

Worship Equippers for Christ

Missions Network Update

For the Friends of Dean & Glorianne Schultz



All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord,

And they shall glorify Your name. Psalm 86:9



Dear Friend in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ Lord! Glorianne and I pray that this Advent/Christmas season will be a wonderful time of blessing for you and your family!

As we journey through this holy season, I've been reflecting on the following four questions posed by the Apostle Paul which remind us of our sacred calling as *Great Commission Worshipers* to bring the Good News to those who have never heard;

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

With this missional call in mind I wanted to provide you with a year-end update on our ministry and ask for your continued partnership in helping us to bring the Good News to all nations here at home and abroad!

BRINGING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS ...

Over this past year your prayers and gifts made it possible for our ministry to bring the Good News and hope to many hopeless lives struggling with broken marriage and family relationships, drug, alcohol and pornography addictions, abortion, sexual abuse, bereavement over the death of loved ones due to illness, suicide and drug overdoses, the despair caused by homelessness and other life issues that only our Lord Jesus can heal.

Sadly, our postmodern cultures concept of *hope* is often reduced to a wishy-washy "Que Sera, Sera" (whatever will be will be) feeling of what one hopes for *may* or *may not* happen. Thankfully, the Hebrew and Greek words translated for *hope* in the Bible are not tentative or abstract but convey a confident expectation that what God has promised *will happen* in His way and time.

Simply put, *biblical hope* opens the eyes of our heart to that which is invisible or future. It can be likened to a rope with three strands woven which increase the strength of the rope.

The first strand represents *expecting* that God will answer our prayers. The second strand represents *patiently waiting* for God to answer our prayers. The third strand represents *looking for* God's answers to our prayers. When woven together these three strands form what I like to call the "rope of hope" which helps us overcome life's challenges!

Are you facing some difficult challenges in your life today? *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Romans 15:13*



Lunch in Nazareth while on pilgrimage in Israel



WORSHIP GOD INDIA - THE DALIT MISSIONS PROJECT

Speaking of hope ... since coming to Washington D.C. in 1980 to serve as missionaries with *CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ)*, Glorianne and I have had the privilege of ministering to many families from India who immigrated to our “nation of nations” to begin a new life. We helped these new friends get established in our community, shared the gospel and studied the Bible with them and shared meals in their homes where our family developed a taste for curried foods that continues to this day!

In 1984 I led a missionary team to India where we encountered a nation seeking hope that had been blinded by the spiritual darkness of Hinduism. I'll never forget walking out of the Madras airport onto the street where I was greeted by a convergence of humanity, bicycles, carts, cows, trucks, cars and busses spewing exhaust fumes amidst the hot arid air that nearly took my breath away.

As we preached the Gospel through interpreters in open air meetings and showed the *Jesus Film*, we saw the Holy Spirit open spiritually blind eyes that once worshiped the countless Hindu idols that can be seen in temples throughout the nation.

One of the most profound experiences I had was ministering at a leper colony where I gained a new understanding of the unconditional love that our Lord Jesus Christ expressed when he touched and healed the lepers who were considered “untouchables” by the religious leaders.

During our time of ministry my eyes were opened to the need for indigenous missionaries to bring the Good News to this perishing nation where over a billion people follow Hinduism which ranks as the third largest religion in the world. Upon our return to the U.S. our missions team helped to raise the funds required to build a Christian training center in Bangalore, India, which continues to equip and send Indian nationals to labor in the harvest of this vast mission field which has a Christian population of approximately 3% and ranks 11th among the 50 nations where Christian receive the most persecution.

This Fall I was delighted to receive an invitation from leaders with *Operation Mobilization (om.org)*, a mission's organization with ministries in over 100 countries and the *Good Shepherd Church (gschurch.in)* which oversees over 4000 churches in India, to come for a time of ministry that will include exploring how *Worship Equippers (WE)* can help to equip their pastors and churches for missional worship, evangelism and discipleship.

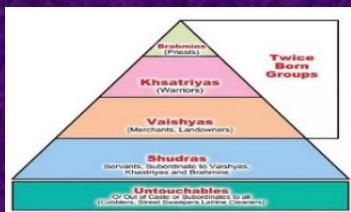
By way of back background, the *Good Shepherd Church (GSC)* grew out of *Operation Mobilizations (OM)* work in India which began in 1963 when a handful of *OM's* international staff came alongside Indian believers to equip them for the work of the ministry. Over the years these believers developed strong ministry skills and grew into



an indigenously-run movement of thousands of Indian believers who grew into churches. In 2012, *OM India* entered into a partnership with the *Good Shepherd Church of India (GSCI)*, which became as separate church-based movement that had been birthed by Indian nationals.

