

The



Herald

Magazine for The Apostolic Church of Qld. (Northern District) Australia
Incorporating Community News (Local and World Wide)
www.apostolicchurchqld.org.au

INDIA VISIT JUNE 2015 APOSTLE CLIFF FLOR



Apostle Cliff departing Mackay airport with Indian flag

Dear Apostle Flor,

We are happy to hear you reached home safely. We express our thankfulness to God because He has granted us this moment and has protected us while on the mission trip. We have so much to thank God for making this great event possible, which has brought a tremendous blessing for us, and for the entire work of salvation in India.

It was really very blessed moments we shared together with all brothers and sisters from various districts. We still have pleasant after thoughts as a result of the time we could spend together with you. We found this time both beneficial and enjoyable. Those were days of learning and fellowship with the right attitude. We truly appreciate your teachings and guidance, which strengthen and enlighten us in the Lord's work, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I hope that this has brought much joy into every heart and the grace of the Lord will bring abundant harvest in the years to come.

The heart and souls of members were prepared for the Apostle's visit in various parts of India. In some places it was necessary to club several communities in a big tent. In general, we don't do this, but we realize that it may be necessary for large gatherings. It has created a lot of excitement and anticipation within every soul. We thank all brothers and sisters from around the world for their prayers for the success of this event.

For children and youth it was a delightful moment too, and an opportunity to meet and interact with the Apostle. I appeal them to participate and help along in God's work as much as possible. Everyone has received gifts and capabilities. It is essential to use these in God's work, in doing so you can experience much joy.

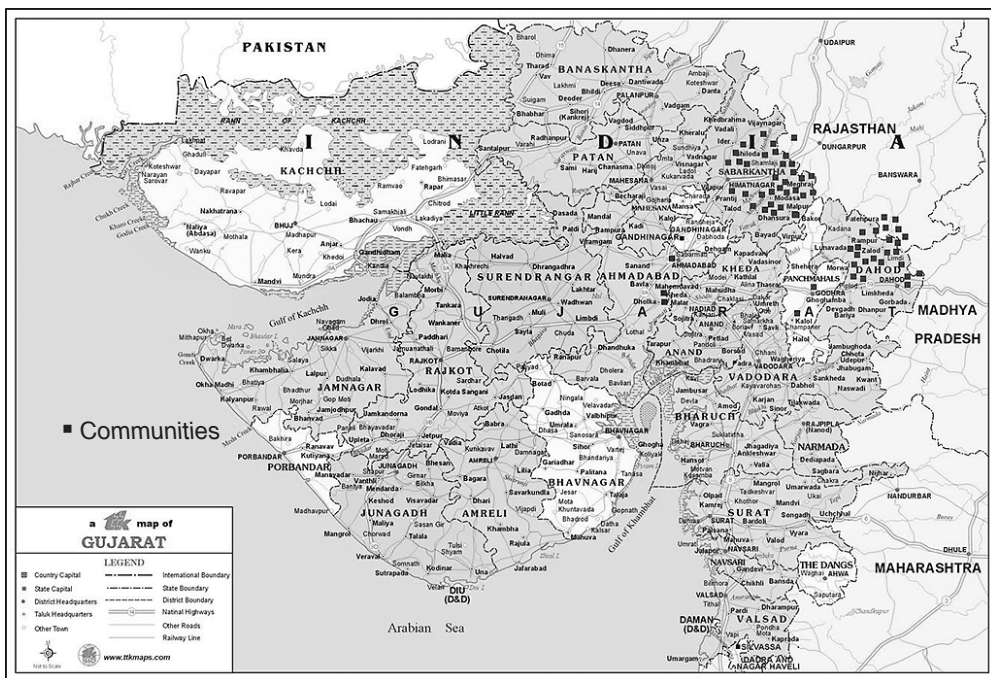
I extend my best wishes to all those new members who are sealed and received the anointing of the Holy Spirit as a gift and strength of God. Many are praying for you and you can count on God's help always. A total of 1279 children and adults were sealed during the visit of Apostle Flor in Gujarat district. I congratulate newly ordained Officers who learned the true meaning of God's work, that our spiritual calling of the heart to serve the Heavenly Father in a most wonderful way. We serve because we love God's work and love the souls. It is an expression of our love, faith and thankfulness for all that the Lord has done for us and for the great promises that he has given to all of us.

