

april 2016

INDIA MISSIONS

Under the oversight
of the elders of
Shiloh Church of Christ

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"...from dead idols to serve the living and true God..."
1 Thessalonians 1:9

church of christ india missions

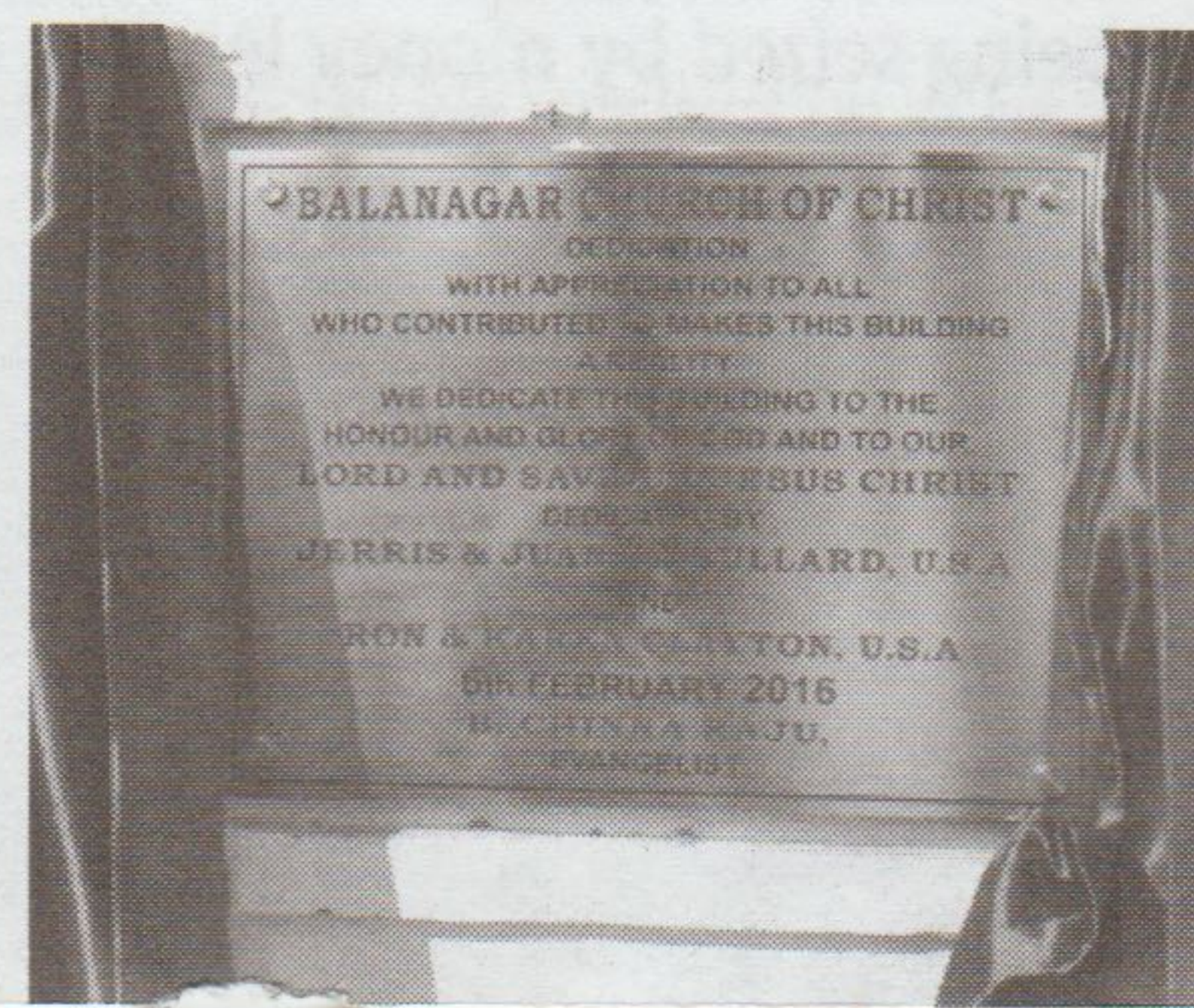
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Helping The Lord's Work In India

What does your money help to accomplish in India? It is good question, & one that deserves a good answer. Before we deal with that, please know that we seek—always—to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.

