

WCF Report, August – September 2009

Sister Jamie Holder

Pakistan

The first two weeks of October were also my last two weeks in Pakistan. Much of this time was spent at the APCC School teaching and spending time with brethren in the evening.



India

After a brief spell in Kathmandu renewing my Indian visa it was back to Hyderabad. I spent a day out at Darsarlapelly (Jayanthi Rehabilitation Centre for Sufferers of Leprosy) with two Australian sisters. After a few days Sister Carmen Gurd and I went off on a whirlwind tour of South India. Our first stop was Madurai in Tamil Nadu. We visited Sister Roja and her family who moved there about 7 months ago. In that short time she has amassed a large number of contacts so Carmen and I gave a couple of bible classes while we were there and spent some time with her cousin James (he was visiting from Coimbatore specifically to meet us) who is keen to get baptised. We also met a

number of the blind people that Sister Roja is working with - helping them to learn to read Braille etc. On our third day there we headed out to see Sister Roja's mother - self-named Sister Glory. We met a number of the elderly women that she cares for and bought them some sleeping mats, blankets and sari blouses - all of which they were in desperate need of.



After four days in Madurai we headed off to Enarkulem in Kerala to meet with a contact, Nimmy Thomas. We spent two nights there –

discussing the Bible with her and also with her parents who are Christians. Though there are a number of areas where our beliefs overlapped, their belief in the Holy Spirits gifts proved a stumbling block. Next we headed on to Bangalore. It was wonderful to meet with the brethren there for the Memorial meeting and to be fed spiritually. Unfortunately we missed some of the CYC girls as they left for Hyderabad the night that we arrived in Bangalore!



Then we were back to Hyderabad. No rest for the wicked though! Six days later we boarded another overnight train and headed Rajahmundry, to spend some time at Faith Home in Kadiyam and help teach at the school. Sister Carmen will be there until Christmas day. On the second

day I headed into Rajahmundry to meet with Sister Sirisha, whose family were having some money problems as her husband had not been paid. We headed to the supply store and made sure that they had food rations for the month to come and that there electricity bill was paid up to date. Hopefully her husband will be paid on December 15th. We met with her mother-in-law Joythi, who is also struggling but her situation is fortunately not as dire.

After a week in that part of Andhra Pradesh we headed 4 hours South-West by train to Vijayawada to meet with Sister Aruna, who is in isolation. She is single-handedly running a Sunday School for 20-25 kids. It was very good to be able to break bread with her as, because of her commitment to the Sunday School, she is reluctant to travel often to meet with other brethren – the nearest meeting is four hours by train. Unfortunately we only had Saturday night and Sunday (until 4pm with her), so hopefully when I come back I will be able to spend more time with her.