



Mission Possible

Thank You...

Thank you missionaries everywhere. Thank you for living your testimony. The time and effort you invest in others speaks louder than a preacher in the pulpit. Your love touches the hearts of people who wouldn't enter a church. The way you have 'turned the other cheek' when abused or taunted, demonstrates love greater

than this world comprehends. Thank you for giving sacrificially. Your money is tight, but you give anyway. Your time is precious, but you feel a burden that cannot be seen with human eyes. Although they may not seem rewarded on earth, your gifts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for witnessing. When you felt afraid to speak out loud, you

drew on wellsprings of faith and spoke anyway. Thank you for praying. Your prayers have filled the gaps no one else knew existed. You sent comfort, strength, and healing to hurting souls. You sent aid in tangible ways to frightened people. Because of your prayers and a life that reflects God, you have guided others to heaven. Thank You.

Mission Possible

"Then He (Jesus) said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
Luke 18:27

The Pillar of Fire camp meeting gathered members from around the world. This inspirational time brought news from the fields of harvest. The following pages are a sampling of that information.

We hope this will guide you in your prayers for our mission efforts. And as always, please ask God to guide you in donating to Pillar of Fire Missions International.

Inside this issue:

From the Field—India	2
Message from the Editor	2
Challenges for Prayer	3
Message from the Director	3
Photo from India	4
Trip to Moscow	5
Mission Board Members	5

Special points of interest:

- *Dr. Dallenbach's trip to Russia*
- *Rev. Dawson's trip to Lagos, Nigeria*
- *This issue printed on a dye-sublimation printer donated to the Pillar of Fire by Xerox Corporation.*

From the Field—India excerpt from *A Profile on Foreign Missions* by Rev. B. Dawson

The Republic of India

Geography: *India* has an area of 3,166,000 sq.km. The capital of India is New Delhi. This vast country is located in South Asia bordering Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. It also has extended coastal areas along the Indian Ocean.*

Population: The population of *India* is estimated to be just over 1,000,000,000.*

Peoples: *India*'s racial diversity is extremely complex. The two major ethnic groups are: The Indo-Aryan, which represents about 73% of the population. And the Dravidian, which represents about 25% of the population.*

Religion: *India*'s constitution grants full religious freedom to all religions. In practice, however, Christians have often been the subjects of persecution. It is estimated that about 80% of the population are Hindu. Around 12% are Muslim, 3% are Christian and 2% are Sikh.*

*Johnstone and Mandryk, *Operation World*, UK: Paternoster Publishing, 2001. Cp. *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* vol. 7, 15th ed. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica Inc. 1989



Rev. & Mrs. K. Azariah at Pillar of Fire Campmeeting 2002

The History of the Pillar of Fire Church in India:

The history of the Pillar of Fire Church in India dates back to 1985. In that year Joseph Raju became acquainted with the Pillar of Fire Church and desired to establish its work in India. After contacting Bishop W. Konkel, Joseph Raju and his father, John, were given permission to establish the Pillar of Fire Church near Vijayawada, southeast India. After establishing a congregation in Vijayawada, the Rajus began evangelizing the surrounding area with the gospel and this led to the

planting of several Pillar of Fire congregations.

In the course of years, Reverend Azariah Korabandi became attached to the Pillar of Fire work in India and was appointed overseer of the Pillar of Fire Church in that great country. Under his leadership our work in India has experienced much growth, and today the Pillar of Fire Church has a number of ministries in India involving thousands of people.

The Pillar of Fire Ministry in India:

The Pillar of Fire presently has 43 congregations firmly established in India. These congregations have church buildings and a permanent team of Christian workers. There are other, smaller, satellite congregations, which meet in the various homes of our workers and members. The Pillar of Fire Church also has one Bible College and three schools, where many children have been able to undertake academic training. We presently

(Continued on page 3)

Message from the Editor Heather Lavender

Would you please do me a favor before you read this article? Please get a glass of water and sit down in your favorite reading spot.

Do you have your glass of water? Are you comfortable? This request may seem a bit silly to you, but I do have a reason.

Have you ever been so thirsty that your tongue was swollen? Surely you have seen a plant that was wilted and dying. I live in Colorado, land of winter sports. We are accustomed to snow. Due to an unusually low snow pack last season we experienced a very severe drought. Some towns were nearly out of drinking water which would mean trucking in water to be rationed out in buckets. The

Does that glass of water mean something to you yet?

Pillar of Fire Denver is fortunate to have its own well. This does not mean that we have an inexhaustible supply, and many voluntarily limited their water usage. Due to the number of forest fires, Colorado declared a national fire emergency and received

federal aid.

We are grateful to the many who have risked their lives fighting these fires.