Recently we have dealt with a number of projects that have been on the "back burner" for some time, & with most of them, the "expiration date" had arrived. As much as we would like to spend all our funds on teaching others the Word of God & benevolent work, the truth is there are other things we have to deal with.

In strategic areas, church buildings become more than just a place for the church to meet for worship. They are centers of evangelism, places for KCMBI (Kate Cabe Memorial Bible Institute) schools (1-day per week preacher-training schools), places to meet with preachers, etc. Without church buildings, communities tend to look at our congregations as temporary & unsteady groups of people. So, in view of these things, we help some congregations financially with their meeting places.



An example of this has been the church building for the Lord's church in Balanagar in Hyderabad. Bro. B. Chinna Raju is the preacher for that congregation. A very bad storm during the monsoon season finished off the building that was old & of very poor construction. It simply collapsed. Bro. Jerris Bullard shared this expense & a new church building was constructed—much larger than the original. This is a great blessing for the Lord's work in this area of Hyderabad.

We were blessed with a large gift in January & another one in February both of which were to be used only for evangelism. We have been faithful in doing just that. As this is being written, so far this year our team has conducted 85,137 1-day Gospel meetings that have been instrumental in leading a total of 167,573 souls to obey the Lord. Our team has planted 2,357 new congregations & among those baptized, 866 were denominational preachers.

The only way we will be able to sustain such an evangelistic thrust is to have massive donations specifically given for preaching the Gospel. Our Indian brethren need funds for travel, food & a place to stay at night when away from their homes. As in all of our work, funds designated for any particular aspect are used only for that purpose.

In the past several weeks, we have had to help 3 of our very best workers in India. Two of them required heart surgery & the 3rd had a stroke. Medical bills for these 3 brethren totaled \$15,800. All 3 of these brethren are doing well now, but this has been a major expense we had not counted on.

While medical expenses in India are still just a fraction of what those same procedures would cost in the USA, they have increased greatly in the past few years. Brethren here in the USA may ask why they do not have health insurance—the answer is very simple: they simply cannot begin to afford it. One of these brothers is not supported by us & is really much more financially vulnerable.

When you have good workers, it makes sense to take good care of them. These 3 brethren are some of the very best we have, & we need to keep them around for a long time to come, the Lord willing. Thus the reason for paying their medical bills.

(Continued at INDIA NOTES)

india notes

(Continued from INDIA INK)

As we have funds available, we assist Christian widows whose husbands worked with us. Many of these men never received any financial help from us while they were living—we simply cannot give monetary assistance to all the local preachers who work with us. If these women cannot pay off debts left by their husbands (which usually were to build a hut &/or a church building), then they lose them to their money lenders.

The average cost per widow—for all those we have assisted—is now about \$2,000. Because we have received some large gifts specifically to aid such women, we have been able to help more than 250 of these women in the past 3 years. At this time, we have spent all we have received for this purpose. We just helped 2 more in the Markapur area that cost \$5,100. Their houses have been saved from being seized by money lenders & they are now out of debt.



This is the inside of the Balanagar church building in Hyderabad—much more spacious than the original & certainly much better built!

We try to give the more active Indian workers on our team a 1-time “big help”. Recently, 10 Hyderabad preachers received about \$550 each to finish paying for flats in a poor area of Hyderabad. A government program provided them with a good portion of the amount they needed, but each man had to give Rs. 37,000 to finish the payment. They now have their own houses—their 1-time big gift from us.

In addition to Bro. Chinna Raju’s meeting place for the Balanagar church in Hyderabad, we have aided 8 more congregations financially with their church buildings in the past 2 months. Sometimes a denominational group (for whatever reason) puts its building up for sale. We can often buy such a place for about half what it is worth.

