

God's Man for the poor in Southeastern India

Johnson is not his real name, but it is the name everyone calls him. He is God's point man for the area surrounding a city called Machilipatnam in Southeastern India. God has used Johnson in many ways



Doug & Johnson

to minister to the lowest of caste in Southern India. He has conducted numerous crusades, started an orphanage, and has constantly reached out to the "untouchables" in Southern India. I had only conversed with him through e-mail and was excited about our first meeting. He met us at the airport and drove us about an hour and a half to the small town of Machilipatnam. Johnson is a very humble man who has a great heart to share the Gospel with and to reach out to the poor and needy of India. He has not received a lot of help from the government or Christian organizations, yet God continues to provide for and bless his ministry to the poor.



The purpose of our visit was to help train and prepare the local pastors and Christian leaders for a musical concert/outreach in November 2007. God has given Johnson a vision for a musical concert that would be used to expose a large number of the village people to the Gospel. He has a vision to hire trucks and actually transport the people in from surrounding villages because they are too poor to afford the transportation to come into the city. Johnson through prayer and faithful obedience has spread the word to all the villages around the city about the concert and the evangelism training and over 400



pastors and Christian leaders attended the day long conference. Many of them had traveled long distances on terrible roads just to be trained in how to mobilize their village for the outreach. Johnson was very encouraged not only by the presence of all the brothers and sisters in Christ, but also the spirit in which they came. All the attendees were very excited about the outreach and the opportunity to share the Gospel through the concert in November. **Johnson estimates that there will be over 20,000 people each night, the majority of them Hindu or Buddhist.**



Please pray for Johnson and the Christian leaders around Machilipatnam, for the American team that will sing and share the Gospel in November, and for all the people that will attend the concert.



Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

We were on our way to another village in Southern India when Johnson, our host, stopped at “a colony.” He told us the people in “the colony” were so poor and destitute that even the “untouchables” in the village would not associate with them or allow them to come live among them. So, they forced them to live isolated in open fields scattered in between rice fields and river beds in huts that offered no real protection from any of the elements. Most didn’t even have regular water. They had to depend upon a water truck that would bring them two to three gallons for the week, if they were lucky enough to have a container to hold the water. I couldn’t believe how terrible the living conditions were for these people. Johnson told us that the people would be very excited to see us because no one even cares enough about them to stop and visit with them.

When we got out of our vehicle and walked toward them, they immediately began to congregate around us and looked at us wondering why we were there. They looked at us with sad searching eyes and my heart was so burdened for these people.

As I looked at them and Johnson was sharing about their life in



“the colony,” **I couldn’t stand there any longer. I had to share the Gospel** with these people that looked so needy, so friendless, and so hopeless. I grabbed my translator and beginning with the creation, told the story of why God created us and His desire for us to know Him personally. As I shared, I felt a great connection with these beautiful people that God created and placed in this part of the world. I do not even remember most of the things that I shared with them, but I do

remember desperately wanting them to know Jesus and the love and mercy He offers.



As I finished sharing, I asked if any of them would like to repent from following after idols and false gods and instead trust in Jesus Christ. About ten to fifteen people raised their hands and actually prayed out loud with me acknowledging their sinfulness and placing their faith in Jesus. I couldn’t help but think of the verses in Matthew that say “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Thank you Lord for revealing yourself to these poor and needy people and thank you for letting us be used in the process.



Thoughts from Sarah

God has provided me with an incredible ministry opportunity and I am eager to share this blessing with all of you! It's been quite a few years since my last mission trip to Russia and a lot has changed in that time. The Lord has taught me so much just in the past year! I can see Him working in my life everyday and showing me what it really means to live for Him. He has given me such a passion for studying the Word and already I can feel him calling me into ministry for the rest of my life! I know from experience how scary it can be, but I can't imagine a better way to spend a lifetime. My heart for international missions can sometimes make me feel like I'm just waiting until I can go somewhere and be used by God. But, quickly, I am reminded of how much ministry there is left to do in our own country! In fact, I think the past few months have been God's way of saying "Welcome to missionary life 101!" especially as we are preparing to make our third move this year!

After all this "training", I am thrilled that He has opened the door for me to go on another mission trip. I will be traveling with East-West Ministries International to India and Nepal from October 27th until November 9th. We will be putting on a crusade and are praying as many as 20,000 people to come hear the gospel! While I hate to use numbers, I hope that this figure will help communicate the size of what we will be working to put together. I was once told that when doing ministry you should "do something so big that it will definitely fail...unless God shows up." I am extremely grateful to be singing as a part of the worship team who is leading the crusade. But I am more excited to be a part of something that is begging God to show up!

I am writing in hopes that you too will be a part of our team and you don't even have to travel all the way to India to do that! God has graciously raised many financial partners to make my trip possible, but more than anything else I need your support in prayer! We will be sharing Christ' love in a very hostile place, but I feel safe in the center of God's Will, knowing that you are lifting me up in prayer each day! I am so thankful for your support and am glad to share with you in the joy of doing God's work!

For His glory,
Sarah

PRAY THAT:

-It would be nothing that we say, as messengers, but instead it would be the simple gospel that penetrates the hearts of the people of India and Nepal

-God will be working in hearts of the people even before we go

-God is glorified in all our efforts

-God will show up....in a BIG way!!!