

TO INDIA WITH LOVE

*Reporting from Ranchi
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Assemblies of God – India

This complex has its beginnings with Dr. Mark and Hulda Buntain, missionaries to India for 35 years. The stories we've heard of their faith to move mountains and their love for the Indian people is very humbling. It was



because of their faithfulness and God's grace that the church grew here in Kolkata. This place now includes a hospital, nursing school, elementary school, highschool, Bible College, and many chapels. A typical Sunday would include 2 English Services and 5 language services. And it is from this place that 12,000 hungry or homeless people are fed each day. What an incredible ministry! What unbelievable vision was poured into this place many years ago, through the vessel of Dr. Mark Buntain.

On The Road Again....

Packing and re-packing has become an art form by this point of our trip, as well as making space for the pottery wheel and all the tools for The Potter's House presentation. And so, we leave for the train station once again, to experience the dealings with the coolies(porters) that carry our luggage from our jeep to the train compartment, and to catch a few hours sleep on this overnight train heading for Ranchi. This time we are joined by another team member, Rev. Ray Narula.

"Remember Your Creator" Conference – Ranchi

This 4-day convention is a highlight of the year for the jungle pastors and their wives from planted churches in the jungle, from very remote areas. Many of the pastors walk from village to village to preach the good news in tribal areas, where they have never heard the Word of God. And now, here they are in this church building....1500 people, all sitting crossed legged on the floor, men on one side, women on the other. Words cannot describe the beautiful welcome that we received, which included sprinkling water on us, washing our hands, putting a badge of honour on us, presenting flowers, and then a colourful dance and drum session to escort us into the sanctuary. So beautiful! And then... the worship. It was so moving to see and hear these people worshipping God with all of their heart, with such fervency. Oh God, you are the God of all the earth, every nation and tribe and tongue! Hallelujah!



Some of the highlights included:

- Bible distribution - 500 Bibles were handed to the Pastors, 5 Bibles each for searching people.
- Women's Ministry – Cynthia and Diane spoke into each of these women's lives, blessed them with a hand-made clay brooch and pinned it on each woman with the blessing, "Blessed is SHE who comes in the name of the Lord".
- Bicycle Distribution – 30 bicycles were donated to various pastors to make their travel from village to village much easier.
- And of course, the great delight of witnessing people coming to the faith for the first time!!!

To the Jungle Villages

Oh the joy that fills my soul! As we travel from village to village, we see the desperation of life here in the jungle, where jobs are limited, life is hard, BUT GOD is alive! We visit various 'congregations', some with a building, some without. What a joy to join these Christians in proclaiming God, the Creator and Re-creator. In each location, we are warmly welcomed, again with flower garlands, hand-washing and singing or dancing. Some of these people have never seen white people before and are so honoured by our visit. At one location, Rev. Narula, on behalf of CLTI, had the honour of dedicating a new church building to the glory of God, thanks to the donations of many supporters! This jungle pastor is so full of joy, he can hardly contain it. These services serve as such encouragement for these people, and yes, we are just as blessed in return.



And now we head to the next city, Puri, for another convention, on another train. (17 hours) Pray for health, strength, and God grace to surround us each moment of each day! Pray, too, for many lives to be touched, renewed and changed!

Proclaiming God...the Creator and Re-Creator



Fellowship of Believers in the Jungle



Selling Vegetables outside our Hotel



The Potter Loves the Feel of Clay in Her Hands



Welcoming Processional into the Jungle Church