

Elder Mohan

Communities -
Tamil Nardu
Elder Joe

Already few brothers, they use to come to our monthly officers meeting past few months now after your visiting they called me through mobile and expressing their willingness to join with us. This month first week they came and participated in the meeting. I teach them about our church rules and regulations and catechism then they accepted if God wills I will ordain them next month. Apostle some officers enquired about ordination certificates I also don't have certificate so please Apostle make arrangement for ordination certificates. Apostle convey my love & regards to Mom. Sis. Ruby & children are felt sorry for that they couldn't attend the seminar. Apostle please pray for children studies as they entered in the higher studies. Thank you lot for your visiting and encourage me to do the church work more effectively and keep them in the Apostolic teaching. I pray for you & your ministry. You had revive the Apostolic ministry in India 2009, now it is growing gradually by the grace of our Lord God. I never forget your advice and proverb (crawl, walk and run). Pray for me that I have to develop the more communities all over Tamil Nadu. Pray for my health and Ruby's health both we are affected by diabetes. Closing with love & regards.

Your's ever loving brother & Elder
Joe Jawahar.

Tuesday 16. Good breakfast as they provide for all countries. Prepare for seminar. Elder Mohan travelled by train from his state. 36 attending the seminar, some of our Officers and a number of invited. All seemed very attentive and wanted more at the end of each session. At question time they get very excited as they quote something from the Bible and then give what they think it means. I can usually negotiate a way to explain what it means without offence. It all has to be translated by Elder Joe into Tamil. Seminar is held at a Bible Hall which is rented out for such occasions. Because South India is the original area which Apostle Thomas worked, there appears to be a greater number of Christian churches to be seen. It is a big tourist area as there are some large Hindu Temples to be visited. Lunch was under the trees, rice and some other add ons. I steered clear of the hot dishes that went with it. Elder Joe brought some 'curd' to put on my rice. It was the same as Mum used to make 'thick sour milk'! Thanks Mum! Back to hotel, will meet Elder Joe tonight for dinner and discussions. Sent text to Alicia for her 10th birthday, she should have it first up in the morning.



Sign for Seminar



Seminar Attendees



Apostle Flor in a lunch break

Wednesday 17th. Second day of seminar, so breakfast and taxi to the centre. One brother who left yesterday lunch time to have appendix operation in the afternoon, was there with his mattress and pillow, because he wanted to lie and hear the teachings. At tea-break a chair leg bent and oops! Tea all over my shirt front. They wanted to drive me back to the hotel to change, one brother said he had two shirts and I could borrow one, but we left it alone. Maybe it will wash out. The seminar is quite intense but all seem to be interested and asked for more. One

visitor keeps jumping up and asking questions from anywhere and I think the other Officers would like him to sit as they wish to hear more teaching. Usual rice lunch but Mohan always gets fruit - mango and pawpaw today. Back to hotel at 5 o'clock and dinner planned for 8 p.m. and then a meeting with some Officers with special problems. Bishop sometimes has problems buying communion wafers in his area as it is not a large Christian population. In Madurai there are some Christian supply shops so we will purchase some to be sent back by courier. They need 2,000+ each week in his area. Had a meeting with Nellikkuppam Officers and they request a visit with sealing and visit the late Priest's wife to settle all things in that area. So we plan to travel 5 hours on Friday for service at 5 p.m. and then return at night.



Transport

Thursday 18th. Breakfast and off to seminar. All interested. Elder Joe closed it at 1:30 p.m. as preparations needed for settling up everything, purchase books and

communion sets before trip to Nellikkuppam tomorrow. After lunch (rice) organizing things. Raining lightly here, they are hoping it is the first signal of monsoons which are long overdue for the second year. The temperature here has dropped to 36 degrees Celsius, which is a blessing. Back to hotel. It is owned and managed by Muslims and on the ceiling of each room is a painted green arrow, pointing to Mecca so they know which way to pray. Took rickshaw to the book shop and bought 400 children's books for the communities in this area. Elder Joe is going home tonight (lucky fellow). We travelled through overcrowded streets as it is the end of workday for most – 7p.m. Mohan was back at 9 p.m. and dinner and then packed ready for tomorrow's trip to Nellikkuppam.



