

## An Awesome 3 weeks ministering to New Life Fellowship (NLFA)

### Leaders & Churches in India

A brief report by John & Yvonne Walton:

In April just gone we were privileged to take over thirty meetings in Mumbai, Miraj and Pune. The main leaders of these regions welcomed us with great kindness, and a hunger to hear. Pastors Shelton & Melissa Davidson were such a blessing; they arranged most of our itinerary. Pastors Shanthkumar and Christopher Roberts opened doors in Pune and Miraj. (Miraj is 7 hours by road south of Mumbai; a city of 500,000.) We raised money to by some pastors in that area five new motorbikes, they need another fifteen.

We found the leaders were of such high calibre and integrity. In most areas pastors struggle with limited resources as they work tirelessly among the poor and underprivileged - we so admired them and helped where we were able. Overall the works of NLFA are vast and growing rapidly, but the church planting is only limited by the financial resources available to support pastors and evangelists. In Mumbai some new NLFA works are succeeding among the richer and educated people.



Shelton's awesome NLFA leaders

Shankar, an incredible young pastor in Mumbai, took us through a terrible slum of 80,000 people. He was brought up there, his father died when he was two and his mother an alcoholic; he got himself educated and now he has a burden and plan to win thousands in several slums; in that slum he has 80 house group churches held in tiny one room houses. Entering the slum you move through a maze of narrow one metre wide filthy, stinking passages. Houses of one room and one bed have up to 15 people - plus rats. The houses leak badly; we bought tarpaulins to cover 100 of the Christian houses or rather shacks - cost Rm8000 about NZ\$240. The slum near the NLC offices has 300,000 gypsies living there. These slums flood badly causing horrible diseases. Most don't know how to read or write. Hundreds are coming to Christ and NLFA workers are establishing education programs because the people can't read or write. Shankar and his workers have to give the house group leaders verbal lessons which they pass on by memory. Sadly all these slums are next to posh housing and politician's apartments.



Trophies in Mumbai Slum - 500 saved

Throughout the trip we kept great health even though it was the hot season it didn't prove a worry. It was a wonderful privilege to minister among these people. Wow! there is so much to tell.

Love & blessings,

John & Yvonne (Walton)

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