

April 2, 2007

### **Kalimpong, the crossroads of the East**

The Bible women in North Bengal are real heroes. Many years I have watched these young women travel in pairs to villages and minister to families. It is extremely dangerous work. You are among fanatic, male dominated religious areas where law and order are fragile at best. Women have very little protection, even from their husbands. Most women have no opportunity for an education. They are married off by 12-16 years of age. Their life is one of hard work 24/7 and rarely do they live long lives.

These young ladies come and teach literacy and stay in villages, not in secure hotels, but bamboo, mud homes with no doors. They often sleep outdoors. I have always been amazed at their courage. They are persecuted for their faith.

Rosie is one young lady Partners has supported for many years doing this type of work. Her face has always reflected an amazing joy and she is always ready to assist all visitors to this area in North Bengal. Rosie was married several years ago but continues to minister with North Bengal Mission.

She and her husband are not able to have children. It was a surprise to find out that she had an 11 year old girl, an orphan that she had adopted six years ago. She also has a son about 5 years old.

Jack Ninaber and I were playing with the kids in the playground. Most of the boys play with other boys and the girls the same. Yet I noticed this 11 year old girl and the little boy had an unusual bond. They played together continually.

I was delighted to learn they were Rosie's children, but their story was even more unusual. After Rosie adopted her daughter, Anjalie (it means loved one), Anjalie was playing with friends in a nearby town. A mother in the town had died leaving the infant to be raised by her father. Incredibly, the father died a few months later leaving the boy with no one to care for him.

Little Anjalie ran and told her mother about the boy. She had obviously learned her mother's compassion and care for others. Rosie immediately came to find the baby near death, not even able to hold up his head. She nursed him back to life and as the picture shows, he is a vital, fun little guy who loved to be tickled when pushed on the swing.

This one little family powerfully illustrates to me, the transforming power of Truth through His people. Children die daily here and no one seems to care, except the Christians who value life as sacred. These children will grow up to be influential multipliers in the Kingdom.



We have been continually on the move these past days. Jack Ninaber, has been keeping his BLOG up-to-date throughout the trip ([www.jsninaber.blogspot.com](http://www.jsninaber.blogspot.com)) You can view some of his impressions of the trip.

We have moved from north east India. We flew Bagdogra to Calcutta. We spent another evening with kids from Calcutta's slums who are ministered to by Vivekananda Mukhopadhyay (say that 10 times fast); breakfast with Ashok Andrews, a wonderful Bible teacher and leader of ministry in North India.

We are now in Kathmandu, trying to avoid traffic jams caused by Maoist demonstrators. They are marching, filling the city in support of a constitutional change which includes them in government. We have seen some beautiful sights. The 'white' in the picture below are not clouds. They are 9000 metre peaks we were privileged to see this morning!



We are traveling many miles on dangerous roads over the next few days. Thanks for remembering us.

Phil Dempster  
Jack Ninaber

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