

1 June 2015

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. “ - 1 Thessalonians 4:9

Loving the Unloved

“Women are considered burdens and treated as property. Even by their own families.”

India

It's hard being a woman in India. Women are expected to be quiet and respectful, never speaking out or disagreeing. But it gets worse.

The disrespect, violation of rights and utter degradation women experience in India are unthinkable. This disregard of life and value is seen in the



occurrence of female infanticide.

Adam Jones of the **Gendercide Watch** said female infanticide was, “arguably the most brutal and destructive manifestation of anti-female bias that pervades “patriarchal societies.”

It can be tough to pinpoint exact numbers because many infants in third world countries die due to poor conditions, but there is no doubt, female infanticide is fairly common in parts of India. Studies have even concluded, “female infanticide is rampant,” in cer-

tain locations. (Karlekar, 1995) (Jones, A, 2013)

Women are considered burdens and treated as property. Even by their own families. Many Indian women don't feel safe in

public. By going out, a woman is taking a real risk that she'll be groped. (Gupta, 2014)

This dehumanizing also leads to sexual abuse, assault and harassment without consequence or guilt.

Eighty-percent of the women in New Delhi, India, said they have been at least sexually harassed or worse. (101 East, 2012) Four-fifths of women in New Delhi fear for their safety on the streets. (NDTV, 2012)(Ghosh, 2012)

And these statistics are more likely representative of affluent women from the upper castes. Incidents in the lower caste are far less likely to be reported because of police corruption or lack of law en-



forcement presence. (Ghosh, 2012)

A widow in a lower caste, for example, is mostly considered a burden. If her means of provision is gone, she'll move in with extended family. She'd be the last possible candidate in competition for any open positions - even if by some miracle she had the skills necessary. Her inability to add monetary value to the family translates into having no value as a person.

She is virtually ignored in her

(Continued on page 2)



Romania



Dr. Nic with his dear wife Cornelia and his ever present infectious smile.

As we go to press, we received an email from our dear friends and partners, **Adi and Ema Ban**, in **Oradea, Romania**. Ema writes,

“This morning my father left this life of pain and

suffering, and went to be with the Lord. Our hearts are heavy, yet we are comforted in knowing he is enjoying the immeasurable richness of the heavenly realms. Also, we are so grateful to the Lord for a life well-lived for His glory, for sacrifices made for His kingdom and for a legacy that will not fade with time.”

Dr. Nic Gheorghita was a Champion. Dr. Nic, as he was known, was a world renown endocrinologist during the Communist Cold War. Dr. Nic was fearless in his commitment to Christ, standing up continually to the heavy handed Communist establishment who persecuted Believers at every chance.

Bill Bathman, ITMI’s Founder and Dr. Nic were dear brothers in Christ, who together preached the gospel all over Romania during the Communist years, many times under the cover of a darkened

meeting place, in order to not expose the local Christians.

Dr. Nic and his dear wife, companion, and co-laborer **Comelia**, secretly translated and retyped on an old mechanical typewriter the Bible and any Biblical books, they could get smuggled into Romania. They then had an intricate system distributing this highly valued material to the underground church.

Almost everyone in the evangelical communities knew, as Dr. Nic described himself, the “fair, red headed gypsy boy” who became one of the most nationally known preachers in all of Romania.

Maybe we can get Bill Bathman to share some of the many, many stories of Dr. Nic’s courage, fearlessness and faith in his Heavenly Father, as he continually stood up and was counted as a Christ

home. Even her own children will likely come to regard her as invisible and worthless as they observe how the other adults around them treat her.

So, what does it look like for these women to live as a preview of God’s Kingdom over and against Indian culture? To demonstrate as well as declare that we are all created good and highly valued by God? To break through caste lines, because Jesus really did come for all? To live as if the ground really is level at the foot of the cross?

ITMI partners and church planters, **Paul and Molly Yuvaraj**, are changing Indian culture in their church in four ways.



“Mama” Molly gathers her girls around and they experience having a real loving mother and daddy.

Offering Themselves

Molly, an American woman, was given a vivacious, gregarious and some might even say boisterous personality. Years ago, she left her family in Arizona to minister to women in India. Particularly near and dear to her heart were the unwanted girl babies being left and killed in Southern India.

While serving in India, she met and married Paul, an Indian believer whose whole family is involved in ministry from all angles. Paul’s father was a pastor, and his family had started multiple outreaches to the undervalued lower caste in India, including a thriving sports ministry and other outreaches for youth.

Like Jesus binding all His cosmic greatness into the confines

of a human body to reach and save His people, in an obviously smaller, yet significant way, Molly chose to reign in her God-given personality in order to minister in India. She willfully lays down her own rights as an American woman to become like those she wants to reach. She incarcerates her people-loving free spirit in favor of head wraps, measured and sometime silent compliance and difficult lan-

guage barriers.

But as a pastor’s wife, she is still expected to carry much of the pastoral care for the women in the congregation. The sometimes painful challenge for Molly is that she fluent only in English and much of the lower caste citizens only speak the local Tamil language. Before and after services, Molly is often asked

(Continued on page 3)

follower, even when it could have cost him an extended prison sentence.

We have lost a champion. We have lost a sterling example of someone that continually lived “outside the boat” in a life that was filled with human sharks and crocodiles. We would do well to now step into Dr. Nic’s very, very large shoes, take the baton and carry on the fight.

We are quite sure that Dr. Nic has already heard, “...well done, good and faithful servant.”



