

# Abu Bakkers Newsletter

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Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings from India.

I am glad to be able to write this letter to you all. The Lord has done great things. He was with us in the midst of manifold struggles and hurdles in the past and I am sure He will be with us in the future too.

God has been speaking to me from the beginning of this year from His word - "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" Deut 31:6[NKJV]. Also, similar verses kept coming into my mind from various other passages of the Bible.

Since I started to walk with Him in 1971, His GRACE, LOVE & FORGIVENESS has encircled me always. I am sure the Lord is with you too in the midst of all that you go through. My prayers are with you all. Let me share with you a few important praise and prayer items.

## **PRAISE HIM FOR:**

1. Keeping us healthy in the midst of some physical ailments
2. The meeting I attended in Thailand on Neighbours (Muslims) concerns. I have only been able to attend such meetings after many years and was happy to be able to renew fellowship with other believers, build relationships and network with others. I was able to meet some of them after 20-25 years! It was good to see new developments in the ministry. I had the privilege of being on the panel for answering questions on South Asia work among neighbours.
- c3. National mission Leaders consultation: This was yet another meeting that I was blessed to be able to attend in Chennai (Madras), also after many years.
4. Me being able to meet Neethar, a dear brother in the Lord, after many years. It had been so long that he couldn't even recognize me! He is the one who gave me my very first Bible in 1970 and by reading it (Jer. 4:1); the Lord touched my life, completely changed it and has led me thus far.
5. Me being able to meet Bro. Ebe, also after a long time (who felt badly that he didn't encourage our Neighbours Ministry). He was my Field Director in the prior Mission where I worked when we first started the Field Office in 1975.
6. My Ordination as a pastor by The Most Rt. Rev. Dr. C.V. Mathew (Bishop) of St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India. He has also been my mentor since 1982. I have waited for 35 long years for this Ordination since completing my theological degrees. God does everything in His own time and in His own way for His glory. It is an Episcopal Church. Our daughter, Esther was kind enough to attend the ceremony (though unfortunately her children and husband were unable to accompany her from Canada). We were happy to have her with us for 2 weeks.
7. Three more field workers who were ordained as Ministers, two as special license preachers and six evangelists were also commissioned.
8. One of the team Leaders, Jeet Singh & his family in the North and his burden to develop skilled workers in the Field.
9. For the opportunity to preach three series of sermons in one of the Churches of South India (CSI) churches during passion week.
10. For another opportunity to preach on Easter Sunday at a Pentecostal Church.
11. Our New leadership Team in the North.
12. Our children's continued support towards the ministry.
13. Lily's Prayer ministry.
14. Joy of meeting my professor who taught me when I was studying Bachelor of Theology. I met him with my son. He is 84 old now. I met him after 35 years.

## **PRAY TO HIM FOR:**

1. Madhan, our new leader in the North as well as Jeet's continued leadership in the western India and grace to conduct many more training programmes.
  2. The need for a new 2,400 sq. ft. office/training centre in the North and for the needs for this venture to be met.
  3. Financial resources to construct 25 small churches within the next 10 years (\$4,000-\$10,000 each depending on the location and size).
  4. The safety of our workers and other Missions workers too.
  5. The settling of issues with our lands and to be able to sell them soon as it has been taking a long time.
  6. The new responsibilities associated with the ordination and my new role as a pastor.
  7. Renewal of our relationship with Bihar and East India network.
  8. A pending visit to Bangladesh in August or September 2018
  9. **Family:**
    - a. Esther & Chris (son-in-law) as well as grandsons, Ben & Nathaniel who are leaving Canada and moving to India to be volunteer teachers. They will resign their jobs and be paid CAD \$400 (\$200 each per month). The children will receive free education. Pray that they will adjust to their new life with the new culture, customs, environment and friends
    - b. Our second daughter Ruth & Kojo (Son in law), that they will be blessed with a baby.
    - c. Our son Sam to find a Christian girl for his future partner. He is 30 years old now.
  10. Pray for our sponsored children too
- Thank you all for your prayerful support. God bless you. Please feel free to keep in contact with us through email address below.

Sincerely,

John & Lily.

For further information:

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