Today the *GSC* is headquartered in Hyderabad, India, with ministries spread across 25 states. The *GSC*'s have embraced the orthodox Anglican tradition to comply with the governmental guidelines and anti-conversion laws for "foreign religions" (i.e. Christianity and Islam) operating in India. The *CSC* also oversees over 100 rapidly growing schools, healthcare clinics, anti-sex trafficking ministries and social justice endeavors

The *GSC* has a missional focus that immediately captured my heart in that they are especially known for bringing the Good News to the Dalits (a.k.a. the Untouchables), the most persecuted people group in India (and some missiologist say the world) which comprise over 250 million of India's 1.35 billion population.



To understand the tragic plight of the Dalits one needs to understand the Indian caste system. Begun in 7 A.D. the system has levels of superiority based on the Hindu belief in so called karma and reincarnation which consider 3 upper castes as twice born groups which include: **Brahmins** (Priests) **Kshatriya** (Warriors) **Vaishyas** (Merchants, Landowners); **Shudra** (Servants are subordinate to other castes); **Untouchables** (the Dalits are considered as animals by all castes)

The term 'Dalit' has its root in Sanskrit, an ancient Indo-European language of India, in which the Hindu scriptures are written which means "broken, cracked, trodden down, scattered, crushed or destroyed". The major Hindu castes of India believe that the Dalit's are animals – out castes who live *outside* the caste system. Because of this apartheid-like attitude the persecuted Dalits serve as manual scavengers who clean city sewers, remove human waste from homes in baskets, pick up the rotting dead carcasses of animals from roadways and other degrading tasks that have left many Dalits hopeless.



The Dalit's are regular victims of caste motivated murders, rapes, beatings and serve as the world's largest supplier of sex slaves. They are discriminated against in the areas of health care (many have contracted polio and leprosy), housing, property ownership, freedom of religion, free choice of employment and equal treatment before the law; they are forbidden to enter a temple or public park and cannot draw water from a public water source unless given permission to do so.



They must sit separately from other castes at all public gatherings. Their children are required to sit in the back of the class in government schools which they typically leave by age 11. As a result, the majority of Dalit's are illiterate. Upon hearing the Good News, the Dalits identify with our Lord Jesus Christ who was "despised and rejected by men, acquainted with grief and sorrows" (Is 53:3) and "suffered outside the city gate" (Heb 13:13).

Thankfully, our great God Who has created the Dalits in His image is confounding those who believe they are worthless animals as tens of thousands of Dalits are finding new life in Jesus Christ through the ministries of *OM*, *GSC*, and Christians in the West who are hearing God's call to enter into strategic partnerships to help bring the Gospel to this precious people group. To learn more about the Dalits please [click here](#) to view a 15 minute presentation produced by the Christian Broadcasting Network entitled *Not Today* which will introduce you to some of the leaders I'll be meeting with while ministering in India.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS "... brothers and sisters We ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you." (2 Thess 3:1)

As we begin this New Year, we would especially appreciate your prayers in the following areas:

- Please pray that we will have God's leading as we schedule seminars, retreats, conferences, schools and outreaches to help equip the body of Christ for missional worship, evangelism and discipleship.
- Please pray for the multiplication of our ministry as we develop partnerships with teachers, sacred artists, artisans and ministry specialists to serve the body of Christ through our missions network.
- Please pray for safety, good health and divine appointments as Glorianne and I lead a group on our annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January and I travel to India in February for a time of ministry

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS ... "the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God (Phil 4:18b).

Worship Equippers is a faith ministry made possible by gifts of God's people. We're presently in need of *year-end gifts* and new *monthly pledges* to provide for the needs of our ministry which include our *Dalit Missions Project*, the purchase of a ministry van and lap top computer. To develop these funds as soon as possible we are asking friends to consider investing a *special year-end gift* and/or *monthly gift* by downloading our **Worship Equippers Gift Form** [here](#) and mailing it to our office at **21010 Southbank St. # 225, Potomac Falls, VA, 20165**, or processing a gift online at worshipequippers.org. Your willingness to include our ministry in your missions giving at this time would be a great blessing to us as we prepare to begin this New Year!

As we journey through this Advent/Christmas season I'm reminded of *three words* that the angel declared to the shepherds watching over their flocks of sheep at Bethlehem that never cease to bring great joy to my heart; "The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for **all the people**; Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:10-11)

I'm so thankful that our Savior came to make redemption possible for **all the people** of the world ... you ... me ... our family members ... friends ... neighbors ... co-workers ... the Dalits in India ... yes - **all the people!**

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. May you and your family have a blessed Christmas celebration!

Yours for fulfilling the Great Commission,

Dean+



WORSHIP EQUIPPERS MISSIONS NETWORK

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