



# Patel News

## Agra, India

**March/April 2009**

**Romans 10:15a – “And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”**

Dear Friends,

### Praise Items

1. New Believers
2. Baptism of 22 souls on Good Friday
3. Faithful witness of our people
4. Above average attendance
5. Continual provision for the ministry

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, our church family bid farewell to a faithful member, deacon, loving husband, and father. Bro. Robin went home to be with the Lord after a battle with Multiple Myeloma. He will forever be remembered for the legacy he left behind – a legacy in which the Lord Jesus Christ was first in his life, his home, and in his everyday tasks. He could say with the Apostle Paul, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” The family, at Bro. Robin’s request, brought him home from the hospital to spend his last days on earth with those he loved: his family and his church family. During those four days, his testimony shone with the fruits of the Spirit, guided many reckless lives to the cross, preached powerful sermons, encouraged the despairing, and gave priceless hope to the family that he has not “gone,” but has only “gone on before us.” Please keep in prayer his precious family, who are all serving faithfully in our church. His wife Rita serves as our nursery director; his daughter Jenny is our church secretary, children’s tutor, Sunday school teacher, and youth worker; his son Raju and daughter-in-law Shiya lead in our youth ministry, AWANA program, and church music.

We try to include a ministry of Faith Church in each newsletter so you can pray specifically for that outreach. In the last newsletter, we asked you to pray for our AWANA Program, a Sunday evening ministry involving approximately 95 children ages 3 to 19, and 20 teachers and helpers. It is a wonderful way to minister to children. They learn to memorize many Bible verses; are counseled about dealing with issues such as sin, character traits, Godly behavior, etc.; and learn the importance of sharing the Gospel. Also, during this time, Sis. Becki and I lead an English Bible Study for single, college/career young people. We are averaging about 22. Bro. Mani, my assistant pastor, teaches an adult Hindi Bible class and averages about 40. His wife, Sis. Nisha, teaches a Hindi Bible class to ladies who have never learned to read or write; they average 20. As you can see, our Sunday evenings have become a great time to disciple the whole family. Please continue to pray for this special ministry of our church.

### Special Prayer Requests

1. Spiritual growth of new believers
2. Comfort for family of Bro. Robin (some spiritual needs in siblings)
3. Our church leaders and families
4. Grace Church in Gurgaon
5. Greater numbers reached for Christ

Thank you for praying for our Good Friday and Easter services. It was our privilege to baptize 22 new believers on Good Friday. Bro. Babu, pastor of Grace Church in Gurgaon, and 8 of his church members joined us for this special service, having 4 new believers from Grace to be baptized. We rejoice at what God is doing in the hearts of those who have trusted Christ as their Savior recently. Please pray that these folks will continue to trust Christ for strength and wisdom during the difficult days of opposition they often face from family and society.

The new churches in Kenya are growing, both in number and in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Two women were saved there on Easter Sunday. The message of the cross and empty tomb is still powerful enough to meet the needs of empty lives without Christ. Please be faithful to pray for these new works in Kenya, Africa, as you pray for our churches here in India.

Again, thank you for being involved with us in establishing a church in Agra, India. You are a vital part of this ministry and its various outreaches, and now, its sister churches. We covet your prayers. God bless!

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