Crowded streets

Friday 19th. Up early, breakfast and ready to leave by 8:30 a.m. Joe and Mohan arrived a bit late but we were away by 9 a.m. 350 kilometre journey. Good driver. The land at first is mainly flat but with large outcrops of rocks! It is dry! As we get closer to the coast they obviously have had rain as crops and country are quite green. Quite a bit of sugarcane grown in Nellikkuppam area and the Priest has worked at the Sugar Mill for many years. He said they crush approximately 15,000 tons per day (5 day week). We lunched along the way. A very economically run restaurant. No plates, only banana leaves and no cutlery. The food was O.K., no chilli in what I ordered. \$6-50 per meal so they must be passing the savings on. Arrived at Priest Stevens home at 4 p.m. We then visited his mother, the wife of the late Priest who served the community, having been ordained by the Late Apostle Bill Erry. He passed away suddenly August last year and had been married 56 years, so she was still sad. We prayed and tried to uplift her and give her some assistance. She was happier. The problem has been some of the community still wished to have service at that place with the deacon, while others went to the Priest's home. After discussions it was agreed all future services would be at Priest Steven's home. We returned and waited as service was to be at 5 p.m., but did not start until 5:45 p.m. due to power failure. 50 people crammed into



Bishop gives help to wife of late Priest

a small room, no light, no fan and hot outside soon made things difficult. Approximately 35 sealed and a good service. An ordination of a deacon, Bro. Andrew also took place. Final discussions, children, photos etc., and off we go at 7:30 p.m. Night travel with all the trucks is an experience, but the driver knew what he was doing. Stopped for tea and cake. Only saw two accidents so that was O.K. Arrived back at Madurai 11:45p.m.

Expected to see the streets quiet but no, busier than ever. As trucks cannot get in during the day, they come at night to deliver and unpack. Shower and bed by 1 a.m.



Members from Nellikuppam Community



Priest Steven, mother & sisters



Youth from Nellikuppam

Saturday 20th. Slept in until 7:30 a.m. Preparations to leave at 10:30 a.m. to visit local communities and Divine Service with sealing tonight at Crisis community. Bishop received text from airways that flight on one leg has been cancelled. Checked to see if we can use another airline for this trip. No, they too, will have to cancel flight. Possibly industrial action. Now what to do! The hotel travel desk has found us a connection with four stops and would only arrive 5 a.m. Monday morning, so we booked. They then got back to us, we could go via Chennai (wrong way) back to Bombay and then on to Ahmedabad and arrive at 11 p.m. Sunday. The catch is that some of the airlines dropped out and the others doubled their fares. It is a case of beggars can't be choosers, so pay the extra and hope. Off at 10:30 a.m. and met by Elder along the way. We went to a new community Vannan Kulam which has been operating for two years by two deacons. It is a very traditional area. On arrival a large crowd was outside the Church, which was a Lutheran Church, disused for the past six years as they could not find a

Pastor to go there. Our deacons were given permission to clean it up and use it free for Christian services. They had traditional drums and a type of trumpet to play to welcome us. Women had silver plates with water and flowers in, which they were to tip over our feet as a gesture of welcome. With us wearing shoes they tipped it in front. A gift had to be given to them and luckily one of the deacons knew this and put some money in their plates. A lei made of wool was put around my neck as acknowledgement of a welcomed person of authority. Approximately 70 attended the service with approximately 60 sealed. One of the deacons, a school teacher, will be ordained as a Priest tomorrow. He is a well organized and sincere Officer. After service the head man in the village who was sealed, came forward and fulfilled a tradition of draping me with a shawl type cloth to welcome into the tribe. Other dignitaries did the same for the other Officers.



