

9

Countries

34

US Missionaries

51

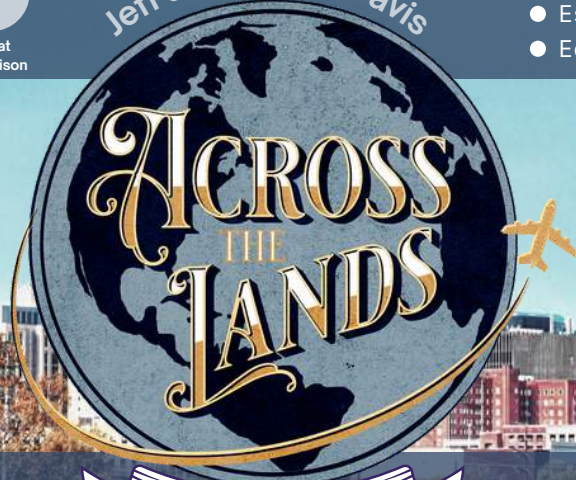
National Missionaries

1

Great Commision

Jeff and Joanna Davis

- Works of Evangelism
- Establishing Churches
- Equipping Nationals



Raleigh, NC

EXHORT  EQUIP

ENLIST  ENGAGE

July 2022

Holding the Rope for INDIA

JEFF DAVIS, DIRECTOR

For the past four weeks, I have had the distinct privilege of hosting an Indian national servant of Christ, named **Billy Judson**. He comes from a long line of national missionary servants. Billy is one of our newest workers, joining EMU in 2015. Prior to that, he received his theological training at **Shepherds Seminary** in Cary, North Carolina. He currently has only two supporting churches in the Raleigh, North Carolina area. He also has only a handful of monthly ministry partners. In evaluating his needs and considering his ministry possibilities, it seemed wise for him to come to the USA for a few weeks to share his strategic plan and hopefully raise some extra needed financial support.

Billy left **Hyderabad, India**, on Wednesday, May 25 at 4:35 a.m. to fly to **Raleigh, North Carolina**. His flights would take him through **Dubai** and **New York City**. Twenty-nine hours later his final flight landed in Raleigh where I picked him up around 1:00 a.m. We made our way to the mission house where we would be staying for the next twelve days. The next morning, we hit the ground running as we had our first meeting scheduled with a ministry friend at 9:00 a.m. This was only the first of **a total of 54 meetings** that we would have over the next four weeks. We



Saritha, Bernice, Keren, & Billy

would personally **meet 84 people**, joining them for coffee, breakfast, lunch, or supper. We would also speak in **churches seven different times**. We were privileged to attend a **preachers' conference** with over two hundred registered participants, many of whom we connected with personally at our display table and meals. Over the three-day conference, it was fun to hear so many people saying, "Hi Billy," as many of the attendees came to know him and his story. Thanks to the gracious gift of a ministry friend, as Billy and I traveled to **Indiana** for a meeting, we were privileged to tour **the Ark Encounter** in Kentucky.



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We were privileged to hold 54 meetings over coffee and meals with 84 individuals



As you can imagine, planning a schedule like this was a logistical nightmare, but praise be to God, He allowed us to accomplish even more than we had hoped. It was a privilege for my wife **Joanna** and me to host Billy at our house for several days. We are also extremely grateful for the hospitality of the folks at **Friendship Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina**, who made it possible for us to stay at their mission house. It is a three-bedroom ranch home located next to the church and strategically within an hour's drive of our meetings in the North Carolina area. We also are grateful to the **Grace Baptist Church in Anderson, Indiana**, that let us stay in one of their ministry apartments for our brief time in Indiana. In the four weeks that we were together, we only had to stay in two hotels, and God provided both of those rooms through the gifts of generous partners.

Another huge blessing was the generous gift of pottery from **Don Hudson in Sanford, North Carolina**. Don is the founder of **D.K. Clay**, one of the largest and most technologically advanced pottery studios in North Carolina. He has made pottery for 52 years. In honor of Billy and to help support his ministry, he has created a line of Bible verse pottery. Billy did the graphic design of Bible verses for these dishes. In the description, he states that they use a "rich, dark blood red as a liner glaze." The symbolism is fully intended and points toward "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" (*Colossians 1:27*) Don supplied us with around thirty plates that we gave away as gifts. If you are in the Sanford, NC, area, be sure to visit D.K. Pottery.



It was after midnight on Saturday evening, May 28, when Billy and I put the finishing touches on his missionary presentation. The next morning, he would stand in front of the first congregation of people that we would address. This was a group that knew very little about his ministry.