Temperatures were in the upper 90's most of the summer. That was in the shade!

Are you feeling parched? Does that glass of water mean something to you yet?

Colorado hopes to emerge from the drought. We are praying for rain and snow this winter.



Are we praying for spiritual rain? The entire world is experiencing spiritual drought.

Are we thirsting after righteousness? Does the Water of Life we are offered freely mean something to you yet?

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? Psalm 42:1 & 2

From the Field—India Continued

(Continued from page 2)

employ 86 pastors and evangelists, who are ministering in 258 villages throughout the states of Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu in southeast India. The present membership of the Pillar of Fire Church in India is 8,200 people.

Besides our regular work of pastoring and evangelism, we are engaged in a wide humanitarian work in association with other Christian groups, reaching thousands throughout India. This includes building and maintaining: schools, orphanages, homes for widows, centers for leprosy victims, centers for mentally handicapped children, hospitals, and clinics.

Orphanage photo on page 4.

Areas of Need:

The work of the Pillar of Fire Church in India has experienced considerable growth in the last few years. We have been able to plant new congregations and send evangelists to areas yet unreached with the gospel. India, however, is a vast country and heavily populated. Our ministry there is producing great results but it has the potential for much more growth and development.

The organization and leadership structure of the Pillar of Fire Church in India is well established and this makes our future missionary efforts in that country much more promising. There are many areas of need in India and the people are open to the gospel. Unfortunately, the economy of India is weak and millions of people live in extreme poverty. This means that many people in India are unable to sustain their churches and support evangelistic outreach. Within this area our greatest challenge lies. If

we desire to see India reached with the gospel, we will have to faithfully provide financial assistance in order to maintain and develop our ministry there.

Update From Rev. Joseph Raju:

Taken from a recent letter from Rev. Raju. "Six pastors working with me [around] my place. Every month first week I visit them and give holy communion. Recently I have given baptism to some Hindu converts. Bishop Wilbur Konkel Memorial Orphan Children's Home runs very fine. Twenty-five children getting food in the hostel morning and evening. They are all going to school. They are learning Bible in the Sunday School. This hostel officially opened by Rev. Bernard Dawson and Bro. Azariah. Pray for my ministry."

Challenges for Prayer

These prayer requests are presented by Rev. Bernard Dawson, Mission Director. Please join him in praying for these needs.

1. Pray for the work of our pastors and evangelists in India.
2. Pray for the well-being and growth of all our congregations in India.
3. Pray for our humanitarian ministry in India.
4. Pray for peace between India and Pakistan.
5. Pray that a revival will sweep through the entire nation of India.

These prayer requests are more general in nature, but no less crucial.

1. Pray for the leadership of the Pillar of Fire Missions, our board members in America and those in authority around the world.
2. Pray for financial resources to meet the needs of our growing ministries.

Message from the Director Rev. Bernard Dawson

Report on trip to Lagos, Nigeria

Our Lagos congregation needs a place of worship apart from the seminary chapel where we are temporarily gathering. Our Field Director located a vacant lot in Lagos about a 10-minute walk from the seminary. He negotiated with the landlord, who assured us he was the landowner. After some investigation and negotiation the price was paid for a four-year lease.

We bought timber, metal roofing, concrete, etc. and began construction. The roof and walls were in place. We were in the process of mixing and pouring the concrete floor. It was taking shape nicely until the true owner discovered a building on his lot.

He engaged a band of 'thugs' (which is the Nigerian way) and ordered them to take the church to the ground. Under cover of darkness, this group of men armed with

rifles, axes, saws and mauls began their nefarious assignment. They ripped doors from hinges, windows from their frames, and cut wooden 4x4's in two hoping to bring the 'evil house of God' to the ground. They did a major job of shambling the building but the four steel corner posts held the roof high and mighty. The building would not collapse.

(Continued on page 4)



Bishop Wilbur Konkell Memorial Orphanage

Opened by Rev. Bernard Dawson in February 2002

*Identified Adults (front row of adults, left to right) Vijaya Korabandi, Azariah Korabandi, Bernard Dawson, John Raju (with beard),
Between Azariah and Bernard Dawson: Mary (Joseph Raju's daughter)
Above John Raju, on the other side of Bernard Dawson: Joseph Raju*

Message from the Director *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

Sensing they had kept the spirit of the law, and had rendered the building unusable, they shook hands all round, congratulating themselves on a job well done and drove off into the darkness. Nigerian justice had been exacted!

After a period of grieving we began searching for the truth. It's a long story but the owner was the older half-brother of the caretaker who leased the property to us. He had been ordered by his big brother to keep watch of this choice property. Apparently the temptation to greed proved irresistible and he caved when our representatives naïvely came to him.