I also would like to express my sincere thankfulness to all Officers in India for their hard work and support during the Apostle's visit. May God continue to bless you in all your activity and to provide untold blessings and strength for your families and the communities.

Special love and greetings to you all from my family and myself and all brothers and sisters of Gujarat District.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Vinod Bediawala



INDIA TRIP JUNE 2015

Tuesday 2nd – Up early to catch 8:40 a.m. plane to Brisbane. Andrew drove us as H.J. went to pieces on me. Just as well, because they had trouble getting into carpark at airport due to road works. Noel and Graham were there and Nicholas came as I was leaving. Brisbane O.K., bus to International, paper work completed and ready for flight to Singapore. Long trip, left at 12:15 p.m. and arrived their time 6:35 p.m. (Home time less two hours). Managed to get two hours sleep and Qantas service was very good. Now at Singapore need to go to new terminal, first train then walk for at least 30 minutes. Furthest gate of course, for Jet Airways India. Lost half an hour boarding and then a huge rain and lightning storm hit. This delayed all departures so one hour wait in the plane. Left 11:05 p.m. (our time) Off to Mumbai, because of the storm, a bit rough from time to time. Managed one hour sleep. As we arrived in Mumbai, the staff told me that despite the fact my port was consigned to Ahmedabad, I would have to clear it through customs and re-book it back in. I have never seen so many queues trying to get through immigration and then customs and then to collect the ports. Carousel was double decked, anyway mine did not seem to appear. Asking around, try here, there, no back here. I decided to go through customs and at least get my boarding pass for Jet Airways. No! Not without baggage, so back through customs to Claims Office and there it was! Someone had seen it consigned to Ahmedabad and thought it shouldn't be there, but all went well. Now back through customs, check in, rush to bus for domestic. Everyone is so helpful, looking for a tip of course. One young lad said he would check my port in because, at my age he thought I needed help. "How old do you think I am?" I asked. Oh 65! They are clever but anyway it lifted my spirit. Through security again at

domestic. On to bus to the plane and finally on our way. It is now another day!

Wednesday 3rd. Arrived Ahmedabad 3:45 a.m. (our time) 11:45 a.m. Cleared security, picked up the port and head out the door. There was Bishop Vinod and his two sons, Sanjay (evangelist) and Sandeep, waving excitedly. What a sight! After greetings and catching up, off to the hotel “The Lemon Tree”. Roadworks everywhere, no signs but around the corner and woops, a sheet of corrugated iron across the road. Because of this, we couldn’t find the hotel, but at last arrived. It is comfortable and has a western style menu as well as Indian. Booked in at 5 a.m. their time, had a chat and prayer of thanks by Bishop. Welcomed shower and as breakfast is served from 7 a.m., got that out of the way and then to bed 12:30 p.m. woke up. The work begins this afternoon. Will stay here for 3 days; seminar and combined service Sunday and then we hit the road for the week. At least the heatwave has eased, the temperature today had dropped to a pleasant 43 degrees Celsius. The Bishop and Evangelist called and we had many discussions of the work here and questions until 4 p.m. then had late lunch, a sandwich. Took a rickshaw to a Bible Shop and purchased 400 children’s Bibles for the older ones and will buy sweets for the younger. They had 76 confirmation candidates this year. Rickshaw back to hotel and farewells until 9 in the morning when day one of seminar commences. Light dinner tonight and prepare for seminar. To bed. Wow! Miracles do happen, during the night to the toot, but not Bombay bum, but “constipated”. Of course H.J. did not see this coming, but thanks to a dose of apple cider vinegar, all went well.



View from hotel



Took rickshaw for books

Thursday 4th. Breakfast, pack and waiting for taxi to go to seminar. Called 9 a.m. and usual journey through India streets, no road rules. First in best dressed, loudest horn makes progress. Arrived, 32 Priests and Evangelists waiting. They travelled in last night and camped at the centre where the seminar is held. Began with prayer and hymn Indian style, where one sings words from the Bible and all join in with a praise chorus. Traditional Indian drums to keep the beat. All matters had to be translated by Evangelist Sanjay. At 11:30 a.m. I had the Bishop talk for the last session. Lunch break, I had rice

and non-spicy chicken, although it was done in a curry and usual drink of tea (milky and sweet) but O.K. Afternoon session until 4 p.m., and then tea time again and back to hotel. In the main part of the city they have built in the centre of the street a two lane section fenced in, to be used only by busses.