I told him that I wanted the first word out of his mouth to be “India.” He confidently approached the pulpit, paused, looked over the congregation, and said, “India, what comes to mind when you think of India?” After a moment to let them think, he asked, “Is it spicy food? What about telemarketers? Or the person managing the hotel or gas station?” We all have our stereotypical response when we think of India. The next question got everyone’s attention. **“Or do you think about the most unreached nation on earth?”**

Let that sink in for a moment. India is a country with a population of over **1.4 billion souls**. Every single one of them will spend eternity somewhere, either heaven or hell. With **over 2,000 unreached people groups**, according to Operation World, India, by far is the most unreached country in the world. One-third of the world’s unreached people groups are from one country, India. 400 million people in India have never heard the name, Jesus. Constitutionally, there are 22 official languages in India, but there are over 1,600 other languages with no Scriptures.



Each one of the red dots represents an unreached people group

Billy calls his ministry, **“One Fair Chance.”** His burden is that every one of those 1.4 billion people in India will be given one fair chance to hear and respond to the gospel message. “God so loved the world, means God loves my country, India,” Billy passionately declares. “I believe with all my heart that as an Indian, God has given me a unique privilege to reach my own country. American missionaries are not allowed in India. If India is going to be reached it will be through nationals reaching their own people.”



Billy shared about the desperate need of his country.

India is a Populous Country: The current population of India is over 1.4 billion people. Its population is equivalent to 17.7 % of the total world population. Within the next few years, India will surpass China as the most populated country in the world.

India is a Religious Country: The Indian constitution recognizes religion as a fundamental right, meaning citizens are free to follow whichever faith they choose. But religious persecution still exists. One ministry leader who has traveled to India several times exclaimed to us, “As a Christian, you can die in India!”

India is a very religious country. It is the birthplace of four of the world’s major religions: Hinduism (the world’s oldest religion not associated with the Bible), Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism.



- **Hinduism:** 79.8% of the country self-identifies as Hindu. The word, “Hindu,” comes from the Persians who referred to the geographical location of the Indus as “Sindhu.” The word simply referred to a region, not a religion. Later on, the Greeks would call the Sindhu River, the Indus River. Thus, the name, India came into existence. There is a mountain of material on Hinduism, but it still is difficult to define. It does not have a founder. It is not a creedal religion like Islam or Christianity. It simply evolved over a period of nearly 5,000 years. It is a conglomeration of all the cultural movements of India and all the religions. Some say that adherents to Hinduism worship as many as 330 million gods.
- **Islam:** With 15% of the Indian population practicing Islam, it is the second-largest religion in the country. That is a huge difference from Hinduism, but because India is so populous, it equates to around 172 million Muslims. Only Indonesia and Pakistan have more followers of Islam.
- **Christianity:** Approximately 2.3 percent of India’s population is considered Christian. Understand, though, that number represents nominal Christians, Roman Catholics, etc. The history of Christianity in India is said to have originated from Thomas the Apostle around AD 52. Much of the modern missions movement’s focus was on the country of India with famous missionaries like William Carey, Amy Carmichael, C.T. Studd, and John Hyde.

India is a Country in Desperate Need of the Bible: In his presentation, he spoke on **Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*



The context of this passage is a warning of the danger of unbelief. Unbelief was a big problem for the Children of Israel in the wilderness. Unbelief is a big problem in our society today. Unbelief is a huge problem in India. The Word of God is the antidote to unbelief. He talked about how the Bible is a living Book, a powerful Book, and a discerning Book. He told me that as he was traveling to the USA, the Lord kept putting this verse on his heart. "The desperate need of my country is for the Word of God, correctly taught, and correctly understood, so that it can be correctly applied." *Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*

He stated that most of the Christian preachers in India do not truly preach the Bible. In his words, "They will take a text and put the icing on the cake and just skim through it. They don't say what the text says. They say what they want to say, or they say what they think the congregation wants to hear."

Because of all of this, Billy came to the States to share the tremendous opportunity that we have to partner with one who is making a difference.

He told us how "God put on the heart of my father, **Dr. G. Jayasekhar**, a burden to equip nationals and to begin **Good News Bible College and Seminaries**. In **1999**, we launched our main teaching site, with 60 students, in **Secunderabad**, on the outskirts of Hyderabad." Now, 23 years later, there are **57 teaching sites** in nine states of India. **Over 16,000 have been trained.** Their program consists of a one-to-five-year plan. They meet six days per week, on Mondays through Saturdays for two hours every night, a total of 240 hours per year. They have 30 textbooks that they use. Each teaching site is financially self-sustained by a local church



Their strategy also includes opportunities for connecting and interdependent networking with sister ministries. They have hosted the **Good News 360, National Church Leaders Conference**. In 2016, I was privileged to participate and speak to over 550 graduates in-person. Last year, due to COVID restrictions, they hosted a virtual conference with over 1,000 registered participants, with 9 speakers from the USA, including seminary professors, pastors, and missionaries.



