

Are You Aware of Simple Truths?

Simple Truths is a booklet intended to help new believers gain a clear understanding of the basic doctrines of the Bible. **Authored by Tom Castor**, pastor of Grant Memorial Baptist Church, Simple Truths has already been translated into a number of languages.

One of the languages Simple Truths has been translated into is Hindi. **Grant Memorial has gotten behind AIM to translate, print and distribute 25,000 copies** to our network of indigenous missions across the 'Hindi Belt' of India.

AIM can see the necessity of shaping our indigenous missions with 'sound doctrine'- Simple Truths is a tool to help us with that goal.

The Hindi translation of Simple Truths is in its **final stages of translation and verification** and will be sent off to the printer soon. Shortly thereafter, the translation will be sent to 14 partner indigenous missions across India.



Advancing Indigenous Missions

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Spring Newsletter

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:12 NIV)

The Children Who Make Gravel

Finding Hope for India's Tribes Through the Lives of Children Who Make Gravel
By David Robbins

What do children making gravel have to do with the future of India? What is God doing in India? These questions enter my mind continuously, especially when I travel there.

The Lowest Caste

In January of 2001 I traveled to Orissa. Alf Bell, fellow minister, and I assisted with a Leadership Training Seminar (LTS), where there were 350 indigenous missionaries. It was explained to us that many of the missionaries were originally from tribes, or known as 'tribals,' who are considered lower in the caste system than Dalits (who are considered the lowest caste). How did these tribals come to know Christ?

The Highest Caste

Many decades ago, an evangelist by the name of Bakht Singh traveled the length and breadth of India. His ministry was characterized by simple living, profound meditation, powerful preaching, and significant impact. Many Hindu priests – considered to be of the highest caste – put their faith in Christ, and were immediately rejected by their high caste relatives and villages. Because the leadership and status they had enjoyed as priests was dismantled,

they were forced to find jobs in the cities and establish a new way of living.

The Differences Fade

Then a beautiful phenomenon began to bring India's lowest and highest castes together. Many of these former Hindu priests began to go out to the tribes as missionaries. Thus, many of India's tribes have put their faith in Christ, resulting in village open air churches, and a desire to reach neighbouring villages and tribes!

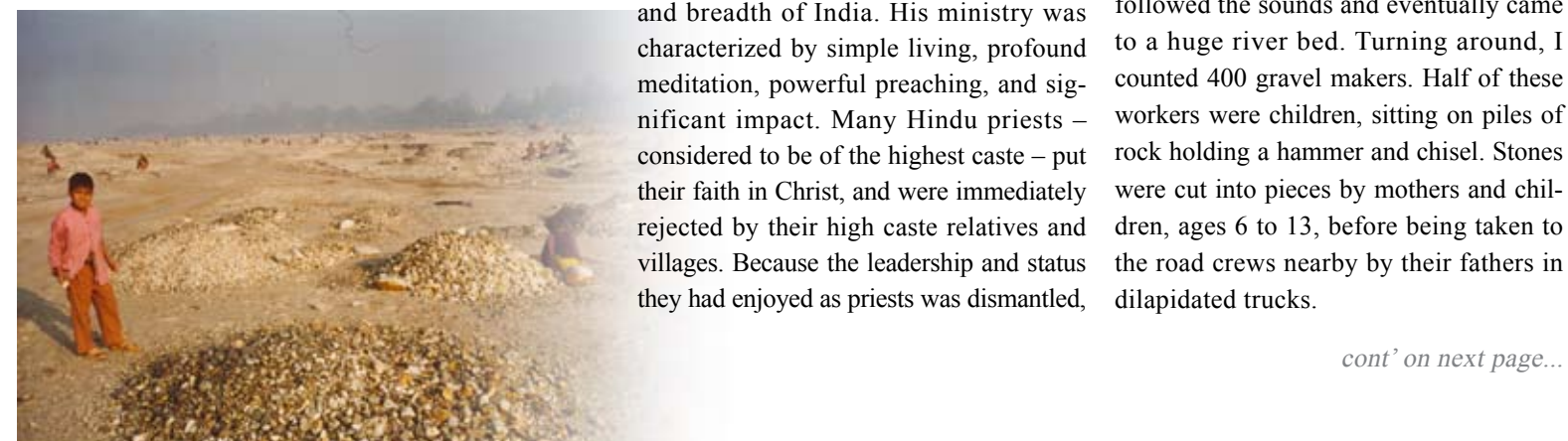
An Illustration

While staying with friends, Doug and Indira Hsu in West Bengal, I had an experience that can be used to illustrate the dramatic changes among India's tribes. As I walked along the road one morning, I began to hear a cacophony of sounds. Tap, tap, tap. I followed the sounds and eventually came to a huge river bed. Turning around, I counted 400 gravel makers. Half of these workers were children, sitting on piles of rock holding a hammer and chisel. Stones were cut into pieces by mothers and children, ages 6 to 13, before being taken to the road crews nearby by their fathers in dilapidated trucks.

