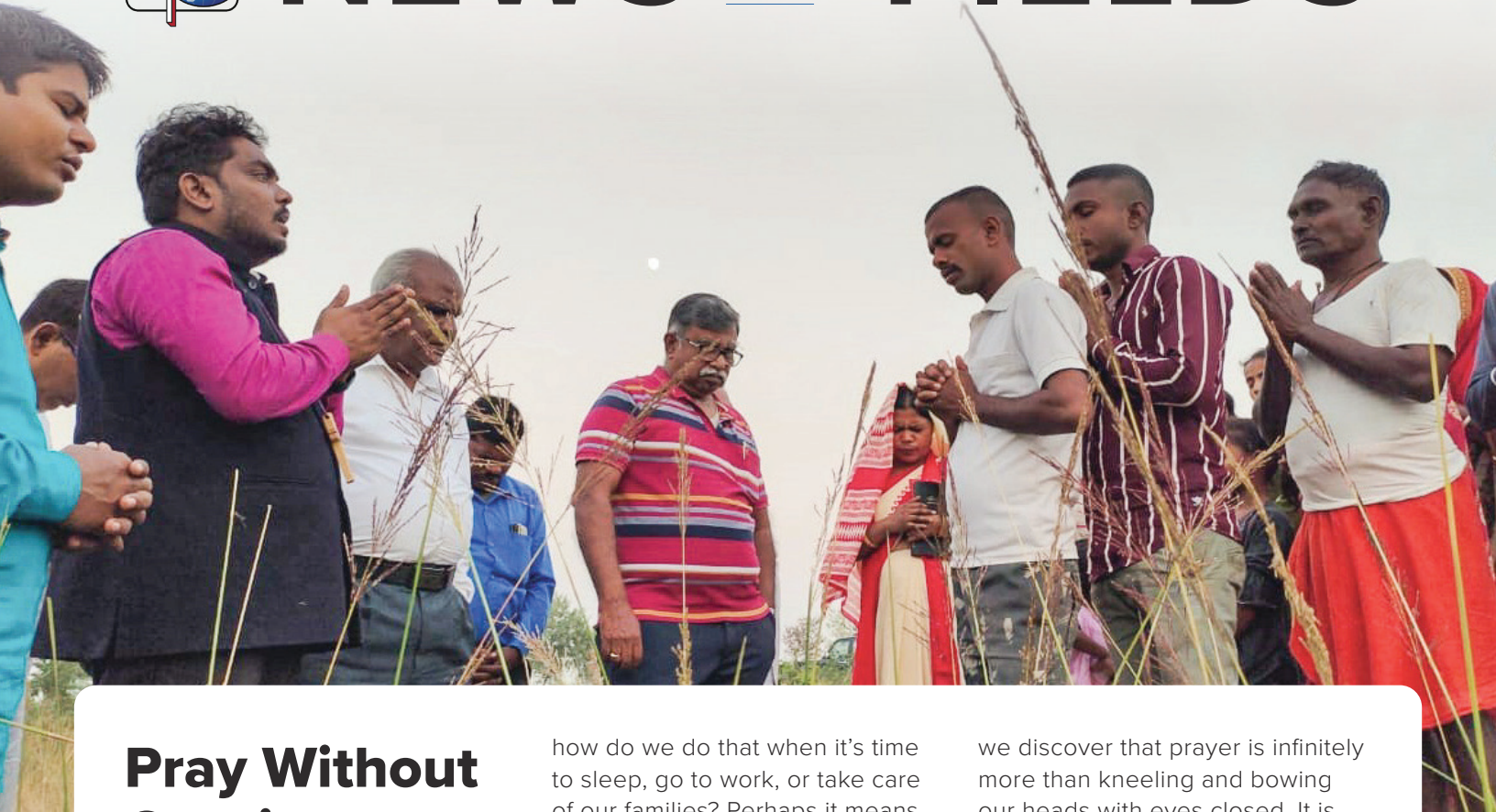




NEWS FROM THE FIELDS



Pray Without Ceasing

By Steve Liversedge

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, the apostle Paul wrote that believers should pray without ceasing. How do we interpret this?

Does it mean we must literally pray all the time? Is this for every individual Christian? If so,

how do we do that when it's time to sleep, go to work, or take care of our families? Perhaps it means, rather, to have an attitude of prayer without ceasing—refusing to do anything, to make any decision, or to launch out into any venture until we have consulted with God in prayer.

