leave home – or even if you can. Contact Linda Hill at lmh@ibtministries.org if you want to help lead souls to Christ. If you want to be a student rather than a teacher start here: <http://ibtministries.org/pagevw.php?pgid=bcc.htm>.

“God Has Spoken” continues to appear in the Lincoln Courier every Friday. You may read each week's column at www.acts1541.org/ghs.pdf.

Confirming the Churches Bible Class is still studying the epistle to the Ephesians. A link to the most recent class is at the top of the first page of our mission web site.

We pray for you daily, and for all the churches, that each Christian will be a glory to God and a light to salvation to all who meet them. Do you know small churches in difficult locations that we may encourage? Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, and material support.

In His service,



A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AlParr CTC

www.createspace.com/6798806

Contributions received July 1 - September 25:

Egypt Church of Christ	\$300.00
Lincoln Church of Christ	\$300.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$150.00

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