

Free Will Baptist Mission, P.O. sonapurhat, 733214,
Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal, INDIA



15 August 2011

Dear Ones,

Loving greetings to all of you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

India had long been ruled by others. They celebrated their Independence on 15 August 1947. My call to the ministry and to dear India was on 15 August 1948. From these dates, you can see we have been a part of this ancient land for most of these 64 years of freedom from foreign rule. India is said to be the largest democracy in the world. We have been there to mark all the changes in government from the beginning. We have witnessed many changes and there has been progress.

Our Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board met during Bible Conference in March, 1951 and appointed Marie and me to Sonapurhat, India. Rev. and Mrs. Paul Woolsey had just chosen this as a station for our new FWB work in North India. They were living there in a tent. We were appointed to replace them as they only went out to choose a field in North India for Free Will Baptists. Dan and Trula Cronk were forty miles south of Sonapurhat in Kishanganj. We were to open this field. Miss Barnard had challenged our mission to send out sixteen new families to join us, Cronks and Hannas, to plant His church in this vast backward, village area.

There was not a church. There was a large area assigned to us to evangelize. We had something precious to share with these people. We did not go to tell them how wonderful things were in USA. "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." II Cor. 4:3-5. For us, it was a new country, a new culture, new languages. Our Lord had called us. Our FWB Church had ordained me. Our mission had commissioned and sent us. Now, what were we to do? We had the answer in the above quoted scripture. "We preach Christ."

Now, we can fast forward sixty years since we were appointed in March, 1951. The area, which then was a vast jungle with many wild animals, now has so many people there is no place to be alone. It has been our joy to share the wonderful message of Christ and salvation. He has opened doors, hearts, villages and people who had never heard the name of our Savior, JESUS, now belong to Him. We want you to rejoice with us over what He has done. Yes, He has heard and answered prayer and we have more than three hundred FWB Churches in our North India field. We have some fifty five brick church buildings. We have been involved with education and teaching the Bible to the youth all these years. Now, these very men are taking the GOSPEL to their own. In our early village ministry, we used the slogan: "Each one win one and each one teach one." This has paid off.

The work is not finished by any means. He has allowed us to have a good start. Our thanks to all of you who have prayed for us and India and supported our efforts. Now, we ask you to

continue to do the same thing for us for the next sixty years (or until Jesus comes) to see what HE is going to do for us and with us. Our missionaries who worked in South India and all who worked in North India including my dear life mate, Marie, are with our Lord. Isaiah said, and we often quote: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me."

All three of our children, with their families, are a part of our India work. I request you to continue to pray for them as you pray for me and for all who work right now in the heat of the day in dear India. In good times and in bad times, we look to Him to meet the financial needs of our work. Thank you for making it all possible.

Love from our family to each one of you and our prayers,

Carlisle Hanna and family



The path that I have trod, Has bro't me nearer God, Tho' oft it led....thro' sorrow's gates.
Tho' not the way I'd choose, In my way I might lose The joy that yet for me awaits.

*Not what I wish to be, Nor where I wish to go, For who am I that I should choose my way?
The Lord shall choose for me, 'Tis better far, I know, So let Him bid me go, or stay.*

The cross that I must bear, If I a crown would wear, Is not the cross....that I should take;
But, since on me 'tis laid, I'll take it, unafraid, And bear it for the Master's sake.

*Not what I wish to be, Nor where I wish to go, For who am I that I should choose my way?
The Lord shall choose for me, 'Tis better far, I know, So let Him bid me go, or stay.*

Submission to the will Of Him who guides me still Is surety of....His love revealed;
My soul shall rise above This world in which I move; I conquer only where I yield.

*Not what I wish to be, Nor where I wish to go, For who am I that I should choose my way?
The Lord shall choose for me, 'Tis better far, I know, So let Him bid me go, or stay.*

C. Austin Miles