And another thing about buildings. We had to make repairs on our preacher-training facility in Markapur, & for our main building at Bidar. The latter is where Indian brethren & our drivers stay while we are on campaign trips there.

We had a dormitory in Bidar for our school there, but we lost our very capable director a few years ago. Bro. P.

(Continued at A LOOK AT INDIA)

A LOOK AT INDIA

(Continued from INDIA NOTES)

Moses John died tragically as a result of a heart attack—his death dealt a severe blow to our team’s efforts.

No one else was really suited for the job—& so we made a change. We closed that school & the dorm was remodeled for living quarters for our American workers. Consequently, we can stay in Bidar to work for longer periods of time.

Bidar is a “launching pad” for the Lord’s work in several directions. Not only do we have a thriving work in the city, we have opportunities in smaller towns in the area & even in the 2 bordering states. Having a “home” while on the road & not having to stay in a hotel—& not having to move from place to place is a real blessing.

We paid property taxes on some of our buildings where we operate preacher-training schools, children’s homes, etc. We gave assistance to a brother who owns a car in need of repair. He uses it as a taxi during the day, & then uses it to go to Gospel meetings at night, often taking other preachers with him for other meetings.

And we gave 10 KCMBI teachers 1-time gifts. These men serve without pay from us in doing this very important work of helping to train preachers. We have a 3-year goal to give all KCMBI teachers such gifts (Rs. 5,000—about \$75). We are also giving their wives a sari.

These 1-day per week schools (Kate Cabe Memorial Bible Institute) are found in more than 1,600 locations. Many of our Indian brethren believe this school is the best thing we are doing in India, because it affects the Lord’s work in such a positive way on several fronts.

In addition to all these projects, we have been involved in taking the Gospel to huge numbers of Indians who are interested in learning about Jesus & His Word & His church.

When you make a donation to this work, you can be assured that we are doing all we can to spend money in a way that will (1) do the most good; (2) help the most people; (3) be used as you ask it be used; & (4) be in the best stewardship possible. Last year, the average cost per convert was \$3!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Regardless of the success of this work, we are faced with many problems, obstacles & frustrations. Some of these are truly monumental—all because Satan will not stand by idly & allow this kind of success of the Gospel in India to go unchallenged.

We are facing some truly difficult times at this time, & we need wisdom & God’s help to deal with these & overcome them. The need for additional financial help is one of those, but certainly not the only one. Please remember all of us on this team in your daily prayers.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS WORK IN YOUR WILL!!!

KAREN'S KORNER

"HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING" has taken on a brand new meaning for me since my return to the USA on Feb. 23rd. It was so good to be home where I could sleep in my own bed—even if only for a few nights—& enjoy the cool weather. We had already experienced temperatures of 100* while in India.

Then after one Sunday where Ron's speaking appointments were close enough for us to leave Sunday morning & return Sunday night, we were "On the Road Again". We left Hamilton on March 1st, headed for Texas. Have I ever told you that Texas is really our native place? Once a Texan always a Texan!

We headed west for Louisiana on Tuesday, with an appointment on Wednesday at Lake Charles. We planned to drive a few hours before stopping for the night. I was asleep in the back seat, & Ron wanted me to be able to sleep—so he just kept driving. When I woke up—remember, I was still very jet lagged at this time—Ron agreed to stop for THE REST OF THE NIGHT, which we did in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After a fairly good night's sleep, we continued our journey westward to Texas. Have I told you that Texas is our home?!!!

Thankfully, we have friends in some places who seem always to have a bed waiting for us. We really appreciate this. It not only gives us an opportunity to spend time with friends, but it also saves the India Fund a lot of money in motel & food bills.

