



INVESTING IN ETERNITY

April 2017

WORLD REACH

News from the Whitmore's

"For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

In the context of the Great Commission, there are no shortages of opportunity for followers of Christ. 2017 is unfolding with many opportunities. Recently, we took a look at the possibility of beginning one of our Bible Institute in the country of India. In response to a "Macedonian call", we are in the process of determining how this might become a reality.

Even though we have experience with our Bible Institutes on three different continents, India would be a totally new

culture. We want to get this right, so please pray with us as we seek God's guidance in this undertaking.

This opportunity in India was made know to us by Indian evangelist C.V. Johns. During our discussions, C.V. shared with us a sobering reminder of the cost of discipleship as seen through the story of a woman named Bothba. Read below her challenging, yet encouraging story as retold by World Reach team member Dr. Bruce Peters.

In an effort to strengthen and expand our work in Kenya, God has called a couple to join our World Reach team and move to this east African country. Bob and Sherry Smith, from Austin Texas, are looking to make the move in early 2018. They will join with our Kenyan staff in being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Please pray that we will complete all of the logistical details in a speedy manner and that much fruit will result from the Smith's ministry in Kenya.

"While meeting with C.V. Johns, his stories from the field poured from the journal book of his heart. One account especially moved me (repeated here with his permission). When the Gospel came to Bothba's village, this woman responded to the Gospel - she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. Soon after she returned to her modest home and removed all her idols from the house and destroyed them, and THEN followed Christ in believer's baptism. The village's outrage was immediate and severe. In India a cow is revered as divine by many. In a twisted effort to reclaim her to their false religion, the townspeople poured cow's urine all over her, drenching her body and clothes, forcing her to drink this 'holy libation.' Then the crowd beat her....beat her severely. Broken and semi-conscious, Bothba was left a human clump on the ground. Christians from a neighboring area came to her rescue. After a month's recovery in the hospital, enduring the loss of her home and possessions and animals to her persecutors, Bothba's life and faith endured. Believers provided her with means to rebuild what she had lost. In the years since, this modern day model of Esther and Sarah and Lydia all rolled into one mighty little lady radiates Christ. Refusing to be driven from her village, she became the town's salt and light: today villagers revere the one they once persecuted and come to her for prayer and spiritual protection. What a holy heroine she is. With true faith, suffering could not snuff the light of her faith...in fact, persecution made her light shine brighter. Hallelujah!"

Thank you for your part in the cause of Christ!

Paul & Kathy

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I was recently reminded of one of the most succinct and clear declarations of God's invitation to us. Four imperatives found in Matthew 28:6,7. Four imperatives set in the context of Christ's resurrection. Four imperatives directed to His followers: *"⁶He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. **Come, see the place where he lay.** ⁷Then **go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead....**"*

Come... See... Go... Tell

im·per·a·tive
an essential or urgent thing

Come and see– an invitation to experience the risen Christ.

Go and tell– a command to share the good news.

We have a risen savior! We have a compelling message!

So... what am I waiting for?



The students at our Kenyan Bible Institute that I taught at last December will be graduating in June. **Pray** that these precious brothers in Christ will bear much fruit in the ministries God gives to them.