Traditional 'Welcome'



Welcome to tribe



Sealing



Service

We travelled to Usilampatti and to the home of Elder. It was good to greet Sister Ruby again. One daughter was there while the other was at school, which is held on Saturdays as well. A lovely lunch was had at 2.30p.m. and Sister Ruby cooked some dishes without spice or chilli. She will be blessed. We then drove to Alapalacherry where we have a church and this community has been in operation for some time. Unfortunately no fulltime Officer yet. Approximately 50 attended, mainly children and older members who turned out to be the grandparents, as the parents had to work but wanted the children to be sealed. We held a teaching and sealing service. Approximately 40 sealed. Usual gifts for the children. One of the town Elders discussed how we might be able to work together to get them a Medical Centre as they have no facilities at all. Let's see. Elder Joe asked if we could call on a family, to visit them as they have a mentally ill son, who they cannot leave and he always asks for a blessing. We stopped and the young man has to wear steel hobbles to stop him running away. As soon as he saw the Elder, he knelt down waiting for a blessing. We had laying hands on him, he was so excited. It is a strong person who does not shed a tear in these situations. As we left he was waving and waving. On to Peraiyur to the home of a faithful family where a small group had gathered for a divine service. This was a very sincere group with four sealed and prayers for problems. Tea and biscuits prepared by hosts. We dropped the Elder off and back to the hotel 11:30 p.m. A big day!



Enjoying Sis. Ruby's cooking



Members from Peraiyur Community



Alapalacherry Service



Sealing



Sealing Peraiyur

Sunday 21st. Up at 5:30 a.m. to pack and be ready to travel to Usilampatti for service to begin at 9 a.m. to give us time to get to the airport. Mohan arrived and then we travelled. All were not there yet as a pickup car had a flat tyre so they sang hymns until all arrived. Approximately 60 attended and approximately 35 sealed. All attentive during service and some deacons were ordained to higher Office.

2 Evangelists – Abelurul & Lucas

3 Priests – V. Jaydyumar, A. Dhas, S. Moses Ratiainam

This was well received as all are very sincere, humble men. Special welcome at the end of service with leis of flowers as is the custom. Children, lunch and then off to the airport.



Apostle Flor with Bishop Vinod and Officers from Tamilnadu District



Ordination of Officers



Members are being sealed at Usilampatti Community



Members begin to gather



Officers after service



Sealing



Elder Joe, family, Bishop & Apostle

First leg to Chennai, one and half hour wait and then next leg to Mumbai. Heavy monsoon rains at Mumbai and reports have had airport closed on and off. Hope it is O.K. Tuesday! When we arrived they got all the passengers on buses and went straight to connecting flight, raining heavily. We had to wait in the plane for other connections to arrive and finally off. Arrived 11 p.m. and met by Bro. Sandeep. He reports temperatures have been up to 37-39 degrees Celsius. Back in Lemon Tree Hotel. Off at 8 in the morning for combined service for some communities we missed on the first round.

Photo Gallery – Tamil Nardu



Divine Service in Tamilnadu District



Nellikumin



Vannan Kulam



Sunday School Teacher



Service Usilampatti



Children enjoy books



Welcome



Monday 22nd. Off at 8:30 a.m. to travel 300 odd kilometres to Dahod district where five new communities which have been operating two years under the care of Evangelist, wishing that we could visit for sealing. Arrived 12:30 p.m. and service delayed as waiting for some members. 200 + attended and 160 + sealed. All very attentive. Five new priests and one evangelist were ordained so the communities could now begin under the priest. Children and usual meal and returned to Bishop's



