

TO INDIA WITH LOVE

*Reporting From Kolkata
October 24, 2007*

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Christian Life Relief International

Back to Kolkata

We left the beauty of the Himalayas and headed down the mountain to catch the train back to Kolkata. We arrived in Siligury only to witness more of the celebrations of Puja, the Hindu festival. People crowding the streets, leaving very little room for cars; temporary "temples" set up in many places for the honour of the gods; strings of lights lit up on trees and posts, often hooked up with generators. What chaos!

The arrival in Kolkata early in the morning brought us back to the "City of Darkness" with all of it's' homeless sleeping on the concrete at the train station, garbage strewn all over the streets, thick smog that fills the air, rickshaws pulled by human 'slaves', children begging, and the noise of honking traffic. Yes, this city of Kolkata is named after the god, Kali, who thirsts for blood, and is called the god of darkness. Oh God, come heal this city!

And that is just the beginning of our Kolkata street experiences. We've been to a few bazaars, done some bargaining and walked through the masses of people down tiny alleyways, avoiding the metal wheels of the rickshaws and the sewage water running down the gutters. The sights and sounds and smells of this place bombard our senses, and it is difficult not to be overwhelmed by the conditions surrounding us. The ultimate sight resembled Hebrew slavery. It came in the form of wooden platforms (10' x 6') with 4 wheels, 2000 kg. of weight in potatoes or cement pulled by 6 men, 3 at the front, 3 at the back. Unbearably difficult to see! We wonder....Is this really 2007?



Proclaiming God The Creator and Re-Creator!

Oh yes, this city is in need of re-creation, and we have the privilege of speaking to the people here about the value that God places on each life. As a team, we have led 6 services in 3 days, and have seen God changing lives. What an honour to play a little part in His plan to redeem the world. Some of the services are translated (Telugu, Bengali), some are in English. Rev. Miccolis has been coming to India for 20 years and is

very loved and respected. He has such a heart for the people of India, and has a great desire to have this message of God, the Creator and Re-Creator, brought to this nation. Rev. Rutledge has been a part of the team for many years too, and adds to each service with his beautiful singing with such a heart of worship. Diane speaks of God's love for two nations, Canada and India. And then Cynthia presents the message from her pottery wheel. She so eloquently, yet so powerfully demonstrates God as our Potter, molding and shaping our lives. And even when our lives seem shattered, the healing water of the Holy Spirit re-creates the clay into a new creation! Many have responded to this message and come forward for prayer, bringing their broken pieces, and inviting God's healing touch. Hallelujah!



We leave for the train station soon, heading for Ranchi (jungle) and then Puri (ocean) for two conventions. Pray for stamina to keep up the pace, for protection and for lives to be transformed!