

## The HI Mission Team to India from 8-14 October 2009

This trip to India has been an eye opening to the HI mission team. We saw poverty, orphan and widow.

We saw and sense hopelessness on some of the people on the street and beautiful people faithful in their services for the Lord. Their love for the Lord and people are magnified by their work. These brethren touch and open up our heart; the benevolent thought which we long lost in our hasty life style in Singapore.

We went to India expecting rain, dirt, mosquito and lack of material comfort. Yet gradually we began to see the love, the faith, the sacrifices and the zeal to follow the Lord's teaching and doing.



On arrival at Chennai airport, we were met by convoy of brethren led by brother Roy Knight with a banner welcoming us. We are so encouraged and to receive our first garland of flower and many more when we first visit the orphanages & school for the deaf.

We checked into YWCA guest house, slept for about 2 to 3 hours before going for our first destination. We met Janet (Roy's mother) and her 71 children at the orphanage home. We received garland of flower placed on our necks. We were taken aback by the condition of the orphanage. The children were happy and excited to see us. We taught them some song in sign language. We performed a skit and gave them some goodies. They felt contented and joyful. Yet we went off with a heavy heart.



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In the evening we visited Roy's parent's home. They are Mr. Dhayalan & Janet. We then walked across the road to the Chennai church of Christ. At the church building, we met many evangelists and

ministers who took came from far and nearby towns. They gave us a hearty warm welcome. We were introduced to a group of women both widow and forsaken. The church fed them a meal daily and gave each a monthly allowance. We felt so full and nourished by the children and widows that we miss our dinner that night.



The following day we flew to Vishakhapatnam airport in Kakinada. Joel's twin brother, Paul & Johnny were at the airport to receive and welcome us. They had hired a 9-seaters executive coach with driver to take us to the Royal Park hotel in Kakinada which is more than 2 and a half hours from the airport.



After checking in at the hotel, we went to visit the deaf children home and school.

We met Joel's uncle and aunt, Paul & Rose Madiki who runs the school for the past 18 years. The work is challenging but their love for the deaf children and their faith in Christ kept them going all these years. Although I noticed their age were catching up with them. It is our prayer that the Lord keep them strong & healthy.

On Sunday, we worshiped at the Agraharam coC & Gollaprolu coC. There were many children and women at first sight. Perhaps the men were working in the field. We had a good time with the children; gifts, skits and songs signing. Before leaving, we saw a school next to the church, a small, pathetic, empty building. Joel has thought about taking over that school to teach the children the gospel of Christ in this village. It shall be his next project. We left and visited the Bethsaida Girls Home. The home was well maintain and pretty clean. They hired a full time lady cook and two matrons. We were impressed. However, Joel mentioned the lack of Bible teaching material for the children there.



On Monday night, we invited the deaf home and school director, Paul and his wife Rose, Joel & all his family members (total 14 people) for a farewell dinner. We had a wonderful dinner fellowship and gifts for the HI team.

We are encouraged by their faith, love and hospitality. The harvest is plentiful, but workers are few. These few had done their very best out of the very little they had. We are humbled by their act of love and generous heart.



**in His Kingdom work,  
Patrick & Judy Ong**