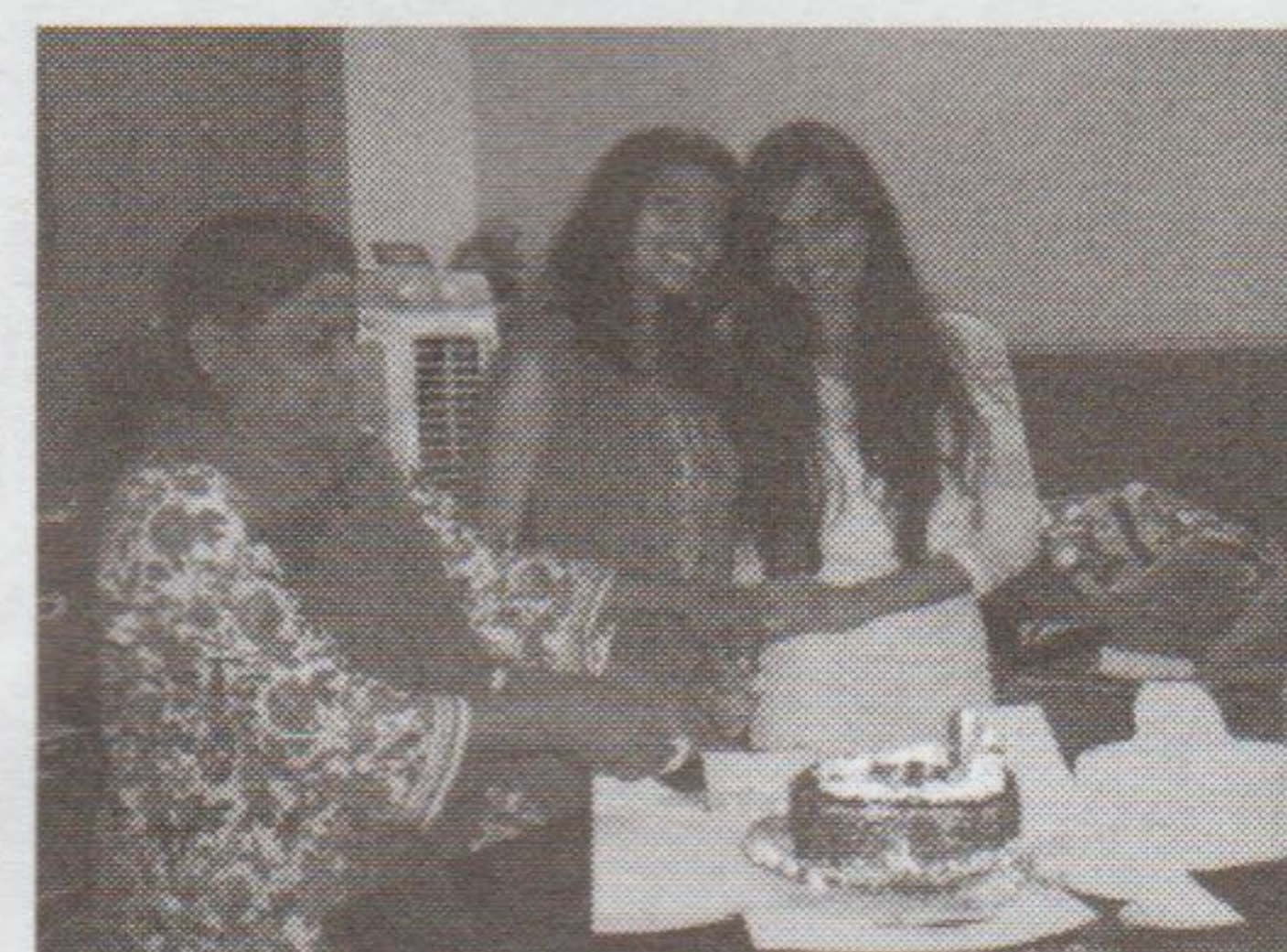
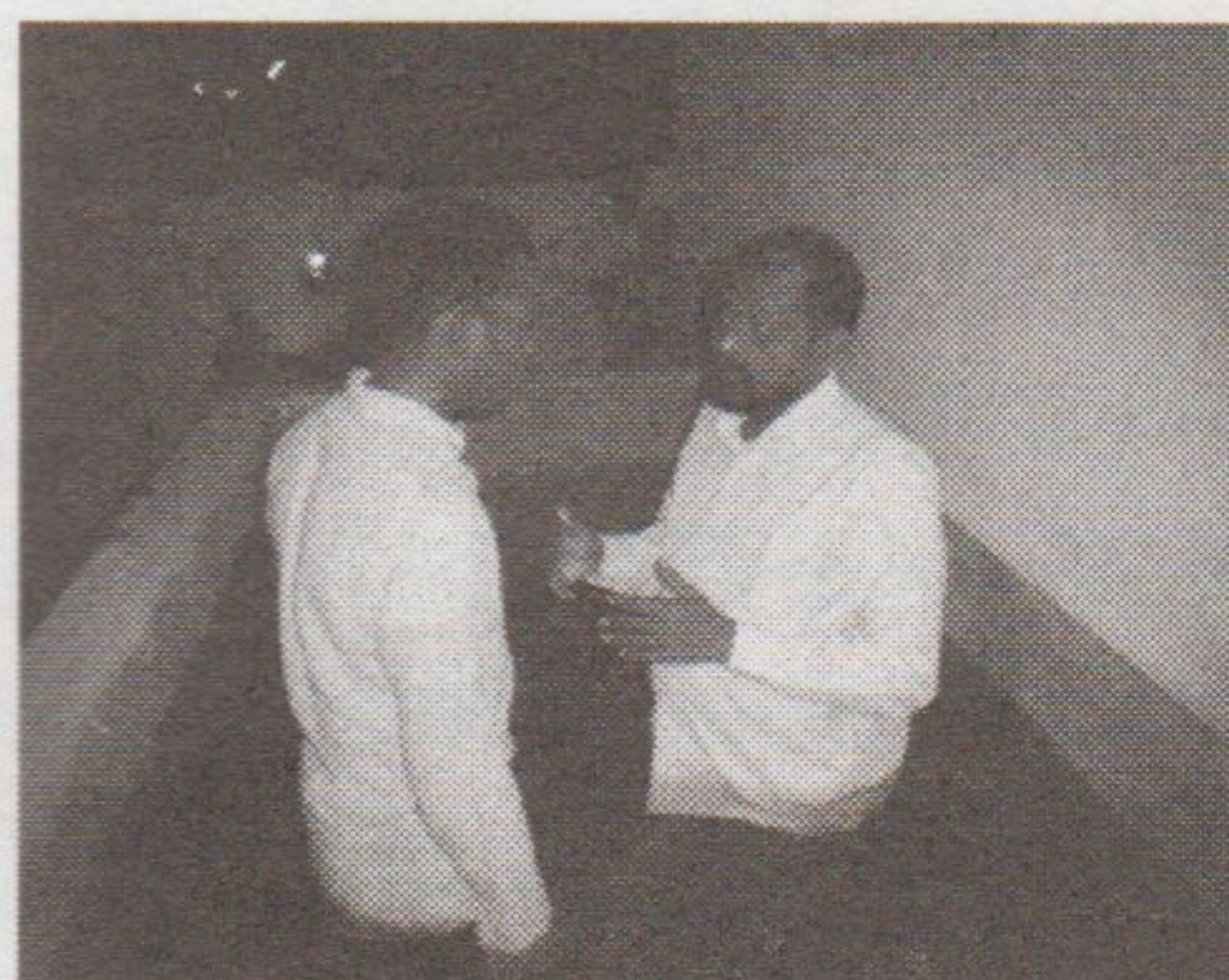
