

FRANKS FAMILY NEWSLETTER (FEB-APRIL 2011)

Dear Pastors, Friends, and Co-laborers,

“For we are laborers together with God (1 Cor.3:9).

We rub shoulders with God, sowing and reaping in the “field of Boaz.” God enabled us to successfully go through the last Academic year (2010-2011) by His grace and through your prayers.

After returning from the U.S.A last May, I was faced with the task of teaching two semesters’ worth of subjects in one semester, including: Hebrew, Greek, Textual Criticism, Philosophy, Bibliopoly, Soteriology, and Ecclesiology. I taught classes in the morning from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, and in the evenings from 5 pm to 6 pm. By God’s help, I was able to complete them in due time, i.e., by the end of March 2011. We held our 20th graduation on the 9th of April 2011. Five students were conferred with Bachelor of Theology, and two with Bachelor of Divinity. Out of these seven, two were Tamil-speaking from here in Tirupattur, and 5 were Burmese.

Grace Baptist School for Hearing and Hearing Impaired had their 10th Graduation on 10/03/2011. Francis and Leena Newton (our daughter and son-in-law) did a tremendous work in the hearts of these boys and girls, both academically and spiritually. The school re-opens in June 2011. Our graduates are well-known for their quality. 95% of our students come from non-Christian backgrounds.

In Bangalore, Olivet-Grace Baptist Church held 3 days of meetings on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of April. Adrian and Emma Hendricks (my daughter and son-in-law) are pastoring this church. I took the subject of “Justification by Faith” and related it to Redemption, Reconciliation, Imputation, and Propitiation. By God’s grace, the whole congregation was spiritually edified. Soon after that was the Family and Youth Camp at Jamunamarthur (Jawadhi Mountains) on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of April 2011. Pastor Charles Edwin, pastor of Tirupattur Baptist Church, & Abigail (our daughter & son-in-law) took major roles in this Camp in every way. They did beyond their ability. There was a godly atmosphere over all the campers, though accommodation was not so good, and rains were frequent. We had about 80 people in the camp besides children. After much prayer, I chose the subject of the “Holy Spirit” for the general session, “Depression and Its Cure” for the youth, and for the families “The Role of the Husband and The Role of the Wife” according to the Scripture. At the campfire, there were many tears and confessions. Six young people dedicated their lives to serve God. Our hearts welled up with thanks to the Lord. In spite of my physical conditions, God did not keep back His Spiritual blessings. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.

We held Vacation Bible School in 8 different places in three different languages. In total, about 500 children attended. The majority of them are from Hindu and even from Muslim backgrounds. Many decisions were made and now we have to do the follow up work.

May 2, 2011 was our 46th Wedding Anniversary. Our children called us from the US to congratulate us; and it is good the other 3 families were with us. We had a wonderful day. Thank you for remembering us.

We thought of our small beginning in Chembur, Bombay in 1964, and how God has blessed our families and the work. We started by faith, with no one supporting us, and no Mission Board behind us. Now, we thank the Lord for our six children, 6 in-laws, and 14 grandchildren. They know the Lord and are interested in the work of God. In 1986, we joined W.W.N.T.B. Missions and came to know the World Wide family. Since then, you dear people have been praying for and supporting us. We are indeed grateful to you and our God. There is much work to be done yet, and time is so short. We may have to open a branch of the Bible College in Bangalore. Please pray. Health-wise, we take one day at a time. Some days are better than the others. My Parkinson disease is under control. Molly, my wife, is also suffering from diabetes and some thickening of cardiac arteries. Her eyes will need an operation from cataracts. Money has been very scarce since last year, and we are still lacking 45% of our required monthly support.

The work in the Kurumberi-Church-Building will start again this summer, but we need more funds to finish it.

Thank you so much for your prayer & faithful support. May God richly bless you all.

If you need to know more about us, or about our financial position, you may contact my son Stephen Franks in Greenville, SC. Stephen's home #864-233-8574; Cell #864-567-1555 & e-mail: stevenfranks26@hotmail.com. You can also contact us by phone in India at 011-91-4179-222988 or e-mail: drericf@lycos.com. We work with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions (WWNTBM) and they can be contacted at 704-730-1440.

Rev. Dr. Eric W. Franks

PRAYER REQUEST:

1. Spiritual revival
2. Medical needs
3. Increase in our support level
4. Funds for Kurumberi Church building.