



VOICE *of* SHALOM



PASTORS & WIVES CONFERENCE - 2016

by Dawn Derstine

During our recent trip to India as part of the PPMI
(Peace Proclamation Ministries International)

team, I experienced one of my most meaningful communion services. Our team traveled to Hyderabad, India, June 14-24, 2016 to assist in facilitating the 5th annual pastors' and wives conference hosted by PPMI.

As the prepared bread and juice were uncovered, our Indian brothers and sisters immediately got down on their knees in humility to pray before communion. We ate the bread together, and then in the same way, the cup. It was so beautiful. There was no barrier of language, culture, or race ... we were one in Christ ... no translation was necessary. We worship the same God, and remember and celebrate what Jesus did for ALL of us.

What followed next was the capstone for me. As we stood, after communion, the women and the men separately started passing the peace. I so wanted to be right in the midst of their hugs and blessings, but our team was in the back row ourselves. However, one of the ladies came back to us and began to move down the row. Having the opportunity to share God's love and blessing, and to receive it and be blessed by each and every one of the ladies that morning, made my heart overflow—we are all sisters in Christ—even though I couldn't speak Telugu with them, the language of God's love did not need spoken words. The warmth of their love and blessing filled me; my heart was full of praise and worship.

Thanks be to God!



Thank you for your Generosity to all our donors and supporters all these years. Your prayers and financial support is helping us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches in the name of Christ in the interior rural communities.

GOOD FOOD *for a* GOOD CAUSE

The Annual Fundraising Banquet

October 15 6:00pm
Souderton
Mennonite Church

- Please pray and plan to attend, and also invite your family and friends to join us. We ask that you purchase tickets ahead of time.
- Please reach out to Anya Williamson at anya.williamson@gmail.com or Sumatha at 267-210-8947 for tickets and other details.

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Greetings to each of you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I trust you all had a great summer. This summer, we had a successful trip to India where we conducted the conferences for the pastors and their wives and also visited several rural churches. We are very grateful to the Lord and for all your prayers as we joyfully completed our fifth pastor's conference and fourth women's conference. The Lord is faithful and forever He will be faithful!

In His providence we dedicated two new rural churches, provided two bore-well pumps that serve entire communities, and donated three sewing machines to 3 of our pastors' wives on the final day of our conferences. Also we praise the Lord in giving three baptisms of believers who came from the indigenous faiths that worship the mountains, rocks and other gods.

It's a blessing to give thanks and to praise our God through His begotten Son, Jesus Christ for your prayers and generosity. As we move forward, we continue to ask for your prayers in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad.

PRAYER ITEMS:

- You can help! Some churches need doors, windows, roofs, and side walls. Please pray and consider giving.
- Pray for \$4,000 to implement a "Community Development Center" in two of the Commonwealths in India. This gives the opportunity for women to come and learn sewing classes (Project Lydia) and for down-trodden and poor kids to receive support for a quality education through these centers.
- Continue to remember to pray for the pastors and their wives as they serve Jesus in their challenging and volatile mission fields.
- The banquet is scheduled on October 15, 2016 at 6 PM. Please pray and plan to attend. You can reach Sumatha at 267-210-8947 or Anya at anya.williamson@gmail.com for tickets or other details.

In 2012, PPMI pastors gathered for a time of teaching and encouragement at the first PPMI Pastors Conference. In 2013, their wives were also invited to attend. One of the wives, Sara Kota, was very quiet and hesitant to look at someone who was asking about her family and her life. She seemed uncomfortable speaking in a group. She didn't know how to read, while most of the other pastors wives eagerly offered to read scripture passages during our Bible studies. During our visit this summer, we noticed a change in Sara. She entered into conversations, telling about her family and her life when asked. During our annual session on marriage relationships, she was the only woman to ask a question during the question and answer session at the end of the panel discussion on marriage.

It's encouraging to see Sara become more comfortable and able to speak in group settings. We rejoice in the growth we see in each of the pastor's wives. God is able to use each person; whether literate or not, young or old, male or female.



by Sharon Swartzentruber



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