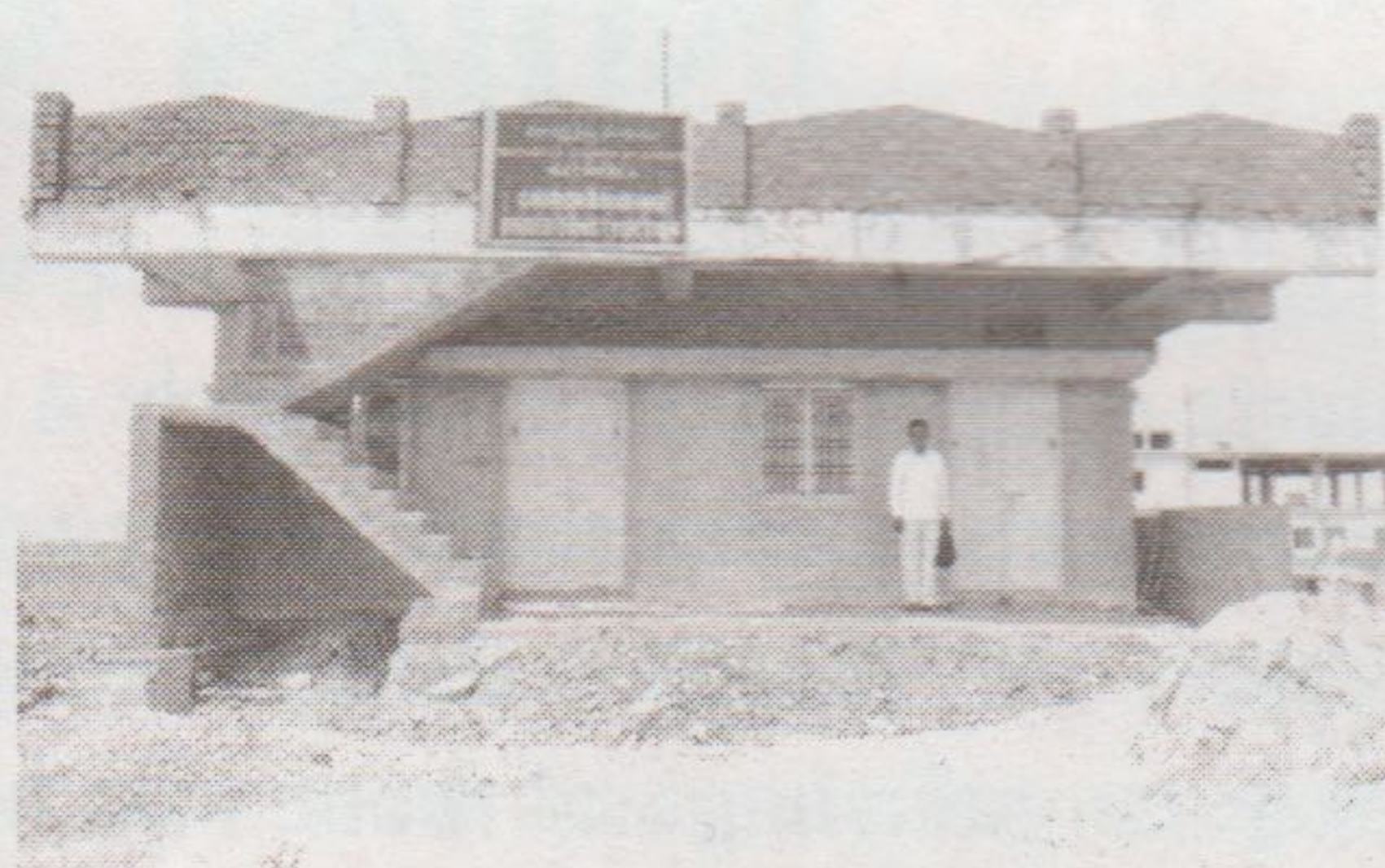
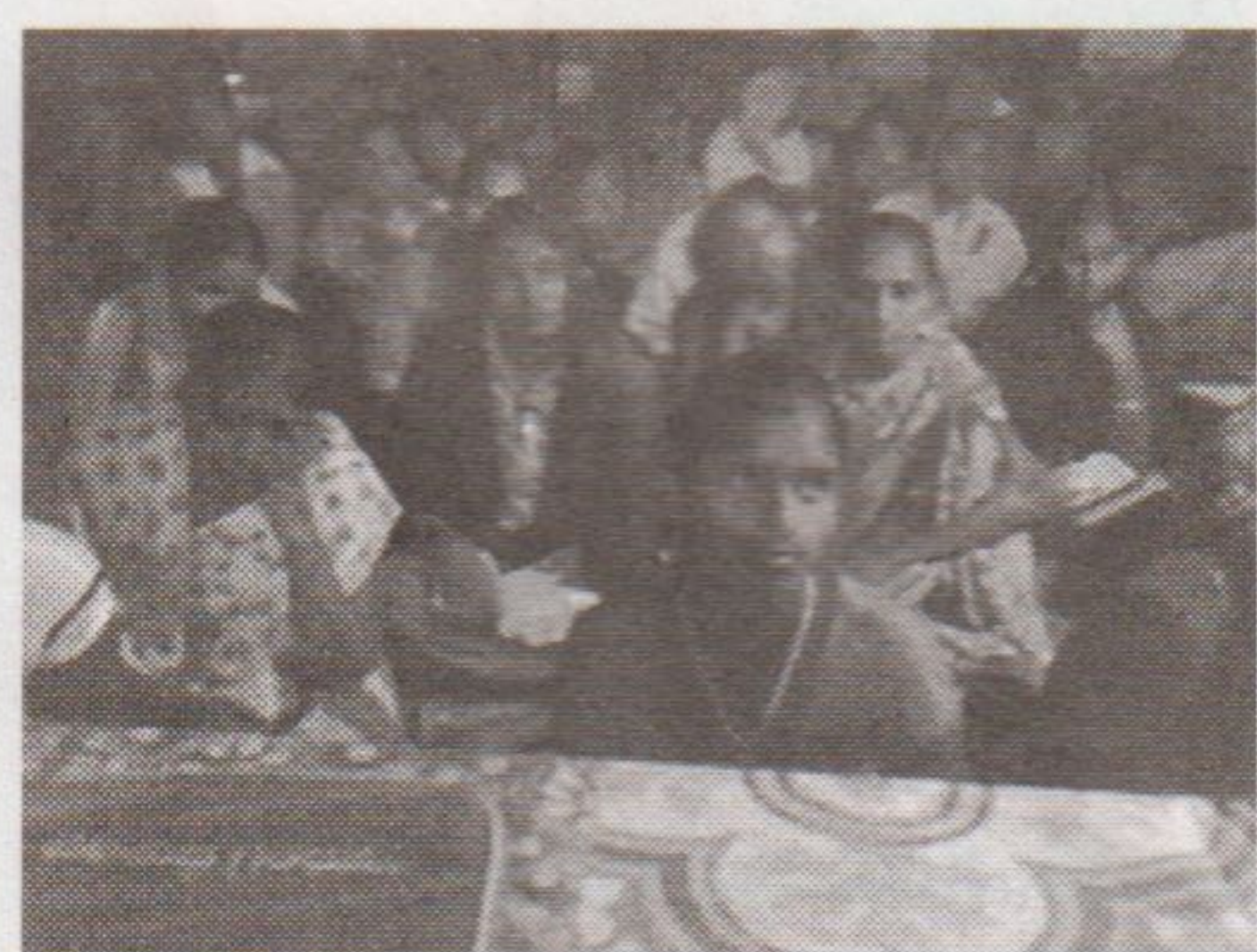
First we drove to San Antonio to witness the graduation of grandson #3—Brendon Tyler Carthen Clayton—from basic training in the United States Air Force (& I might add, with