It is their goal to make available quality Christian literature. They have diligently worked to translate materials from the USA. For a couple of years, they published a forty-page glossy magazine called "**Wisdom for the Heart, India.**"

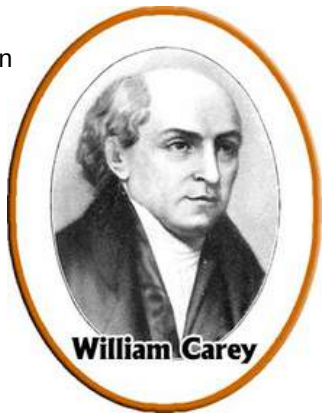
This served as an excellent resource for instruction to students who have very little in the way of Christian literature. It also was a great promotional tool to help promote the Bible schools. They had to cease publication due to the lack of funds. We are praying that God will provide the needed funds to reintroduce this magazine to India.



Billy said, "Our job is to bring the blessings of the Gospel to every family and community through Good News Bible College and Seminary. By bringing formal theological education to the local church, every member has access to quality training. Training the church to think theologically will empower and strengthen believers to stand amid the crashing wave of secularization. This is the only possible way India can be reached with the Gospel."



Invitation to Partnership: William Carey, known as “The Father of Modern Missions,” along with his pregnant wife and daughter set sail in 1793 to Calcutta from London. He was the first missionary to India and served for forty-one years in India. He saw missions as a miner going into a deep mine — one which had never been explored, with no one to guide. He said to Andrew Fuller and John Ryland and his other pastor friends: “I will go down if you will hold the rope.” And John Ryland reports: “He took an oath from each of us, at the mouth of the pit, to this effect—that ‘while we lived, we should never let go of the rope.’”



We are looking for churches and people who are willing to hold the rope for a national missionary who is giving his life to reach his own people. May the Holy Spirit light a fire in hearts who will be burdened to give every person in India, One Fair Chance to respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You Can Pray:

- That national pastors will embrace the vision of preaching the Bible expositionally.
- That people in the pews will support their pastors.
- For God’s provision for financial needs to see the ministry grow.

Note: We praise the Lord that Billy was able to take back to India a new MacBook Pro laptop and also a Zoom LiveTrak L-20 20-channel digital mixer. Both of these tools will greatly enhance the broadcasting and recording of their classes and ministry conferences.

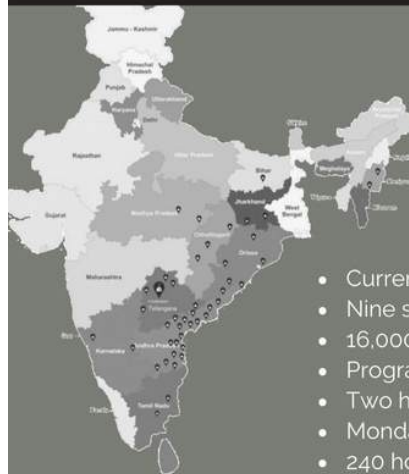
You Can Give: Please make checks payable to EMU International and include Judson family on the memo line.

Mail checks to:
EMU International
209 Roberts Rd.,
Taylors, SC 29687.

You can also give online by visiting
<https://emuinternational.org/give-now/billy/>
 If you would like to discuss in more detail how you can partner with Billy’s ministry, I would be glad to talk with you in more detail. You may email me at jeff@emuinternational.org.

Good News Bible College & Seminaries

Every Local Church a College Classroom



- Currently, 57 teaching sites
- Nine states of India
- 16,000+ have been trained
- Program: one to five years
- Two hours in the evening
- Monday – Saturday
- 240 hours in a year
- 30 textbooks
- Financially self-sustained through a local church



Looking Ahead JULY - OCTOBER

7/3	Trinity Baptist, Muncie, IN
7/10	Trinity Baptist, Muncie, IN
7/10	Heartland Baptist, Maryville, OH
7/17	Trinity Baptist, Muncie, IN
7/24	_____
7/31	_____
8/7	Parkway Baptist, Lakeland, FL
8/8	Parkway Christian - In-Service
8/14	_____
8/21	_____
8/25 - 9/8	Peru & Chile
8/28	Lima, Peru - Tim Chapman
9/4	Antofagasta, Chile - Tom Chapman
9/10-9/14	Fellowship of Missions, The Wilds
9/11	The Wilds
9/18	_____
9/19-22	BJU Global Opportunities
9/25	Colorado
10/2	First Baptist, Gunnison, CO
10/9	Grace Church, Mentor, OH
10/16	Altoona Regular Baptist Church, Altoona, IA
10/17-10/21	Faith Baptist Bible College
10/23 AM	_____
10/24-10/26	Appalachian Bible College, WV
10/30	_____

Email me if interested in me coming to your church:
jeff@emuinternational.org

Thank you for your partnership!