



NEWS FROM THE FIELDS



Surprised by God

By Steve Liversedge

Have you ever been surprised by God? For example, seeing someone come to Christ after you had started to wonder whether they would ever believe? Or seeing someone physically healed despite your doubting prayers?

Habakkuk had that problem. He was asking God why He wasn't listening, why He wasn't saving His people. Then, surprise of all surprises, God told Habakkuk that He was going to answer his prayer by using the godless Babylonians to bring God's judgement upon His people, Judah.

In these last few years, God has surprised us here at ER. Let me tell you briefly about it.

In September 2019 the ER Board of Directors met for its annual meeting in Wilmore. They decided to implement a plan to double the number of disciples trained in all our areas of ministry. In 2019 we had trained approximately 30,000, so for the end of 2021 we set a goal of 60,000. Prayer would be increased as the foundation and power behind the acceleration. Of course, finances would have to grow as well. This was one of those times where we were positive God was behind our efforts. We called the plan 2T22 after 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul exhorts Timothy to make disciples of reliable men who will also make disciples. Of course, the 2s were there to underline the doubling and the 22 to mark the time we would complete this, the beginning of 2022.

Then the surprise came, in the form of Covid-19.

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Six New SOEs Planned for North India

By Paul Braun

Evangelism Resources has taken a huge step of faith, committing to the support of six new Schools of Evangelism in northern India. Two of the six schools have already opened while four are expected to open in the coming months. Please pray with us for God's perfect leading and provision for the opening of these six lighthouses of His grace and salvation in North India, where so many still live and die without ever having heard the beautiful name of Jesus!

1 Bihar

The Bodhgaya, Bihar school opened in May with 36 students. It is only a few miles from where Buddha is said to have "attained enlightenment." Our SOE leaders are hoping and praying to develop an outreach to Buddhists who come to venerate the temple and a tree the pilgrims believe to be the original "Bodhi tree" (the tree of awakening) under which Buddha sat 2,500 years ago.

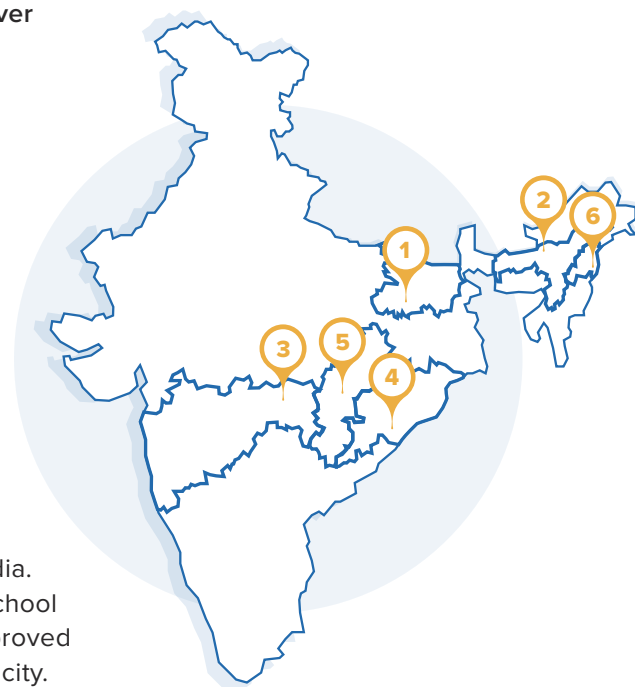
2 Assam

The north Assam school opened

in June with 30 students. Located near Nepal, this school will focus on training missionaries and evangelists to take the gospel and plant churches throughout Northeast India and Nepal.

3 Maharashtra

Nagpur in Maharashtra is at the geographic center of India. An English-language new School of Evangelism has been approved for this strategically-located city.



« Students, teachers, and directors gather to celebrate the opening of the new SOE in north Assam.

4 Odisha

Southern Odisha is home to scores of Unreached People Groups. A new school is expected to open in the coming months to provide evangelistic leadership for making disciples in this region.

5 Chhattisgarh

Revs. Stephen and Shanti Rawate have worked with Evangelism Resources for more than 20 years. They recently moved to Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh, where they plan to open a School of Evangelism this year.

6 Nagaland

Nagaland is a highly-Christianized state in northeastern India. One of our partners would like to open a School of Evangelism here to train missionaries to go into the rest of India, especially to the less-reached states of northern India.



Winning Africa

By Shanti Rawate

Shanti Rawate shared a burden for women's formation and discipleship with Thelma Braun, co-founder of ER. In 2013, this burden brought forth the Women's Impact Network (WIN) — first in India, but since then expanding into Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, China, and now, Africa. The following is Shanti's report on the recent Kinshasa Summit, at which WIN was introduced to women from 15 African nations.



