



Dedicated Missionaries Live Sacrificial Lives

by JAMES S. EAGLES

ABOVE LEFT: Intercede's Richard Krawczyk and James Eagles (front centre) receive a warm welcome from BEF's missionaries.

TOP RIGHT: Children of lepers at the leper colony to which BEF ministers.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A BEF missionary with motorcycle. Many more are needed.

Dedicated missionaries with **Bharat Evangelical Fellowship** reach out to lepers and their families with the love of Jesus, and live sacrificial lives as they plant churches in Hindu-dominated areas.

We arrived in Hubli, Karnataka state, amid much fanfare with many of the BEF Pastors on hand to greet us at the airport along with Rev. Dr. Jesuratnam Buraga and his sons Timothy, Paul, Philip, James, and Titus.

Bharat Evangelical Fellowship is truly a 52-year miracle in the works. Their headquarters program ministries consist of a headquarters chapel, lending library, private Christian School up to Grade 5 and a home for needy children. Through several states BEF holds training conferences for pastors and missionaries who come from as far away as Andhra Pradesh state. Twenty-five of these workers were on hand to meet with us while we were there. Altogether there are about 50 BEF ministers of the Gospel. These indigenous missionaries are all actively engaged in church planting among the unreached. They shepherd their own congregations and also do missionary work by going into different villages and areas to evangelize and plant new congregations in the largely Hindu-dominated populations among which they labour.

LEPROSY COLONY CHURCH

Dr. Buraga took us to minister to and pray with the people in a leprosy colony church founded by BEF. We prayed for a very disfigured and partially

blind leper—a very moving experience. You could see the effect his crippled life full of suffering had had on him—not only physically but also emotionally. The bitterness, hurt and rejection he felt was evident. I prayed a simple prayer requesting Jesus to intervene in his life and heal him.

LET'S GIVE THEM WHEELS

The project which intrigued me most was: Motorcycles for senior pastors aged 50 and up. BEF could immediately use 12 of these at a cost of \$1,000 each. Having motorcycles would mean that these missionaries could do their missionary work in a much more effective way, especially in tribal or interior areas where bicycles just cannot easily go.

These Missionary-Pastors are very simple, dedicated men who love the Lord and live quite a sacrificial life. We call them missionaries because in addition to their own churches they are doing outreaches in several “mission stations” in a number of villages. Eventually these mission stations will also develop into full-fledged churches.

Jesuratnam Buraga, though now elderly, has a committed, active board and a team of dedicated sons to help him carry out the central ministry. They are doing so much with so little to reach the multitudes for Christ. Let's give them wheels for their ministry and help for their workers.

For more information and a quarterly Field Report from this ministry, contact Intercede mentioning this project code: 630BEF.
