



...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

NEWSLETTER

THE BOOK OF LIFE

IN THIS ISSUE

WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

"We don't care about COVID. We just need the way to eternal life. Send us missionaries!"

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

"Remember, a small light will do a great deal when it is in a very dark place."

WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

Thirty-five years ago, a tribal chief in South America kicked out the missionary from his tribe, telling him to never come back.

Two years ago, our local partners were able to do some work by helicopter in his area again. Since then, the chief, now an old man, sent a message to the missionary saying, *"I am old now and need to know the way to eternal life."* A few weeks ago, he emerged from the jungle tribe after days of hiking to meet that same missionary whom he had kicked out and said to him, *"I'm sorry, forgive me."* The missionary invited him to study the Bible with others, who were studying Revelation 21, where it talks about heaven:

"Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

At the end of the study, the chief said he wanted to pray too. He said, *"Dear God, my name is X. I ask you to write my name in the book of life."*

Unreached remote tribes in South America are desperate to hear the Gospel and have recently been sending

the following messages:

"We don't care about COVID. We just need the way to eternal life. Send us missionaries!"

"We realise you can't send missionaries to all our tribe (in an area 1.5 times the size of Scotland). Just share the Gospel with us and we will go throughout our tribe and share it with the others."

One tribal man said that he needed help with alcohol and other issues. Sadly, he was found face down in the river a few days later. Others then cried out that they too were in bondage and needed help. *"We do not want to end up like the guy face down in the river!"*



Aerial photo of helicopter landing in a jungle clearing in South America.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

D.L. Moody once said, "Remember, a small light will do a great deal when it is in a very dark place."

There is a festival called the Kumbh Mela. It's a religious Hindu festival that is celebrated four times over the course of 12 years. The site of the observance rotates between four pilgrimage places on four sacred rivers in India. The festival can last several weeks and is one of the largest festivals in the world, attracting up to 200 million people at times.



Millions gather at the Kumbh Festival
(Source: bbc.com)



Kumbh Festival-goers (Source: apnews.com)

This year, in April, approximately 9.1 million Hindu devotees gathered at Haridwar on the Ganges to bathe in the river despite wide criticism and opposition because of Covid. Hindus believe the river is holy and taking a dip in it will cleanse them of their sins and bring salvation. One member of the Kumbh Mela organising committee said, "Our faith is the biggest thing for us. It is because of that strong belief that so many people have come to take a dip in the Ganga. They believe that Maa [mother] Ganga will save them from this pandemic" (ABC News).

When the devotees returned home in crowded trains and buses, they spread the virus in villages and towns nationwide. As a result, thousands of people are paying with their lives. My husband and I receive daily news of people dying, messages from people in India asking if we know of hospitals that have oxygen for their sick friends and family, and stories from mission hospitals where we worked that are overwhelmed with cases and don't have the proper equipment. In a sense, we are far removed from the reality of this pandemic in Australia. We retreat to our comfortable homes every night and watch the news from a distance. We grumble when there is another lockdown. We quickly conclude that there's not much we can do.

Let me ask you this: What if these millions of unreached people had heard at least once about Jesus Christ? How much of a difference would it have made for the pandemic in India if instead of believing that their sins would be washed away by the Ganga, these people had believed that Jesus Christ had already died for their sins? The sad reality is that with or without Covid, by not knowing Christ as their Lord and Saviour, their lives are condemned to eternal separation from God. Jesus came into this world to reconcile us to God, so that we could have eternal life. Are we following in His footsteps and sharing the good news with people who have never heard this? Imagine what a little bit of light in that incredibly dark Kumbh Mela would have done?



Covid or not, the gospel of the kingdom "will be preached in the whole world" (Matthew 24:14). Make sure that you're a part of it!

Mailyis
PA to the CEO

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