To really understand what Paul was saying, we can look at Jesus and see how He did it. Jesus was in constant communion with His Father. He ate, He slept, and He ministered, but in every detail He consulted God. Looking at Jesus,

we discover that prayer is infinitely more than kneeling and bowing our heads with eyes closed. It is a lifestyle and attitude by which throughout the day we seek His face, His will, and His way and respond with simple obedience. I believe all of this is prayer, the asking, the doing, and then the praising.

In the past few years, we at ER have upped our time in prayer by inviting our donors and international partners to come together for 40 minutes of prayer every morning at 10:00 (or 11:00

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Incredible India

By Caleb Pfeifer

“Incredible India.” If you’ve traveled there, you might recognize this slogan. With remarkable scenery, rich history, and unparalleled cultural diversity, the South Asian country of 1.39 billion people is, indeed, incredible—as is the work that God is doing there.

Last fall I was blessed with a chance to experience both of these realities on my first trip to India.

Our three-week adventure was comprised of travelling to eight cities, meeting with more than 20 ministry partners, visiting six Schools of Evangelism (SOEs), and enjoying fellowship with dozens of Christian brothers and sisters. By the end we had heard countless testimonies of healings and deliverance, of steadfastness through persecution, and of Jesus transforming broken lives into powerful stories of redemption.

Each experience was significant and memorable by itself. But as I consider them all together, I keep coming back to a few takeaways—the first of which is a deeper conviction on the importance of praying, both for the lost and for those who are reaching them.

Everywhere we went, frequent and fervent prayer revealed hearts that were longing for God’s intervention. The Church in India faces the enormous task of taking the gospel to more than 2,000 unreached people

groups (UPGs). And now, many Christians involved with this work encounter vehement (sometimes violent) opposition. As we visited churches and ministries that were thriving despite such challenges, God helped me see the connection between their abundant fruit and their reliance on prayer. To them, praying is not just helpful—it is indispensable.

I also saw how the same challenges lead the Church to rely on and cherish fellowship more deeply. The desperate need to reach millions of unreached souls in India creates a common purpose, a reason to join efforts and “spur one another on toward

love and good deeds” (Heb.10:24 NIV). And as the burdens of this endeavor are made heavier by Satan’s attacks, they lighten when fellow believers carry them together. I saw this reality play out not only in how our Indian brothers and sisters treated one another, but also in how they so readily embraced us as collaborators in this ministry.

Finally, I left India with a greater understanding of the

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▼ Twenty of ER’s India ministry partners gathered in New Delhi for the first time since early 2019.



Pray Without Ceasing cont.

during daylight savings time). We’ve been doing this for almost 900 days now. The results have been a closer communion with our prayer partners and with the Lord. It has built within us a default; when a need arises, we go to prayer. More and more, we recognize that we need His wisdom, His compassion and His courage to step out in faith and do His will. Some of the answers to our prayers have been remarkable.

In late October 2020, Polycarp Zongo, a Nigerian pastor, was kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. The Abayas alerted us and we mobilized our people to pray. At times it seemed hopeless, as we heard nothing month after month. The Boko Haram were infamous for demanding ransom but then, after receiving the payoff, killing the hostage anyway. Finally on June 14, 2021, after eight months Polycarp was released! Even closer to my heart is the story of Tamires Barros, a young lady from Brazil arrested in India one year before me, for the exact same reason. Her father, Edmar, reached out to me and we have corresponded over the past four years, praying and never giving up hope. Finally, a few weeks ago Tamires’ case was cancelled, and today she is home with her family!

