

Divine service commenced at 12 o'clock. All sit on the floor on mats and were very sincere. Approximately 50+ attended. Over 40 were sealed and then Bro. Harkhabmai who has undergone training, was ordained as Priest. This was well received by all as he is respected. The children came and received their gift. As school began today, ten were missing, but the Priest was left with their gift. It is customary with a new community that the widows are presented with a sari from the Church and this was done for five sisters. Photos and light lunch. Some very hot roll, so I passed on one. We visited the Priest's home and the homes of other members in various villages. Then hit the road



*Visit Officers home and family*



*Street - Dohad*

again to drive to Dohad. It is quite a large town, usual congestion, horns sounding, cows in street etc. We drove past a Hindu temple. Also on the way, Hindu cremations were on the side of the road. Because the highway is split by a large medium strip, often coming towards you is a truck or vehicle going the wrong way. It is because they wish to turn off but do not want to go to the next gap which would be a long way. We found our Hotel and have to get to it from a rear underground carpark. Of course the lifts are not working but finally checked in. The rooms look comfortable and are air-conditioned, but of course no toilet paper. Along the way we stopped for food but only hot and spicy. But Bro. Sanjay ordered me a dish, fried rice flour stuffed with onions. Oh well, time will tell. We plan to go out at 8 p.m. to see if we can find some light food. Tomorrow will be a big day, we will meet the Evangelist for this area and visit some communities with services set for the morning and evening. We will then come back to the hotel for the night. Down to café, ordered small pizza (no chilli) but yes, it had chilli so swapped it with Bishop who had ordered a sandwich. Had an ice-cream to cool things down.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.** Only breakfast available was bread and butter and of course tea, (white and sweet) so we added some bananas and then off to first community visit. It is approximately 1 ½ hour drive out in the country. Evangelist Samuel met us along the way to come with us as road works changed normal way. At first the country looked



*Community waits for service*

quite good, even some irrigated fields but the further we went, the drier and rockier it gets. Everything is ploughed waiting for rain and they assure me when the rain comes and crops are planted, it will change to green, with water filling the rice fields. There are small rocks in many of the paddocks, many places the paddocks are white as the stone is white quality. Other places the stones are stacked up like flat pavers. They use them to build walls. One thing that stands out in these farming



*Service*

villages and farms, is that none of the houses have window openings. They can be large buildings, but no windows. I asked the Evangelist and he said because all the household had to go to the farms when the work began, it was for security as there were many gangs of thieves in the area. Gamdi, Jafekpura and Khakhariye communities



*Gifts for children*

#### *Sealing*

were to come together. Unfortunately one of the community's transport did not arrive and they did not make it. A pavilion had been set up next to the Evangelist's home for Church service which started 11:30 a.m. Approximately 90 attended with 80+ being sealed. All were very attentive. After service the children and then lunch. The evangelist knew I was having trouble with hot food, so his wife prepared chicken (no spice), rice (no spice), and a sweet corn and butter milk, so I was well fed. We rested in the shade

as it was 45 degrees Celsius, but every now and then a cool breeze could be felt. 2:30 p.m. we then moved on to the next community of Hadmatkhuta under the care of Priest Lalit. Some members from Mahudi and Kharsana also travelled there. Again, a pavilion was erected but due to the path of the sun, many got more shade outside, but all were attentive. Approximately 50 attended and 40+ sealed. Children, photos and

on our way back to Dohod to the hotel again. Arrived back 6 p.m. a big day. Heard today of the passing of Sister Vi. Graffunder, she is now at peace and also Brother Lionel Smith's sister. It will be a gap in his life. We plan to meet at 8 p.m. to see if