We have released into thieving hands our

money and now only God knows if we'll get cash, tenancy or nothing back. There is so much corruption in Nigeria that it's hard to tell the truth from a lie.

One blessing in the midst of this is that an officer of the seminary is also a pastor of the church where the right-hand-man of the property owner is a deacon. He has agreed to work with us as an intermediary and see if order can be brought out of this chaos.

Regrettably, we have experienced what is a common Nigerian problem. There are some wonderful Christians in that fair land but there are also some skilled, crafty, and unconscionable opportunists. We just

happened to find the latter.

To the commendation of our growing congregation, they had been rushing to get the chapel completed so we could have the ordination of Luther Tarpeh in our official

Pillar of Fire Chapel. They wanted to surprise the Missions Director when he arrived. It worked. I was surprised! I was able to get some classic photographs. Maybe I could sell them and raise a building fund?

*Now we must
rebuild.*

Meet Our Mission Board Members



Bernard Dawson, Director



Gale Dawson



Robert Dallenbach



David Gross



Gary Maxey

Fred Fitch, picture not currently available

Trip to Moscow, Russia by Dr. Robert Dallenbach

For a number of years the Pillar of Fire has had a role in assisting at the Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary. Our primary contact was a young man, Nikolai Kurnikov.

Dr. Harold Burgess, on staff at Asbury Theological Seminary, was teaching there from time to time, and invited Rev. Rob Cruver, President of our Somerset Christian College, to travel with him to participate in the Seminary. At that time, Rob became acquainted with Nikolai, who needed support in order to continue his studies at Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary.

Since that time, we have provided for his needs in connection with the Seminary. He is an excellent translator and student. He is on staff at the Seminary. While I was there he traveled with me all the time, serving not only as guide and historian, but also as translator.

The mission of Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary is to train evangelists, pastors, preachers, and Christian workers for evangelical churches and ministries in Russia and other countries. They have for a verse of inspiration, Philippians 3:8, "Everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus."

The Seminary was founded by OMNS International, Inc. and the Korean Evangelical Holiness Church, in 1993.

~~The Korean contingency developed a~~

separate program which began in the fall of 1995.

Since its inception, the Seminary has provided some 48 graduates. Nineteen are in full-time ministry and 24 are in part-time ministry.

I traveled to Russia with Dr. Harold Burgess. It was very helpful to have the opportunity to visit with him and gain from his experience in working in international settings for the advancement of the Kingdom.

I was asked to lecture at the Seminary in the following areas: Spiritual Formation, Parish Ministry, Christian Dogmatics, and Preaching. In addition, there were formal times for interaction with the student body.

We were graciously received by the personnel at the Seminary. Dr. Bill Vermillion has been teaching there, although he does not speak Russian. Others on staff, of course, do. They have able translators that stand along with us when we have the teaching sessions. The President of Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary is Alexei Dychkov.

The Seminary has the following offerings: Bachelor of Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Theology, Masters of Christian Ministry, Masters of Theology.

~~It was a challenging experience for me to~~

teach in a setting such as I described, in that we had students just beginning and those at the Masters level. Students come from a cross section of backgrounds, from a land that has recently had the door opened to evangelical efforts.

Russia is a developing nation in the lower half of the world's economies. It has a vast expanse of land that has not yet been fully utilized, primarily because of severe oppression since 1917. We can thank the Lord that through the enlightened leadership of President Ronald Reagan, a change occurred in the government of the USSR.

We now have the privilege to freely share the Gospel in Russia.

Part of the experience that I enjoyed was to learn something of the country's history, the severe tests that the land has sustained over the years

because of oppressive governments that have been in place.

It was a joy and a privilege for me to be able to share with them from my experience things that I hold as high priorities for Christian living and evangelism. It is a very challenging experience for this Seminary to reach out with an effort to bring evangelization to so vast a country, but God is helping them and one-by-one the task is underway.

Philippians 3:8,
"Everything else is
worthless when compared
with the priceless gain of
knowing Christ Jesus."

PILLAR OF FIRE MISSIONS
INTERNATIONAL

1302 Sherman St.
Denver CO 80203
Phone: 303-839-1500
Fax: 303-832-8560
Email: pillaroffiredenver@msn.com

Save the Child, Save the Nation

This issue printed on a dye-sublimation printer
donated to the Pillar of Fire by Xerox Corporation.

Board Members

Pillar of Fire Missions International Board Members:

Rev. Bernard Dawson, Director

BernardDawson36@aol.com

19 Brent St.

Hendon

London

NW4 2EU

England

Save the Child

Save the Nation

Gale Dawson

Dr. Robert Dallenbach

David Gross

Dr. Gary Maxey

