

Lyn Searle in India

Yes, the trip did go well. We were very blessed to share fellowship with our Indian brothers and sisters. There are fantastic things happening at the Grace Ministries Centres. The managers- Peter and Selwen and their wives and families are very committed to village ministry.

There has been expansion into new areas and the support of the children is bringing together people who can see the changes happening in their lives.

Just before we came, there were two baptisms and on our last Sunday we visited three Sunday Schools in a village which were run by students in Grades 10 and 11. There were over 70+ children. It was exciting to know how God prompted them to start to share their faith in this way.

Peter oversees this work and provides workbooks for them to teach from. Most days, after our program in the villages, we went visiting homes of the sponsored children. We were welcomed by all and many allowed us to pray for them. Some wanted to provide us tea and food which we knew they couldn't afford.

Our school program was less this time, just junior assembly & Bible classes up to 10:30. This allowed us to be free to wander into classes and talk with children who knew us from other visits and do the food serving at lunch time to the sponsored children at the school.

I loved the 13 students in my morning class (three boys and ten girls) and three have a dad who had been a pastor. In my Bible class, they came from Grades 5 to 9 and 11. I had a chance to challenge them with the lessons of the parables and how they applied to their lives. They were like sponges and it was a privilege to teach them. I asked them on the last day to share by writing what they learnt from the week and give prayer points. This was done in Tamil and Ebby, our pastor to Grace Ministries work, translated them for me. I had two sponsored children in the class. I also got to meet my other two sponsored children out in the village ministry. I didn't get to see where they live because it was about eight km from the centres. They walk all this way to come to school each day.

We pray that our visit gave a boost to the ministry as it is hard grind for those ministering day in and day out. On the way home we visited Deli and travelled a long day to visit the Taj Mahal. We also stopped off in Bangkok for two days You can read more on the blog www.gmoa.wordpress.com as there was a daily update of what was happening.

There was usually 10 hour power cuts at the Bethel Centre a day and it was difficult to use internet. You had to pick your times. It was hard to run a school if you needed to use computers, photocopies etc. They had a generator but it was expensive to run all the time. The larger cities had less power cuts but the country areas were hit hard. Life in India is hard.

Lyn



Lyn with her morning class