

January 29, 2014

Beloved praying friends:

By the grace of God we reached Nagpur, India, safely on Thursday, January 16th. During our long 32-hour journey, I was reminded several times of the precious partnership of many of you dear saints who intercede on our behalf before the Throne of grace. I thank the Lord for the answered prayers in granting us journey mercies and praise Him for His goodness and kindness in providing co-laborers like you. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says "For we are laborers together with God."

We continue to covet your prayers as we are in the process of getting readjusted. We are grateful that after so many visits to several government offices we finally were granted a broad-band connection yesterday. We often have to repeat such visits for almost every permit that we need for basic stuff, including a ration card permit for a cooking gas cylinder. We were able to receive that permit but will have to pay three times more than Indian residents, and will get one cylinder only after every 21 days. Now that we have broad-band connection, we will thankfully be able to communicate better via email etc. One must learn to enjoy it while it works though. The telephone official has warned us of interruptions in the line due to a fault in an underground cable under a major highway, which would take a major project to correct.

One of the major readjustments for me here always is getting used to the roads full of potholes, as well as the crowded driving conditions. As far as I know, once you register your vehicle with the local Transport department, you get a one-time license tag number and then you can drive it on the road forever. You are not required to do any vehicle inspections, nor any written test for the operator's license. All you need to do is to pass your driving test. Besides that, it seems very few folks have any respect for the law and order. Drugs are plentifully available. Also in the last couple of years, vehicles (especially motorcycles) have seemed to multiply by the hundreds. That creates havoc on the roads which are already filled with many stray animals, especially the holy cows. It sounds funny, but it is true! One has to get used to the car horn sounds all around you and you have to learn to honk your vehicle horn when you see any moving object before you. I think the water buffaloes and the cows are so used to these sounds that they do not bother or care to move out of your way!

We live in a little village called WadDhamna that has open sewers all around which is a huge breeding ground for mosquitoes. So far most of our solutions are failing to protect the family from these sting-giving friends, including sprays, mosquito nets and screens around the windows. I hope that just like the locals, we all will get used to and immune to these bites soon.

The last Lord's Day, the 26th of January, was a celebration of India's Republic Day which is a national holiday. In the wee hours, several loud speakers around our place all at once began playing different songs and prayer chants. It was quite a chaotic

celebration filled with confusion that went till noon. The saints were gathered for corporate worship at 9:30a.m., but the noise level outside was so high that we could hardly hear each other in the assembly. Yet the Lord was gracious to us in granting His sweet presence through the hymns and the preaching of His Word.

Speaking of His graciousness and His sweet presence, my heart is bubbling with joy as I have been meeting with the dear saints here. It is such an encouragement and blessing to hear of the mighty power of God enabling His own to walk with the Master in the midst of many trials. It is also comforting to know "...that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6).

Last week we were able to make a 150 km round-trip to the town of Kondhali and to a village called Heti where we enjoyed a time of worship and fellowship with the brethren there.

I am so thankful that our God has been graciously enabling me to focus upon my beloved Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim His precious Gospel in this needy land. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..." (Romans 1:16)

My wife Anita, our children and the brethren here join me in greeting you.

Your servant for Christ Jesus,

Prem Waghmare

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