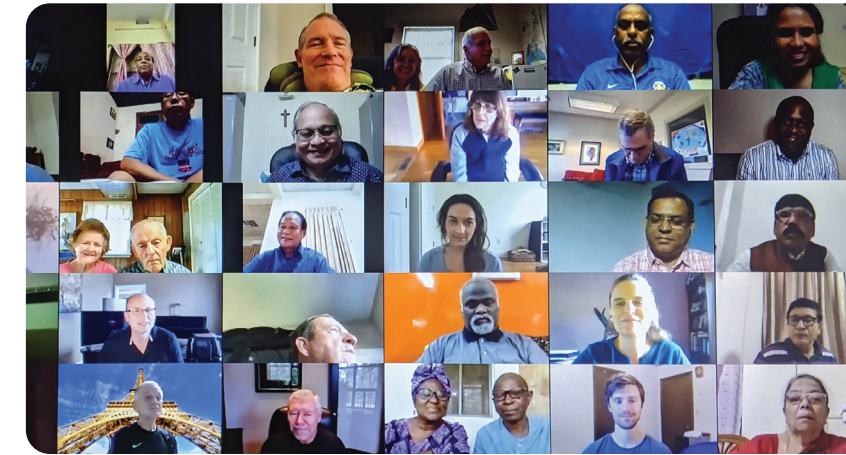
Not all of our prayers are answered in the way we anticipate. We prayed that God would spare Enosh Narzary, our Assam SOE director, but sadly he succumbed to Covid. However, God provided by raising up Enosh’s right-hand man to take over the work and by meeting his family’s needs. We miss Enosh and his enthusiasm, but in God’s Kingdom death is not the end, for to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Just this week, Pastor Raigur in Bhopal, India was

significant role discipleship ministries like ER’s play in completing the Great Commission. There are UPGs in India that now have thriving churches because of the outreach of ER program graduates. By God’s grace, we are helping to equip the leaders and disciple makers who will breach some of the final strongholds against the gospel.

Seeing firsthand the impact of our day-to-day office work, joined with the generosity and prayers of our support base, reaffirmed in my heart God’s calling to serve with ER.

► Enjoying fellowship outside a church in Nagpur, Maharashtra.



▲ ER staff and friends join international partners every day (Mon-Sat) on Zoom for prayer.

leading a fellowship group in a Christian home. Hindu fanatics barged in and called the police, accusing him of breaking the conversion laws. The pastor and his family were taken into custody. SOE Director Sam Francis alerted us and we immediately went to prayer. Shortly thereafter, Pastor Raigur was released. We don’t always see prayer answered that quickly but what joy filled our hearts when Sam told us the family was safe and free.

This year we will be sending out our prayer calendar by monthly emails. Throughout the year we will focus on the largest UPG in the world—the Muslims. Join us in praying for these souls for whom Christ died. Let’s be bold and courageous as we pray without ceasing, and enjoy a truly blessed New Year in prayer communion with our brothers and sisters around the world.



Memorial Gifts

Contributions were received in memory of:

- Mr. Lowell Bowman of Orlando, FL, from Rev. and Mrs. Roland Bowman, of Deland, FL.
- Dr. Rex A McConnell of Nicholasville, KY, from Hopewell Gospel Ministries in Burgin, KY.
- Mr. Richard Cook of Monticello, KY, from his daughter, Elizabeth Cook, of Corryton, TN.

SOE Alumnus of the Year Award

By Paul Braun

Last year Evangelism Resources instituted a new “SOE Alumnus of the Year” award to bring recognition and encouragement to some of the heroic graduates of our 38 Schools of Evangelism in 14 nations.

Thousands of evangelists, missionaries, and church planters from these SOEs are shining God’s light around the world and in some of the darkest corners of the globe.

We occasionally hear about some of these graduates. On my October trip to India, for example, I met with a group of SOE alumni who had planted dozens of churches and baptized thousands of people. One pastor, a graduate of our school in Maharashtra, had baptized over 1,300 people from an Unreached People Group (UPG) and another had baptized over 900.

The winner of the first annual

SOE Alumnus of the Year award is Pastor David Tutu, a graduate of our SOE in Madhupur, Jharkhand State, in India. Soon after graduating he went as a missionary to a village of the Kol UPG where a violent band of “Naxalites” was active. When they threatened to kill him he fled back to Madhupur, but after praying with the leadership team there he returned to the village, possibly to die. The Naxalites continued to threaten him but he said, “No turning back.”

Hindu extremists denied him access to the village well. Some Christian friends came and helped him dig a well of his own. The extremists poisoned the well.



Livestock died. Pastor David prayed for God’s protection from the poison – and took a drink from the well. He lived. It was the first of many spiritual breakthroughs.

When Pastor David arrived in this village ten years ago there were no Kol churches in that area. Today he leads a vibrant congregation, and has helped others from our Madhupur SOE plant churches in nearby villages as well. Thanks to Pastor David and his team, the Kol people are on their way to being taken off the UPG list.