Officer's Seminar

This has reduced the roadway by one lane either way for local traffic. They must have been dreaming if they thought they would keep the traffic out of the bus lane, so now at each corner a rope across and a policeman to stop the traffic. On a hot day like today 41 degrees Celsius, no policeman can be seen. Light meal tonight, plenty of fruit. Big panic over here at present with Maggi Noodles. Ten samples showed up lead contamination above health requirements. T.V. shows tonnes being burnt in bonfires, while starving children are looking on. Public Servants!



Tea time

Friday 5th. June 21st is National Yoga Day in India and looking out of the window, all the roof tops are full of people meditating and practicing. According to the news, even the schools have been told, 'No lessons only on Yoga'. Many teachers are not happy to lose a day of schooling. The newspaper published a poll on people's thoughts on destroying noodles. 37% agree and 36% said more chance of getting ill from water and air.



Statue of kangaroo on street corner

Balance said wait and see. The City Council announced a scheme today to try and get the people to use Public Toilets and not the street. Called "Get a rupee for a pee". A dispensing machine will issue a rupee each time the urinal is used. Off to seminar - very intense subjects but all seemed enlightened. At lunchtime we drove to the main

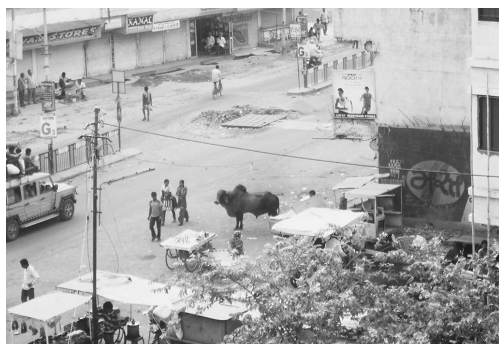


After Seminar

city branch of BPI Bank to try to sort out for Europe, bank transfer. It was a long shot (for India) but at least we were given some advice on how to achieve it. So to the next stage. Afternoon seminar until 4:15 then teatime. Indians without their teatime (so sweet and pre made), are like vehicle without fuel. Because we were a little later, the traffic was really heavy. They may as well switch the traffic lights off as no one takes any notice. Fuelled the car, diesel price here approximately \$1 (Aust). Back to Hotel



Street side markets



Cattle have free range



Sheep roam highway



Camels used for transportation

and ambushed at reception. It is World Environment Day, so the Lemon Tree Hotel had each foreign guest they could find, go to the carpark and plant a tree (shrub) in a pot. I put H.J.'s name on the silver tag. It will be put in the garden of one of their hotels and the grandchildren can visit in the future to see how it is growing. They also gave a packet of seeds to take home to plant. Obviously they do not know our quarantine rules but I will pass them to one of the Officers tomorrow. There is a big statue of a scrawny Kangaroo in the centre of one of the streets, I think I got a photo. No-one seems to know what it represents. It is amazing how they find their way around as there are no street names or numbers anywhere. Thank heavens for the locals. Bad choice for dinner tonight. The waiter assured me that some chicken spring rolls did not have much chilli, Wow! Eyes watering, nose running and two milk shakes later. I have a feeling the night has only begun.

Saturday 6th. Proved to be correct, but back on deck. Light breakfast today (cereal and toast) "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord". Seminar will only be for half day as Officers have to travel to their homes for service tomorrow. Some will travel all night. Seminar went well with very keen interest in all subjects and Bible discussions. We were to break at 12 o'clock but they decided to come back at 1 o'clock until 2:20p.m. as they want more discussions. Finished at 3 p.m. and Ev. Sanjay brought me back to the hotel while the Bishop stayed on to settle some matters. Received email from Bro. Thomas in Nepal. Nepal is on the border with India and it turns out Bishop Vinod spent some time there and has some contacts. We may be able to use them in getting assistance in. Elder Joe advised the Bishop all is in readiness for visit to his area. Sunday service tomorrow will be at the centre where seminar was held as all city communities will come together. We shall be O.K. as on our journey at least ten rickshaw drivers gave us a blessing as we cut them off. At least that is what it looked like as the hand was raised toward us. I made a discovery this afternoon, a small fridge tucked in the cupboard and in it was some cold drinks, the blessings are working already. Safe meal tonight, no advice from the waiter. Prepare for service tomorrow.