"In Jesus Christ I felt one with [Mama Thelma] and all these women from fifteen different nations."

The woman's voice broke as she said to me, "You have changed my life." This was the most profound remark at the closing ceremony of the WIN Summit for African women leaders that took place in Kinshasa, DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on April 26-28.

For me, this trip was a dream come true. I had very much wanted to stand on the land of Kinshasa where Mama Thelma Braun had launched her ministry to women and served with her husband for 45 years. Indeed, in Jesus Christ I felt one with her, and with all these women from fifteen different nations—in our salvation, in our mission of the Great Commission, and in our connection with Evangelism Resources. "Mama Thelma is still inspiring us!" said one woman, after we read about her on the dedication page of the WIN Discipleship Manual. "The WIN meeting in Kinshasa helped me a lot to better understand Mama Thelma's vision," said another, "and above all it gave me once again the strength to continue training

here in my country."

One woman testified that she had come to the summit empty but was going away filled with the commitment to be a disciple of Christ and with the vision to make disciples for Him. The object lesson "In Christ" was a blessing for everyone, reminding the women of their need for the cleansing and fullness of Christ in all areas of their lives. Lessons on the biblical foundation for soul winning, effective methods of witnessing, and the lives of disciples such as Mary of Bethany, the Samaritan woman, and Mary and Martha were all blessed by God and led the women to dedicate themselves with tearful prayers to carry out the mission of Christ with the tool of WIN.

As I hugged each one at the end of the summit, my heart was overflowing with thanksgiving to my Lord God and to ER, and I will always cherish these memories. I humbly plead with God to make WIN fruitful in the land where he has already blessed ER's ministry abundantly.

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Like everyone else, we were limited in many ways, but as direct ministry decreased, we went full-speed into online work, most notably putting the Portable Bible School (PBS) Teacher Training Seminar online. Scripts were written and recordings and translations were made. Today the seminar is available in English, French, Mandarin, and Hindi. We also began a daily (every day except Sunday) online prayer meeting. Initially we prayed for friends and partners affected by Covid and the shutdowns, but now we pray for all the work around the world as well as needs closer to home. There is no doubt that these prayers are behind the growth we are now seeing.

Lots of prayer certainly went into our April-May trip to Kinshasa, DRC. The Women's Impact Network Summit launched WIN into Africa, teaching 30 women from 15 nations how to go and make disciples of other women. We then convened a School of Evangelism (SOE) directors' meeting. After those two days of presentations and team-building, I believe we will see new SOEs established in the countries of Ethiopia, Mali, and Guinea, and additional SOEs in the DRC cities of Lubumbashi, Goma, and Kisangani. Finally, we led a six-day PBS Teacher Training Seminar, with 30 participants from 15 African nations. We anticipate a great increase in

the number of leaders trained in PBSes as a result.

Now we have been challenged to reach into the Middle East with the same PBS training. This was a huge surprise! On August 7-13 most of the same team that ministered in Kinshasa — coming from the US, India, and the DRC — will meet in Ismir, Turkey to train Christian leaders there. The need is great in several Middle Eastern nations, where the gospel is spreading in surprising ways and house churches lack trained leadership.

God surprised us with time to focus on our online PBS Teacher Training seminar; He surprised us with time to pray as we had never prayed before; and He surprised us by assembling an international team that would have been impossible five years ago. On top of all that, God surprised us with the funding

to do it. Last year, in 2022, we funded the training of 37,000 men and women through all our programs. Now, with just half of the year gone, we have funded just 36 short of 34,000. We are on track to train over 60,000 by year's end.

Habakkuk honestly questioned God and received an answer that surprised him, but despite his questions he had faith and waited on the watchtower to see what God would do. We do the same as we watch God surprise us with the expansion of His Kingdom through ways we did not envision. As you watch and wait with us, pray and give as God directs, as all these new programs need to be sustained. Be prepared to be surprised by God as He completes the task of the Great Commission and fills the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea.

Legacy Giving

Thanks to your financial generosity, Evangelism Resources was able to honor every valid request for funding last year from our overseas partners for discipleship and evangelism ministries.

Last year's giving was especially healthy because Evangelism Resources received five legacy

gifts, a record for this little mission! The unexpected extra income enabled ER to fund an unprecedented number of witnesses trained and several projects that we normally wouldn't have been able to consider.

Will you please include Evangelism Resources in your legacy giving for God's kingdom work here on earth? Call us at (859) 858-0777 if you have any questions about this or would like a name of someone who can help you with this important decision.

- Paul Braun, President