2 stripes)!!! He is now in San Angelo where he will be for the next few months. Following his graduation, we had a few hours to spend with him, his parents (our oldest son, Jeff & his wife, Karen Sue) & his girlfriend, who had flown in from Tennessee.

For the next few days we stayed with an old friend of ours whose husband was a deacon & later an elder of the Lackland Terrace congregation in San Antonio, where Ron preached from 1971-1975. This was sort of a family reunion—have I told you that Texas is our native state? Ron was privileged to preach at the Lackland Terrace congregation on Sunday morning following Brendon's graduation ceremony.

After a few days in San Antonio, we drove to Houston where we stayed for the next 9 days—again staying with friends (2 sets of them)—before hitting the road again. During this time, Ron preached for 4 different congregations which support us in our work—it was like "old home week"!

After 2 Sundays & 3 Wednesday nights, we packed up & headed to Cleburne, where we stayed with friends who have supported our work for many years. They treated us to an amazing tour of the arboretum in Dallas. What a great time for this outing! The flowers, plants & trees were absolutely amazing. However, they were no more breathtaking than all the Texas Bluebonnets that we enjoyed seeing along the Texas highways—have I told you that Texas is home??



TOP ROW: (L) This young lady at a Gospel meeting is really engrossed in the message (LM & RM) Church building at Macherla (Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh), outside & inside. M. Prakash Babu is the very capable preacher for this church—the building should be finished in a matter of days. (R) Another preacher in Guntur District—except this edifice is his house **BOTTOM ROW:** (L) A Gospel meeting on a rooftop at night (LM) A. Abraham doing more teaching before this young man is baptized into Christ (RM) A team of preachers in Bestivariipet (Prakasham District, Andhra Pradesh) (R) Kumari, our secretary in Hyderabad, along with her 2 daughters—Sonu & Sheba. More about this at IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

april 2016



IN THE SPOTLIGHT GREAT NEWS!

Kumari is our secretary in India. She is Sony's sister & has worked with us for over 20 years—before Kyle & Sony ever met. Kumari has 2 daughters—both very lovely & both fine Christian girls. Sonu is the eldest.

Simply stated, Sonu is brilliant. She received a scholarship from an oil company to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio. Years ago, Karen & I worked with the Lackland Terrace church in that city. Over the years, we kept in touch with Jim & Anne Underwood, friends & members there.

When we learned that Sonu would be coming to the USA, we contacted the Underwoods about taking her under their wings. They responded perfectly & got Sonu involved in the Northwest congregation & its college age group.

Sonu met a fine young man named Christian Taylor at a Christian-oriented college program. Christian began worshipping with Sonu. He recently was baptized; & now they are engaged to be married!

Sonu is a beautiful girl (Karen & I have often said that her features remind us of an Egyptian princess). But Sonu is even more beautiful on the inside. We are thrilled for her—& Christian. Please pray for them for their future lives together.



TOP ROW: Sonu arrives for a meeting with Christian in a garden reflecting the death of Jesus—what she sees surprises her. Then she proceeds to meet him. **BOTTOM ROW:** Christian proposes to Sonu, they pray together—& then the lovely couple poses for the camera. Notice that Sonu is NOT the only person there wearing Indian clothing!

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INDIAN SPICE

PLEASE NOTE: Your financial help is vital to the success of our efforts in India. This is genuinely a team effort. Without local Indian workers who teach in preparing Gospel meetings, other workers who preach in those meetings, translators for us as we speak to gatherings of those who have invited us to come—it would not be possible to do any work for the Lord.

As a contributor, you are a vital part of this team. Without your financial help, we are dead in the water. It takes money to send out preachers to teach the Word of God, help widows, train preachers, buy Bibles, give aid to needy workers, & on & on.

When we speak of the average cost per convert, that amount includes ALL work we do, counting all funds given. An example would be a gift for \$300 for 4 bicycles. Based on last year, that means that not only could we buy the 4 bicycles—that amount of money also would lead 100 souls to Christ & His church.

We need your help badly. Please do what you can to assist us & encourage others to get involved in this great work for the Lord.

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