

HARVEST ASIA WEST

MARCH - JUNE 2006

BEAUTY FOR ASHES: Slums of Mumbai Come Alive

More than 1 200 children from the slums of Mumbai (India) heard the word of God through songs, dramas, testimonies, dances and teaching at nine strategic centres for a whole week during our Vacation Bible School.

A Good Cross-section

AEF India Executive Secretary Raju Cherian together with 80 teachers and volunteers from various Churches worked hard to organise these events held in November 2005. The lessons and various messages were communicated in 6 languages English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. The nine centres stretched from Palghar to Dorwada in the greater Mumbai area. The majority of the children (around 90%) were from non-Christian backgrounds and in some areas the Hindi and Marathi speaking children outnumbered the Tamil children.

God's Gracious Dealings

"God's gracious dealings were seen", says Raju Cherian, "as Community Leaders and officials from the various locations helped and supported this annual event in many different ways..." Furthermore, some 500 children came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ at the close of the week's varied activities.

The final day programme was very special and the Gospel was shared with the whole community and again God was gracious in moving hearts to Himself. "As we hear the stories of lives transformed we can say indeed The Lord has given us beauty for ashes in the slums of Mumbai. We give Him all praise and honour for His wonderful life transforming work..." said Raju Cherian.



The Vacation Bible School near a tribal area in outskirts of Mumbai.



Teachers give an item.



Our director Raju Cherian (centre) gives gifts to Teachers and Volunteers.



Children and Community members at Vile Parle.



Some new believers who came to Christ through our village programme.



The
**INTERNATIONAL
DIRECTOR**
shares...

HE IS LORD!

We live in tumultuous and uncertain times with increasing community and religious unrest, global terrorism, global pandemics, natural disasters and moral declension especially in the media and in high places.

The Bible gives us a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ as an antidote to our times marked by fear, anxiety and helplessness. He is the ultimate potentate:

He is Lord of the Universe

"Therefore also God highly exalted Him (Jesus Christ) and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name ... Jesus is Lord..." (Phil 2: 9 11).

"For by Him all things were created both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible ..." (Col 1: 16 17).

Jesus Christ is holding and sustaining all of creation by His omnipotence and omnipresence. What comfort and strength this brings to us.

He is Lord of the Church

"He is also head of the body, the Church ..." (Col 1: 18)

The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ consists of people from every tribe, tongue and nation who confess the name of Christ and enthrone Him as Lord of their lives. God is building His Church in spite of all our faithlessness, weaknesses and sins. He is purifying the Church which is called the 'bride' of Christ. Let us as His Church work and wait in holiness and expectation of the coming Bridegroom.

He is Lord of Eternity

"...He raised Him from the dead ... far above all rule and authority and power and dominion ... not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Eph 1: 20 21).

"I (Jesus Christ) am the living one: I was dead and behold I am alive forevermore and I have the keys of death and Hades" (Rev 1: 18)

When our lives end here on earth, eternity awaits us. Those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will have the joy of eternal union with Him. Those who reject His Lordship will be shut out of His eternal Kingdom. Let us then plunge boldly into the work of the Gospel, resting in His Lordship and declaring His greatness to the nations.

Let us draw strength from our God in the words of the hymnwriter:

*God of ages, history's Maker
Planning our pathways, holding us fast
Shaping in mercy all that concerns us
Father we praise you Lord of the past
God of tomorrow, strong Overcomer
Prince of darkness own your command
What then can harm us?
We are your people now and forever
Kept by your hand*

Jonathan James

DESTINY RADIO SHARES LIFE LIVING MESSAGES TO MILLIONS IN ASIA AND BEYOND

July 2006 will mark the third anniversary of Destiny Radio a ministry sponsored by AEF International and MAP (USA) through the HCJB Radio network.

Some 160 programmes have already been recorded and our programmes are heard on Shortwave Radio during the following days/times:

Tuesday 0830 - 0900 hrs UTC South Pacific 11750 Khz
(25 meter band)

Sunday 1330 - 1400 hrs UTC South Asia 15390 Khz
(19 meter band)

All listeners who write in also receive our tracts and booklets and upon request Bibles and Christian Books are also sent.

Jonathan James is the Radio Teacher assisted by Dr Dana Pankey (USA), and other guest teachers Dr Jim Christensen (USA), and Dr Graham Johnston (Australia).

Here is a sampling of some of the latest responses received:

"The programme 'Why did Jesus Come?' was especially helpful and comforting"

H K from Mumbai, India

"Many thanks for the book on the Tsunami .. I would like to find out more about Jesus Christ"

M T from Nigeria, Africa

"... Oftentimes I will take notes from your programme. It is helpful"

B N from Denmark

"Please send me more literature as I have given my heart to Jesus Christ"

T N K from Malaysia

