

## Newsletter From INDIA

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Few months ago, God opened doors for me to minister a group of people who have settlement outskirts of Bangalore. These people have migrated from the border of Maharashtra & MP states to Bangalore few years ago. There are around 80 families in this settlement. They own camels that are used for joy-rides in the city and also for religious and social processions. Almost all of these people are illiterate and only couple of young girls can read as they were educated up to 4<sup>th</sup> standard.

These people have no homes and they all live in small huts. The roofs of their huts are made out of plastic covers. They have no electricity, no toilets, no water facilities, no drainage system and no proper protection either from rains or hot sun.



There are more than 100 children in this settlement. None of them go to school. They are not accepted in local public schools because they do not have proper residential address since they have settled temporarily in private land of others. They have been threatened by local people and builders many a times. And so their future is not clear as how long they can continue to live in this locality. These innocent children lack education, proper hygienic atmosphere, and water. They have nothing to do than play and spend their time outside the huts. Their parents do not get work or business for their camels regularly.



The local Nazarene pastor started visiting them and started a prayer group. Another local church member offered his house for prayer fellowship on Mondays. But the main problem all were facing was the lack of communication in the language of these people. So they started sharing the word of God in Kannada and Hindi languages. This was not enough to teach people from the word of God as their mother tongue is Marathi. Eventually, I learned about this situation and visited these people. When they heard me speak and preach in Marathi, they were very happy.



We have a Monday Church for them as they are busy on Saturdays and Sundays for giving joy-rides to children in the city. Since schools are closed on week-ends, children are free and they enjoy riding camels. This helps these poor camel owners make some money. I love this Monday Church as it is different than Sunday Church in several ways. I love sharing the word of God with them in Marathi. The difficult part for me is that the settlement of these people is 35 kilometres away from my place. It is at another end of the city. Since I do not have a car of my own, I have to hire a taxi every time I visit and minister among these people.

It was a great joy to have Brother Keith Edwards visit Bangalore last month. I took him with me to visit these people and experience the situation of these people.

Prayer Requests:

1. Kindly pray for the poor people in this settlement that God will provide their needs.
2. Kindly pray for the local Nazarene pastor and lay members who are a great encouragement in this ministry.
3. Please pray for the children in this settlement as they are deprived of their childhood rights. We are planning to approach local government to help us run some educational programme for both children and adults.
4. Please pray for my health that God may continue to heal and strengthen me. After my accident and multiple surgeries, I am not able to use public transportation to move around in the city. I have to hire taxi for any kind of ministry I do here. Please pray that God would provide a car which is the essential need for my ministry in India.