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“Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”

~ Isaiah 1:17



“You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” Psalm 32:7

1. Keith's Trip to Bangladesh

We praise God: as of two days prior to Keith's take-off, the Lord provided all of the remaining funds for the Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) in Bangladesh. Thank you so much for your prayers and your generosity!

Keith Peters and Grant Richison will have finished teaching at this seminar when you receive this newsletter. It was exciting to get word that more than 550 pastors and missionaries were able to attend. Praise God that Keith was able to safely travel to various villages, speaking and encouraging believers, during the second week of March.

2. Upcoming Fall LTS

Please pray for the fall LTS, which was postponed last fall because of instability in the area in which it was to be held. David Robbins, Al Friesen and Travis Thiessen plan to be traveling to North India and Nepal to conduct a seminar together. The focus will be 'family life and mission.'

3. Welcome to Erv & Anna Gonske

We praise God for how Erv and Anna Gonske are becoming part of the AIM team after having served in Pakistan for the past two decades.

Please pray for them as they settle back to life in Canada, fit in to the work and ministry of AIM and prepare for an extended trip to India this fall

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A Defining Moment

I stood for a long time, realizing this was a scene that was a defining moment of the entire trip. India must be reached. The tribes, represented by these children, are excluded from a future by a system that holds them in a prison of forced labor.

I walked back, crying out to God for Advancing Indigenous Missions to become a catalyst in bringing the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to free these slaves. I was with indigenous missionaries in the country of Bhutan and the states of Sikkim and West Bengal before returning to the Hsus' after dark (What a jam packed day)!

School at Night?

What was happening with the many yard lights on and a hubbub of activity at this time of the day? To my utter amazement, our vehicle transported me through the guarded gate into the compound to see the very children I had observed earlier that day before breakfast. The Hsu's yard had become an elementary school. Two hundred students were seated in precise rows, learning English and Math. Operation Mobilization missionaries were putting in six hours of

teaching after dark in order to accommodate students that had been making gravel for eight hours earlier in the day.

For an hour I rejoiced. I reveled in the fact that God was orchestrating a seismic shift in India; this was a country where, because one-third of the population is considered completely on the fringe, there didn't seem to be much hope. And yet, it occurred to me that I was seeing hope in the making, before my very eyes. Hundreds of tomorrow's slaves are being set free with a future and a strong appetite for learning.

Let the Little Children Come to Me

I entered the home of Doug Hsu with resolve building in my heart. Deep in my being, I knew that the future of India was unfolding before my very eyes. Doug Hsu confirmed my resolve as he asked me: "Can you imagine when these 200 children grow up to become missionaries for Jesus Christ? How will this affect the future of India?"

Learning from Indigenous Missions

Introducing Madan Singh Rana

Madan Singh Rana is an indigenous mission leader who works in Northern India and Nepal. He has seen astonishing church growth in the last few years as many Tharu are coming to faith in Christ.

Living Like Abraham

The faith of Madan has been an inspiration to us. David Robbins traveled with him one year ago and witnessed how the Lord is using this humble man to communicate the servant love of Christ among the Tharu. Not too long ago, we called Madan for an update on their lives and to pray with them. He mentioned, during the phone call, that it has been difficult for them recently because they are forced to live in temporary dwellings. No one wants to rent to Madan and his wife because of the work they are doing. It has been taxing on them; however, Madan simply states that 'if God is calling me to live in tents like Abraham, I will accept this life of faith. I have a better dwelling to look forward to.'



Brother Madan Singh with his wife Raj Kumari Rana in India.

Inspiration

The love of God and faith among the Tharu that we have seen and heard about is something to inspire us in the West.

AGM Celebration Supper

You are invited...

AIM is hosting a Celebration Supper in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Lord has been so good to us this past year! He has provided two new staff members for AIM and is working in incredible ways worldwide. AIM is excited to be working with our indigenous ministry partners, and we invite you to join with us as we reflect on what God has been teaching us over the year, and some of the ways that He has provided for us.

When: March 28, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Where: Fort Richmond Baptist Church, 10 Radcliffe Road, Winnipeg, MB

Tickets are \$10, and a freewill offering will be taken for the ministry of AIM.
Please call 957.8784 or email info@aimi.ca for tickets.

*"Most of us, swimming against the tides of trouble
the world knows nothing about, need only
a bit of praise or encouragement - and we will make the goal."*

~ Jerome P. Fleishman ~

Did You Know?

Bakht Singh was an international engineering student at the University of Manitoba in 1929. After coming to know Christ, he returned to India, not as an engineer, but as an evangelist, planting over 500 churches!

Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to help out?

AIM is currently in need of volunteers in the areas of:

1. Secretarial tasks (computer skills helpful)
2. Editorial/communications
3. Janitorial work. Call or email AIM to find out how you can help!