



Wow! How do I begin to summarize our 12 day trip to India? To say it was an amazing experience doesn't do it justice. Pictures are worth a thousand words but I could share a million if you had the time and I had the space.

So, I'll focus on revisiting the goals we set for our trip and commenting on each.

1. To simply observe this huge Gospel opportunity and to consider how BVI can better serve our ministry partner moving forward

The main opportunity we witnessed was a VBS outreach conducted four hours south of Hyderabad around a town called Ieeja. It was a four day VBS. On the first three days, separate VBS meetings were held in eighteen centers scattered among the towns and villages of the region. Each of these centers had approximately 1000-1200 children in attendance. On the final day, a giant tent complex was set up in a farmer's field and everyone met for a combined gathering of around 20,000 children!

Our group mainly visited these centers during their assembly time which involved songs, puppets, object lessons and lots of fun! Sometime we got to take part too. One day Betsy and I were able to visit a center during the Bible lesson and mission story time where BVI materials were being used. It was a huge blessing to see these resources literally in the hands of ministry partners on the other side of the world.

Watch the video report produced by Betsy at www.biblevisuals.org/Luttmanns

One unexpected way we saw the materials used was through activity booklets/follow up materials created by Good Life Ministries. Knowing of this need helps us know what types of files to provide to these ministry partners and what future materials to develop.



(L) At a center meeting

(Center) BVI flashcards in use. (R-center) Final day gathering (R) Activity manuals related to BVI materials

2. To record (with Betsy’s help) various aspects of this Gospel opportunity and to share it with prayer and financial supporters of BVI who help sustain the BVI ministry.

I guess this newsletter is one way we’re fulfilling this goal. Betsy was able to capture many aspects of the ministry through video (www.biblevisuals.org/Luttmanns). We’ll be using that footage and these pictures in future updates and events including our BVI 60th anniversary banquet this fall on October 25th!

While it is great to highlight the part BVI is having in this work, the greater highlight is that the work is so much MORE than just what BVI is doing or Good Life Ministries for that matter. It is what God is doing to fulfill His word and to build His Kingdom with the redeemed of every tribe, tongue and nation. There is not one single soul added to that Kingdom for which we can take credit. He makes the blind to see and raises the dead to life!



(L) Some of the men who work on translating and publishing BVI materials

(R-center) VBS staff photo

(R) Lots of rice needed to feed the children!

3. To consider how the printing work the Gunti’s carry out might serve other ministry partners in that part of the world.

Proverbs 16:9 says, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” I am keenly aware of the truth of this verse as I “direct” BVI. God has been opening up

opportunities abroad in ways that I could not have imagined. One way He has clearly been leading at BVI is through licensing agreements. More and more ministry partners are capable of printing our resources in their country at lower costs than if we tried shipping printed books abroad. These ministry partners also know exactly what formats will serve them best (such as the 19x13 flashcard used by GLM). We are currently working on several other licensing agreements at BVI, so this firsthand experience helps us know what to include in these arrangements.

As you can see from the pictures already, our family accompanied us on the trip to India. We had some specific personal goals, so let me review those too.

1. That as we witness life in another part of the world, we would be increasingly burdened for the Gospel to go forth throughout the world.

Hearing the Muslim call to prayer throughout the day makes you keenly aware of the power of Satan in this world. One evening I visited the Old City part of Hyderabad. Amidst the swirl of cars, motorcycles and auto-rickshaws is the Charminar, an imposing Muslim monument adorned with four minarets. Faithful adherents made their way here or to the mosque nearby. At the base of the monument sits the Bhagyalakshmi Temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi. Another crowd of the faithful surrounded this shrine hoping to receive a blessing. These close encounters with the false religions of India were accompanied by many more scenes throughout our travels.

These false religions are “strong men” like the scripture speaks of in Mark 3:27, but we give thanks that Christ is able to bind them and set free those held captive. Salvation testimonies continue to flow from the VBS ministry in January.



(L) The Charminar in Hyderabad



(L-center) Hindu temple.



(R) Colored rice and cow dung used in a Hindu festival



2. That as we witness life in another part of the world, we would be reminded of God’s grace in our own lives and rejoice in God’s grace in others’ lives.

Our family soon realized that there were some regular comforts of life in Pennsylvania that we take for granted . . . things like hot water, toilet paper, clean water, a soft mattress and (on behalf of Jesse) salt and vinegar chips. Elijah once commented that our house felt like a

palace. These are some of the many ways we realized God has shown us grace. We were reminded that grace by definition is undeserved. There was nothing that made us better or more deserving of these comforts. Likewise, we saw manifestations of God’s grace among people in India who don’t enjoy some of these comforts that we often too highly value.

We were reminded that God’s greatest grace is the gift of His Son. We met children from the slums who were having the opportunity to attend a Christian boarding school and to be taught God’s Word. We met children who were able to attend a VBS despite being from Hindu homes. We met believers who had themselves received God’s grace in salvation and were showing God’s grace to thousands of children by teaching them, serving them, loving them.



(L) GLM boarding school



(L-center) our hot water heater



(R-center) young people helping to lead the music



3. That as we witness the Church in another culture, our view of the Church would expand beyond just those who look like us and dress like us.

We knew the Church existed on the other side of the world, but now we have many friends there. We also gained some friends on this side of the world as several others from the United States were part of our team. We rejoice that we will share eternity with them all and with you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Mark 3:31-35)

Tom, Betsy, Elijah, Samuel, David, Jesse and Ginger



(L) lots of selfie requests.



(L-center) AJ, a new friend



(R-center) Ginger with Sam and Becca Gunti.



(R) Ginger with her pal Amruth

(L-bottom) Betsy and the ladies flying like the angels. (center-bottom) "I will make you fishers of men."



(R-bottom) The guys are ready . . . "Ohhhh, YES!"

