

the indian chronicles

ADDRESS:
Sarojini Apartments
Flat A2(2)-21 2nd Floor
32 S.N. Marg, Allahabad
211001
Uttar Pradesh, India.
Email: jh.prentice@pobox.com



Greetings, Chronicle reader;

For several years now, Chin teenagers have been arriving in India with harrowing tales of persecution and repression. These courageous young people make their journey by foot or jeep to the border with Mizoram, and from there they take the bus and train to Delhi, where they settled with other refugees that have made a similar journey. Life in the capital is tough and unforgiving for them; the locals discriminated against them because of their 'Nepalese' appearance, while the girls face sexual harassment and the young men are exploited for cheap labour.

In previous Chronicles, you will have read that Heather and I have had the privilege to preach and conduct leadership and women's seminars in the Delhi, Burmese church. So earlier this year when we were approached to do a youth retreat and Sunday school teachers training, we said yes; then we thought "who could help us?" We approached the youth director for Northern Ireland and he in-turn shared with the NI 'Serious for God' team. So it was with great delight that I had the privilege to meet 3 guys from the team (Craig, Darren and Ryan), at Delhi airport, who had committed themselves to sowing into the lives of these young Chin people.

So, take forty-eight burmese young people (more wanted to come) who wanted God to do something new in their lives, add three passionate

and enthusiastic guys from Northern Ireland, plus another one living in India; and you have a recipe for a "God impacting" retreat.

The theme for the youth retreat was "Chosen Generation." Because if you have had to endure what these young Chin people have had to endure, you might not feel very 'Chosen.' Over the retreat our aim was to communicate to them that they are special to God, that God hasn't forgotten them and continues to want a relationship with them. We listened to their poignant and inspirational stories of what they had been through and how they had found God and experienced Him in their lives. Then on the final evening we witnessed a move of God as the team prayed for those who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

On the Sunday the team and I where honoured guests at the anniversary of the churches youth department, then on Monday and Tuesday the team ran the Sunday school teachers training seminar for those who had a desire to see God move in the lives of the children.

Heather and I would like to thank the Irish youth department, and the young people who attended RELENTLESS, for their vision, commitment and financial contribution towards the retreat. Keep on keeping on.

We ask that you pray for the Delhi Burmese Christian Fellowship (DBCF), that they will know God's leading in every area of their lives. Especially remember their Pastor and his family and also Bik.

Being a God Influence,

Johnny & Heather

All gifts for the Prentices in India should be marked "Prentices" and sent to
Elim International Missions, Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF,
or as appropriate, to the Irish Missions Director.

This will enable us to continue our ministry here in India. 'standing order' form, from dan.johnston@elimhq.net Thank you. *Charity No. 251549 (England)*
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