

VOB NEWS

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Incredible INDIA, I (Wayne) would have to agree! My time there was truly inspiring, encouraging and enlightening. The west coast area, by the Arabian Sea, where we held the Living Waters training (*the largest attended international one yet*), was colonized by Portugal in 1505 and continued for over 400 years. An explosion of Christianity occurred beginning with one Portuguese Jesuit missionary St Francis Xavier known to be responsible for thirty thousand new converts. He was considered to be one of the greatest missionaries since Apostle Paul, the only other to have led more converts for Christ in history.

India being a predominant Hindu nation, and aside from a percentage being also Islam, is only 2.3% Christian. Being a Christian visiting as a foreigner is rather unorthodox, and some extra precautions were taken to keep us safe. Being of sensitive nature, that is all I can really say in this public update. But I will share, that personally witnessing precautions that our Christian brothers and sisters in India have to take, and the risks they face because of their faith, was a clear reminder of how fortunate we are in America for our many freedoms that we just celebrated this 4th of July.

"Father to many; tender and caring; adventurer risk taker; minister of reconciliation; values people and culture; lover of the 4 corners of the earth; ambassador of Christ/spirit of Philip"

. . . were a few of the things spoken/prayed over me by the small group of men I led each day of the training. These men were an honor to meet. To have them entrust me with the vulnerabilities of their hearts, as they shared their struggles as husbands, fathers, sons, leaders, was priceless. This is no small task to overcome, living in a third world nation, where your class as a citizen is governed by many factors - wealth - skin shade - religion - family values etc. While this may sound familiar to our culture, trust me-the depth of the stories I heard are on a heavier level among these good men and women our team was privileged to minister to. Rejections from families due to conversion to Christianity - great amounts of pressure for higher education achievements - arranged marriages - difficulties of priesthood - prejudices experienced toward caste systems (*social hierarchy that divides people into hereditary groups with varying levels of social status and occupation*) - were among some of these heavy things.

Our team consisted of 8 Americans, 9 Filipinos, 19 Indians, leading 100 participants through many teachings of applying God's word and His intentions for how we bear His image as men and women. In particular, how we relate with one another as fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, congregants, co-workers, community dwellers. Also finding FREEDOM from addictions, hidden sin, physical and sexual abuse, generational curses, unforgiveness - ALL important for learning to live in harmony and how to model Christ to a world that needs Him like never before.

"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples" John 13:35

India is fast paced with a lot of beautiful culture in the land, the people, AND the food! I had more rice and curry than I've had in a life time - well maybe not, but I had a LOT and each of the curries were different and yummy. My Mexican friends may not believe me but I tried and enjoyed many of the spicier ones! 😊

Praise:

Please thank The Lord with us that Wayne's travel abroad and all family at home were covered well. The tragic Air India crash (*you may have heard in the news*) was the same day as Wayne's departure from India. A sobering reality and our heavy hearts for the 270 lives lost. But we also recognize the great miracle of the ONE life on board spared. Thank you Lord!

A Blessing:

"Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done."

Thank you Lord for our rich heritage in this country to be able to worship You freely and help us never take that for granted.

Prayer Requests:

- We have had a significant drop in our monthly support. Please consider a one-time gift or ongoing monthly support.
- Continued prayer for worship doors to open, ongoing Mexico work, continued opportunities with Living Waters, and more opportunities to minister in our new community.
- Carol has resumed teaching riding lessons. Thank you for a prayer covering for safety, stamina, and provision!
- Wayne is researching in hopes of finding either a chaplain or counseling position.

Love, Wayne & Carol



Everyone in attendance at the training.



St Francis Xavier quote.



Our team photo.



Wayne's small group.



Our Filipino friends.



Worship time was holy ground!



An exercise where we have the men and women view one another through the cross and speak blessings.