Sunday 7th. As I will be only collected at 10 a.m., late breakfast. Phoned home to hear all the noise from the church hall as the Youth Rally luncheon was progressing. The waiter with disabilities was assisting, he seems such a happy soul, all the others have had to learn hand signs and he copes well. He must have seen me having Grace and came and made the sign of a cross and pointed to himself, obviously telling me he was a Christian. I pointed to heaven and held up the hand of blessing to him and he was so pleased. I couldn't help thinking of the Lord's words, that if we testify of Him is this life, He will testify of us before His Father and the angels. I feel that will occur for this young man. The Bishop and Evangelist came early to prepare Order of Service, which follow the same procedure as home. 46 degrees Celsius today. Off to the place where we held the seminar, normally they only gather at houses, but this was to be a combined Ahmedabad member's service. It was good to meet Sister Sagunaben (Bishop's wife) and also to meet Bro. Sandeep's fiancé and members that had gathered. The total of members have doubled since I was last here, with over 60+ members attending. Sincere service based on Pentecost. Bishop, Evangelist, Priest Joseph and myself served. Priest Joseph also led the community hymns. Of course my sermon, prayers

and teachings had to be translated. 30+ new members and children came forward for sealing. At the end of service the children sang and were addressed and then received a book and sweet from Heather. All the community then greeted and a group photo and lunch was supplied. Curried rice, hot chicken and a sweet type of crumbly cake. A



Ahmedabad Community



Members gather Ahmedabad



Those to be sealed are addressed



Children receive gifts



Sealing



Community



Priest and family



Bishop and family

special batch of plane rice was made for me. It was good to have a chat over lunch. The Bishop's daughter Neeta, from Sydney, phoned which was an added surprise. Farewells to a very happy community. The Evangelist reported some visitors from a nearby village had come to observe and had requested a visit with the intention of starting a community. It is very difficult and costly to try to rent a hall for Sundays as the Hindus do not want to deal with Christians, but members are looking for a suitable place now that the numbers are growing. The trading shops all closed on Sunday and the footpaths and streets come alive as markets with produce are lined up everywhere. On the



Museum



Bishop Vinod & Apostle Flor at Mahatma Gandhi Museum

way back to the Hotel we called at Ghandi Museum and his house and display.

He of course is regarded as the Father of the Nation. It was interesting to see. Back into the air-conditioning, hope I don't get pasteurized. Have to pack ready for trip into the country to visit communities and members in Panchmahal, Dohad and Sabarkantha districts up to the 14th, before returning to Ahmedabad. Communities close to each other will combine and service will be held in mornings and evenings to avoid the heat of the day. Dinner and pack and all fitted in.

Monday 8th. Woke early, final breakfast and last packing. Down to check out and woops! Credit card not accepted. Mitchell forgot to advise of India trip. Maybe he wanted me to be kept here. Anyway had enough funds to bail me out. Temperature dropped as overcast and some rain recorded. Picked up at 8:30 a.m. and out of city to the country communities. One can see

why Gujarat is a most advanced state. Because of gas, Government has been able to put in good roads and amenities. Everywhere or nearby the towns are large industrial factories, general motors, drug companies, chemicals, all the large electrical brands.



Street scene



Hay bales



Street scenes



Ploughing fields

They obviously can see this part of the world as a safe investment. All along horns blow and at first it sounds they are impatient, but most of the slower vehicles actually have painted on the back "Sound Horn O.K. Please". When travelling through rural India, one sees all types of vehicles, cows, donkeys, camels, horses, monkeys, vultures. The highways and surrounds all look great, with hedges and trees in bloom. Poinciana (mainly orange and white), bougainvillea all colours, and white flowering trees.

H.J. would have wanted to stop to get seeds. The countryside got dryer and dryer, semi desert, but many fields are worked ready, waiting for the rains which are late this year. We arrive at Kohol Church centre to service this area. It is a nice building, almost renovated and leased to the Church long term at a reasonable price. It is a new work and most of the members are new converts. The area has many villages nearby and



Ready for service



Service



Sealing



Priest Harkhabmai ordained



Children



Widows receive a sari



Outside church