Bill Bathman and Dr. Nic sharing an old book and a few old stories of God's protection and provision.

Poland



Andrew and Anna Gorski are super excited with the progress of their “Life on Life” discipleship groups. Andrew shares, *“Last week we’ve started training leaders on how to lead discipleship groups. There will be nine new groups, so statistically around 30 people will be led into maturity according to Jesus’ model.”*

Gospel Joy’s evangelism program is so successful, this month Andrew will speak and share Gospel Joy to 750 leaders who are attending the **European Leadership Forum**. Pray for Andrew as he shares God’s unique program for Poland’s needy souls.

South Sudan

Jahim Buli shares this month that the economy in South Sudan is almost completely destroyed. Even if Jahim had money, he couldn’t even purchase clean bottle water. The roads are almost completely empty due to there is no gasoline. You will remember that Jahim’s means of income is to give people taxi rides on his *gas* powered motorbike. With no fuel, he is left to seek God for modern day manna.

Jahim says that he is not leaving the country like the many thousands of South Sudanese currently are. “Who will stay and shepherd these people in this most needy time, [if I leave]?” “Who will model a faith and trust in God’s provision?” Jahim wearily states. Please pray for Jahim. This is really all he is asking for at this time. He so much wants his Western “brothers and sisters” to pray for wisdom, strength and supernatural provision for him, his family and the Body of Christ in South Sudan.

(Continued from page 2)
by a line of widow women from the church- in the Tamil language - to pray with and for them over a specific and sometimes horrific needs.

This is an important aspect of Molly’s role as a pastor’s wife, most likely due to Hindu cultural beliefs,

somewhat still being unlearned by these ladies, that infiltrate the fabric of Indian society; those in authority are more highly regarded and valued by whatever powers that be.



God communicates His love through Molly’s touching and prayers.

These same women often share later with Molly’s mother-in-law how the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to them, and gave them answers about the very challenges they asked Molly – in Tamil - to pray about as she prayed in - English!

What a blessing for these undervalued women to know that God is working and overcoming language barriers for their



benefit. That they matter to Him.

Declaring and Demonstrating Unity and Biblical Value

Paul and Molly’s church, Harvest Bible Chapel India, has a higher than expected percentage of widows. Many lower caste men perish due to squalor conditions and lack of health care for the lower caste, deaths from the harrowing traffic of the crowded, unruly streets of India, or suicide due to the hopelessness of their life as members of lower castes. There are far more suicides than people want to talk about.

Paul surgically works at pulling down the cultural untruths from the pulpit and other teaching programs, but as we can all attest, changing the way of thinking of the 1.3 billion Indian people, that have been ingrained by culture for so long, can take much time and much repetition. Only God can change hearts and minds. Paul and Molly are working hard to ensure the culture of



Hope and life is found within the ministries that Paul and Molly are creating.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

their church is a place where all are valued over and in stark contrast to the unloving labels of their intensely discriminating culture.

Valuing Anything They Have to Offer

Paul and Molly welcome and encourage the contributions of all - whatever they may be. For example, the uneducated widows in a lower caste who face ostracization and dismissal of value from everyone - even their own family - are eager to offer something of value to the church. Often



this is using what they know - cooking and cleaning - to serve. While this may sound outlandish to an American ear, this is one way these women can be shown that

they matter. What they have to offer matters.

Creating Jobs for Lower Caste Widows

Indian traffic patterns, self-contained neighborhood layouts, and high volume of pedestrian traffic make the small corner grocery store a mainstay of Indian culture. ITMI wants to help Paul open a grocery store, for outreach and where many of the widows could work, earning income. This would not only build their skills but allow them to contribute to their families.

Changing their status from unvalued to contributors would cause the real-world experience of these women to more closely match the true value placed on them by the God who sent His only, valued Son to die in their place.

Please continue to pray for Paul and Molly as the persecution of Christians and ministry are escalating on a weekly basis. Much of the good work that Paul and Molly do must be carried out "under the radar" due to irrational and sometimes violent actions of those that oppose Jesus and what Jesus calls us to do.

Also pray for their church as they are trying to acquire and refurbish a new church building, capable of holding the growing number of Indians who find sweet rest and hope within the walls of this alive and unique spiritual lighthouse. Thank you again for your willingness to put your fingerprints all over this special couple and special ministry. Paul and Molly send their heartfelt love and appreciation...as well as their invitation to be one of their partners.

- Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

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ITMI Board Member, Erik Thompson values Paul and Molly's girls with his attention to their artwork.

For Praise . . .

1. **India - Paul and Molly** - Much amazement and praise for how God is helping renovate their new church home.
3. **Poland - Andrew/Anna Gorski** - So thankful for what God is doing in the lives of these genuinely "seeking" Polish young people.
4. **Uganda - Kawede** - Thankful for a difficult yet successful "Portable Bible School" that brought church leaders to Christ.
5. **South Africa - Charl van Wyk** - Stone Hill Ministry's 1st "container" gym bldg is installed and already drawing the community in.

For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - Wisdom and supernatural provision during the collapse of the South Sudan economy and society.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Wisdom and insight as they move ahead in setting up a grocery business for the widow women.
3. **Zambia - John Jere** - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. **Zambia - Tim/Ashley Keller** - An ultrasound has detected some abnormalities in their fourth child's development.
5. **South Africa - Kelly and Cherise Smith** - Pray for wisdom as two new families integrate into this intense ministry to Zulus.
6. **DRC Congo** - Charl asks for prayer for the believers there who are experiencing the unrest of rebel fighting and persecution.

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