March 2011

Dear Center for Adventist Research,

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” John 1:50, NIV

Nathaniel had indeed been under a fig tree, but he didn’t know anyone else knew it. Philip finally found him there, and took him to introduce him to the new Teacher from Nazareth. Before either Philip or Nathaniel could speak, the Teacher showed that He already knew about Nathaniel, about the circumstances of Philip’s finding him, and about what was going on in Nathaniel’s mind—why he was under the fig tree in the first place. Nathaniel was startled by this revelation. His avowed skepticism turned instantly into vibrant faith. ... Read more

Changing lives in Chennai, India
Just recently, we received an update from Pastor John Peter, who leads our gospel worker team in Chennai, India. Greetings from India! ... Read more

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Under the fig tree

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Over and again the Scriptures emphasize God's intimate knowledge of our private affairs. Indeed, God has shown that He has marked out for each of us, even before we were born, the course that would be the best for us in His overall plan. John the Baptist's lifework was laid out before his parents, who were past the age of expecting children. Isaac's and Samson's lives were divinely planned before they were born, and the parents were given appropriate instructions.

The Lord told the prophet Jeremiah, "'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'" (Jeremiah 1:4-5 NIV). Cyrus was not even a member of the chosen race, yet one hundred years before his birth God spelled out the part he would play in the world affairs and in the fate of Israel. "I summon you by name," God said to Cyrus through Isaiah, "though you do not acknowledge me." (Isaiah 45:4 NIV) Inspiration tells us that when Cyrus read these words of prophecy they influenced him to work in behalf of Jewish freedom and restoration.

How thrilling is the realization that the great God of the universe has a plan for each of us as to the role we could have in His divine blueprint. "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God." —Christ's Object Lessons, page 327.

Have you asked God what His plan for your life may be? Have you dedicated yourself to the fulfillment of His plan? Will you ask Him now to work out His plan for you for this day? God is ready to show us greater things than we have yet seen.

by Raymond H. Woolsey
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Changing Lives in Chennai!

Just recently, we received an update from Pastor John Peter, who leads our gospel worker team in Chennai, India.

Greetings from India!

Our Quiet Hour Ministries team of 10 workers has successfully launched several new churches over the last six months, with hundreds of baptisms as well. We are working closely with local Adventist Church leaders to broaden the outreach work in the greater Chennai area.

It is our goal to enter five new areas around Chennai, places that have no church presence whatsoever! From this, we’re expecting to bring at least 1,000 to Jesus.

We currently have three evangelistic meetings upcoming and are very hopeful for a good turnout and many decisions for Christ. I ask you to please join in this ministry through your prayers.

As our 10 workers continue to reach out in the Chennai area and give Bible studies, I want to share with you just one story from our ministry.

Mrs. Rekha lives in the Pallavaram area near the Chennai airport. Born and raised a Hindu, for many years she struggled with demon possession.

She would be at home and all of a sudden she would start screaming and would run out into the street. When taken to the nearby hospital, the doctors said that Mrs. Rekha was normal.

Her family was embarrassed and disgusted. Then someone suggested they take her to the Poojari (Hindu priest). The priest said she needed a special Pooja (Hindu worship). He started the Pooja by chanting mantras and then beat Mrs. Rekha with a broom, since Hindu mythology says that her kind of possession is caused by the Mohini goddess. The only way to relieve the possession is through a beating with a broom.

Mrs. Rekha fell unconscious during the beating and was taken to her home.

One day, some of our team members were praying together in a church nearby. Knowing that the prayer service was going on, one of the local ladies brought Mrs. Rekha to the church. Part way through the prayer service, she was overwhelmed by her demon possession and fell to the floor.

The next day all of our team members fasted and came to the church, praying continually for Mrs. Rekha. They invited her and her family to come back to the church for a special prayer.

The prayer got started and in just a few minutes Mrs. Rekha started to scream. She then insisted the team members stop singing and praying. Many of the people gathered around to see what was going on. What a chance for the local people to know the power of God!

Our team held a Bible over Mrs. Rekha’s head, praying earnestly for God to deliver her. Their prayers were answered! She became quiet, relaxed and in her right mind. Her demon possession has not returned since.

Since this event, many people in the community have asked our team members to pray for them and their families!

God’s hand is providing all that is needed for His work to go forward. I thank you for helping support this project in Chennai. You are very special to us. Please continue to uphold our ministry in your prayers, asking that many will be gathered into the flock of our mighty God.

God Bless!

Pastor John Peter