*Officers Dohad District*





*Sealing*

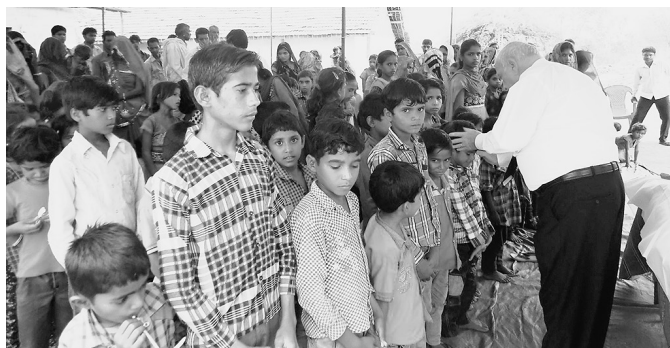
any non-spicy food can be found. Yes, we found some. Miracles do happen.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>.** Bread and butter and white sweet tea for breakfast. Bishop and Evangelist had some hot Indian dish. Hit the road again to visit and hold service, morning and evening again. I will be eligible for a few R.D.O's when I get home. Once

again well out in the country, dry and stony farms. Our first stop at Bamera community under the care of Evangelist Ditabhai Machhar. Nearby villages of Garadu, Kachhla, Kheda and Rajadiya came to the combined service. Many had to work and of course school day, but over 200 in attendance under a pavilion in 45 degree heat. The sisters and children sat on mats and the older ones and men sat in chairs at the back. They had a small drum and thumb symbols to keep the tune of their hymns, which they sang while waiting for more to walk in. During their services they clap hands very softly and with reverence to keep the melody. A leader will sing the words and all then repeat it. All were very sincere during service. The sisters cover their heads and faces out of respect and it is very difficult for sealing. The Bishop asks them to leave a gap so I can reach their forehead. 200+ sealed in lines from one end of the pavilion to the other. 45 degrees. Now I know how the first 12 Apostles must have felt on the day of Pentecost, when between them they baptised and sealed 3,000 souls. A new Priest for one of the nearby villages was ordained and well accepted by all. Then the children and



*Bishop Vinod preaches during service at Rajadiya Community*



*Children are being sealed at Rajadiya*

lunch Indian style. Rice and hot dishes but I was content with the rice and a sweet corn. My water bottle was so hot, but at least wet! I have seen people drink hot water instead of tea or coffee, today I experienced it also. After some discussion, the two Evangelists travelled with us to some other villages.



*Community*



*Who needs a vacuum cleaner?*

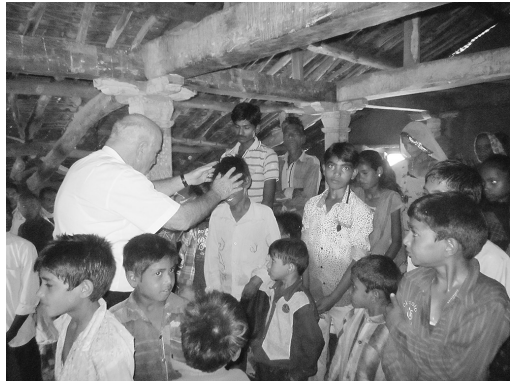
Dhuadiya, Bhorej and Ambazaron where a combined service was held at Priest Daniel's home. This was inside a large room, from the front to the back of the home and I suspect half of it is used for farm implements and produce. No windows and no electricity so all were just shadow figures. When they sang we knew they were present. Approximately 50 in attendance and 40 sealed. It was so dark Evangelist Sanjay had great difficulty in reading my text from the

Bible, so we left it at one. All very sincere. Children again. Photo shoot and goodbyes. Usual cup of tea, white and not so sweet this time. Very enjoyable. Travel back to hotel through a small town, busy streets and markets everywhere. I observed more of this horn blowing today. Many of the trucks on the road have speed limits marked on them,





*Divine Service at Borva Ambazaran*



*Sealing*



*After service group photo at Borva Ambazaran Gujarat District*

40, 50, 60, with a sign to other road users to blow horn and do not try to pass until the truck driver thinks it is clear and he will then blast his horn to pass. I was intrigued as in the markets they are selling piles of bamboo sticks about 1 metre long, with a woven basket on one end and the other cut on an angle. These are planters for use when the farmers plant their seed as they are hollow. For plants that