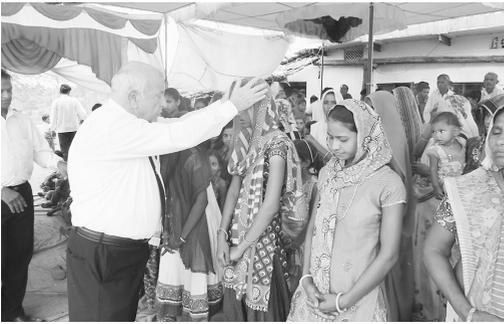
Ordination of new Officers



Apostle Flor with Officers Dahod District



Members from Dahod area are being sealed



Sisters are being sealed at Combined Service at Rajadiya



Apostle Flor was invited for dinner at Bishop Vinod's home

house at 8 p.m. Very nice meal prepared (no chilli) and only a short time available to say "Thank You" and God Bless till we meet again. The Bishop is having trouble with monkeys coming and pinching his fruit and jumping on the car. Back to hotel, final pack and pay up as being collected at 2 a.m. Will only get a couple of hours sleep. The first rain fell out in the area we came from and now the farmers have their oxen and cows planting. Dad operates the ox and furrow plough and Mum drops the seed. Cheaper than a tractor. We passed through one town and it was market day, people and activity everywhere. Because the cattle are needed to work the farm now it has rained, there was also a cattle sale. Led plough cattle were selling for 25,000 to 30,000 rupees. May send some over.

Tuesday 23rd. Up at 1:30 a.m. for departure to airport for first leg of the journey home. Usual security, book in etc., and farewell to Bishop and Bro. Sanjay. Wait for take-off 4:30 a.m. for Mumbai (Bombay) as first leg. That airport has been closed as monsoon storms have been hitting the area. Travelled through rain and storms all the way and first attempt to land, aborted. Circle above storm, try again, aborted. Captain announced one more attempt and this time we landed very roughly. Domestic terminal in a mess as rain was pouring in. Now to get to international, a bus trip. Because of rain, roads chock a block (beep, beep) finally made it, clear customs, security and check monitor for flight to Singapore. Estimated half hour late, then one hour, then shifted gates, not looking good. Finally away two hours late, raining all the time. It will be cutting it fine to Singapore. More prayers. Just made connections with 15 minutes wait. Now Qantas to Brisbane. Slept some of the way. Arrived Brisbane 5:45 a.m. cleared customs, security etc. Another miracle, my port arrived. Transfer baggage for domestic flight and T bus to domestic terminal. Breakfast in Qantas lounge and wait for 9:10 a.m. take off for Mackay. Jet lag started to set in on trip to Mackay but held out. Arrived 11 a.m. HJ, Shirley and Gordon, Noel and Graham there to meet. Good to see a redhead again. Finally Home Sweet Home, showered and crashed into bed until woken up at 6 p.m. Advised India home safely.

Many, many prayers from around the world were all answered for which I am very thankful.

Apostle Cliff Flor

SOME COMMENTS OBSERVED WHILE IN INDIA

From community records, approximately 1400 souls were sealed this trip.

India, as a nation, is rising up, and by trends will soon be in the top 10.

Newspapers are interesting to read. They say it as it is. They have a law that the newspapers cannot be sued. A few items that took my eye:

- Daily stories of corruption in high places.
- Church of England in Great Britain will have very few members in 50 years, thought to be as a result of ordination of women.
- High health issues (autism etc.) emerging in generations being born because of large number of vegetarians in Hindu faiths.
- Indian rail system is being looked to be purchased by Chinese government.
- Indian and Bangladesh have signed a peace treaty an Ardani Power will build and run 10 coal fired power stations, financed by Indian government over the next five years.
- There is some doubt emerging on the validity of how the sacred cow belief was introduced.

Many of the Indian states have complete alcohol bans and as a result less road accidents and domestic violence.

G.P.S. are of no use in India as streets are not named and laneways everywhere.

Mahindra Tractors purchased the old IHC factory in USA and shifted it to India. They are still making B414, B250 etc. They are identical but have a different name only.

Camel transport is still popular for non perishables. It takes a long time but is much cheaper.

The film industry started with Hollywood then came Bollywood, which is mostly singing and dancing, but now they have introduced Kollywood for dramas (no singing).

The chilli seems to be getting hotter (maybe climate change).