

--- On Sat, 1/31/09, Michele Rickett mrickett@sistersinservice.org

Hi to everyone!

Just wanted to thank you for praying for my India trip over the last weeks. We were blessed!

Had an amazing time with Indian coworkers and leaders who work with Sisters In Service - our first SIS sponsored 4-day conference for them near Chennai in Mahalabalipurim on the coast. We surveyed the workers before we set everything up - to find out what their pressing concerns might be - each leader has team of women they lead ... some lead hundreds, so we were interested to know what would help them the most : 1.) women's health, 2.) conflict resolution topped the list ... so we had a women's health professional go with us (during three sessions she was inundated with questions and wife's tales), we asked the "elder" Indian woman among us to teach us Indian traditional dance (she gave up after half an hour ... We Americans were hopeless). Each day I brought the serious messages from the Word on hidden, mysterious treasures - gems beneath the surface of natural things, and ended with "how tos" and my own (often humiliating) examples as a woman in ministry, resolving conflict... praying and working to do all in a Christ-honoring way.

Back to Chennai God allowed us to experience the micro-enterprise/discipleship work in a few slum areas which SIS is funding. Very hands on... (I made soap powder with my own hands!), and the last days we went to Hyderabad to gather 120 middle and higher cast Christian women from 9 churches in Hyderabad and Secunderabad to challenge them to steward their lives for outreach to destitute women and girls in India. The response was dramatic! Women were galvanized to work together - to mobilize prayer and resources within India to work together!

We also connected with some of the Indian evangelist women we've trained, sent and support to extend the gospel in hostile Orissa, using simple, but powerful micro-enterprise training - candle-making, animal husbandry, soap and disinfectant-making, primary health... They have been hiding in the jungle from attacks of militant Hindus, but made their way to Hyderabad last week. One young, single woman, MonaLisa (really, that's her name), is planning to head back to her work in Orissa, though her home (a shack) was burned down. Please pray for protection and great fruit from her courageous witness.

On a lighter note, I accidentally left my tiny travel pouch behind, and I wasn't exactly sure where. No big deal, except for all my credit cards, a little money, and most importantly, my International Immunization Record ... which I need to get into the country of Mali THIS month! I contacted our friends in India yesterday. They tracked down my bag. It has been sitting in the taxi floorboard awaiting my call. No kidding! The taxi has been sitting, unused since it took our little team to the airport to depart the country. I called to have DHL ship the documents to my office by next week ... in plenty of time for my next ministry trip. Just another tiny miracle for one of His dumb sheep. Thank you, Lord!

Thanks so much for covering us in prayer. I will be away a lot (typical for me at this time of year) nearly every weekend this month. I'll miss my home church family ... speaking in California at the World Christian Chinese Conference, then at Moody Graduate School Women's Spring Conference, then heading for Mali to celebrate graduates we've funded - cast off girls, girls who were given as "temporary wives" to traveling businessmen, now live ostracized in shame. We have built and funded a daycare for their children, with a meal and tutoring, so the young mothers can complete a 9 month vocational, health, literacy, discipleship program, and are awarded a sewing machine to restart their lives. Almost all in the program are animist/Muslim/illiterate, so this is a nine month opportunity to consider Christ. Pray for many to give their lives to him. A team of N.American women, including SIS W.Africa director, are going with me to put on the celebration. At least one on our team is a novice. Please pray specifically that we would be careful servants - not drawing hostility toward the local Christians by our efforts to do good in this very difficult place.

Daniel heads for a conference in Michigan this coming Thursday to speak on Leading Change in the Church, and stop by to spend time with his mother. We are making arrangement for her care as she shows increasing signs of Alzheimer's. We are hoping to bring her to GA soon.

I hope you can make a way to get this report to our church family for prayer. We need the strength of God's family, offering much prayer to push back the darkness! Thanks for all you do for Him!

Yours and His,

Michele

Michele M. Rickett
President & Founder

Sisters In Service

11095 Houze Rd., Suite 200 +1 (770)552-1400 Local

Roswell, GA 30076 USA +1 (770)552-1402 Fax

www.SistersInService.org +1 (877)552-1402 Toll-free