*Evangelist Samuel & family*

need to be spaced, the point is put in the ground and a seed dropped, when it is pulled out of the ground the soil falls on top of it. If in a row it is dragged along and the seeds fed in. Who needs machines? Arrived back and we all enjoyed a Coco-cola in the

café (I actually had two and still thirsty). As it is earlier than we normally get back, I decided to have an hour nap, just settled in and out goes the power, no aircon or fan, but fortunately after ¼ hour life returned and I crashed. Tomorrow we will visit more communities in Dohad district and then travel on to Sabakkantha district and a new hotel, so packing to be completed tonight. Dinner tonight another miracle, they could make me a jam and cheese sandwich without chilli, that with a milk shake, what more can a man ask for?

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>.** Check out after breakfast, I stuck with bread and butter and tea. Picked up Evangelist Samuel along the way and travelled to Chanasar community, under the care of Priest Rupabhai. Usual dry stony farmland. Service under a pavilion, a cool breeze to start, but when it dropped temperature goes back up again. A very sincere community. They sing a little differently, the sisters only sing and then the brothers do the chorus or vice-versa. Approximately 60 attended with 50+ sealed. Usual children's gifts, photos and lunch was prepared. Plain rice and Indian bread for me, others had a curry dish. Priest and wife discussed problems and we had a special prayer and laying hands for them. On the way we called on a family who could not attend and sealed eleven in the family. They had a low cooling fan and I almost had a haircut. Tea supplied. We left the Evangelist



*Members are being sealed at Chanasar*

there and said farewells to travel approximately 300 kilometres to a new district Sabakkantha to spend three days of combined services with Evangelists Bhaat and Katara who look after the many communities. We travelled through farm land, some poor and others that have irrigation so good farmlands



*Community*

and crops. Some places are fenced off so the livestock is restrained. It appears quite large herds of goats and water buffalo which I suspect are milked as there were many milk cans waiting to be collected in various places. When they shift a herd of goats they seem to hobble some with a rope, from the front leg to the back to slow them down. As well, they seem to use a donkey as a leader. Usual road congestion but we arrived safely at Himmatnagar and booked into the Hotel Landmark which seems very comfortable. On the way we stopped at a truck stop (they call them Hotel) I was happy to have an ice-cream and Pepsi, while the others had hot food. When one books into these hotels they have to take a copy of passport and visa and you have to give a copy of left thumb print if male and right thumb print if female. They say it is because if someone has an accident they can identify (which ever). Just looked at menu (not excited). Got through that and discussed matters and back to room, bowel telling me something and yes, up and down all night. Tablets seem to be settling. Not sure what long term outcome of tablets will be.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>.** Bit sluggish this morning. Remembered Sis. Vi's funeral. Looks like a hot day again. Two services planned for today. Toast and tea for breakfast but I avoided the hot tea and had cold tea. First stop was Priest Ramesh Jivabhai at Ratanpur. Some members also came from nearby villages Kadwad, Naniansol, Sonasan, Odapada, Rangpukand Galpur. I remember visiting this community last trip but it has grown in numbers. Estimate 150 present and 100+ sealed. All very sincere. Usual children's gifts etc. After service Priest's daughter and son-in-law approached me to have their new born baby baptised. I passed that over to the Bishop (imagine me trying to get the name right). Lunch of rice and hot chilli dish. They took pity on me and made up some hot milk and sugar so I could have rice pudding. We planned to come back to the hotel for 40 winks, but I wanted to exchange some money. To this bank, No! Then to



*Children enjoying lunch at Ratanpur Community*



*After service group photo at Ratanpur Community*





*Sealing*

that, No! Finally, we found a moneylender tucked away who did the job. As a result only ½ hour rest and off again for another service at Priest Sadubhai Hadath community Vantada. Once again about 90+ present with 75+ sealed. Chat with Officers. All the children's gift books gone, miscount by Bishop and four more services. Driving back to the hotel I asked if we could



*Bishop Baptises new baby*



*New baby*



*Meal time*



*Brothers are being sealed at  
Vantada Community.*



*Divine Service at Vantada Community*



*Vantada Community Gujarat District*  
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