

Streams of Life Newsletter

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If you would desire to financially support Streams of Life Ministries work in prison and churches, you are welcome to give, as you are able. All donations are tax deductible, and will be followed with a receipt to the donor.

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STREAMS of Life

Prison Ministries
Presents

"Tales of the Incarcerated 2006"

Presented by Delmar Weaver & Del Burkholder

Gospel Music by Hearts for Correction

Sunday, October 15th at 7.00 PM at the Hinkletown Mennonite Church

Everyone Welcome!!!

www.DelBurkholderMinistries.com
Brownstown, PA 17508
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STREAMS of Life

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Volume 1, Summer 2006

A trip to India is not something that one takes lightly. Neither does take place without a lot of planning and preparation. For Del Burkholder, his journey to India started long before his plane touched down. Before his trip, several ministries in India had contacted Del. One must always be careful when dealing with unknown ministries, but Del felt good about the ministry of Pastor Sambabu in Eluru and felt the Lord leading him to travel to India.

Del recruited Marc Hostetler to accompany him on the trip, someone who has had extensive experience in both travel and missionary work. Del's apprehension regarding the trip was quickly laid to rest. When they first met Pastor Sambabu, they quickly realized that he had wanted them in India for all of the right reasons. He had a vision for his country and wanted Del to not only preach the gospel to the lost in the city, but also train local pastors in leadership.

Del and Marc's time in Eluru consisted of doing pastoral trainings during the day and then preaching at night services

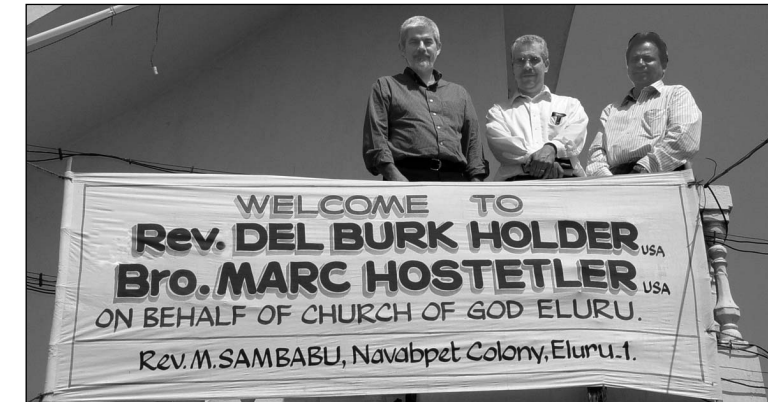


that included church-goers and the unsaved from the city. India is a predominantly Hindu culture, but one that is open to learning about other beliefs. However, if a family member converts to Christianity, it is seen as an affront to traditional Hindu values. During one particular night of ministry everything seemed to be going wrong. They had sound problems, Del felt his message had been less than his best, and insects had taken up residence in the meeting place. Despite all of that, when the altar call was given people responded. Not only that, but some of those that responded were Hindu women. These brave women were taking the risk of being driven out of their families or from their husbands.

The Christian church in India is growing rapidly. The government often deliberately understates the number of Christians to appease the Hindu majority. Converts often come from the lowest realms of society. The social order in India means that the poor often have the least to lose. Those in the high levels of government and society risk losing everything if they convert to Christianity.

Del really liked the Indian country and people. He felt that they were some of the most welcoming and selfless people he had ever met. Despite a language barrier, the people did their best to communicate and listened attentively to the translation into their native. Del and Marc were treated with honor, special meals were prepared and efforts were made to fatten up Del and Marc. Safety was another concern, and Pastor Sambabu made sure that they were accompanied on their train trips and to and from their hotel. Pastor Sambabu regarded Del and Marc as his responsibility and looked after them with care.

Any trip to a foreign country is not going to go perfectly. Despite some minor food mishaps, and some problems with the sound, the trip was a success. Del enjoyed himself and looks forward to possibly returning to India at some point in the future. Until then, he will continue to serve the Lord in Pennsylvania as he ministers in prisons all over the state. Remember to pray for Del as he continues this important work.



The Calling

When Tam and I would go on vacation in the past in New England, I would incorporate into our destinations trips to places where obscure religious cults were founded. In my study of cults I have found being at these out of the way places to be very pertinent to my firsthand learning of these groups. Often times as we traveled far and long to find these historic places while on our vacations, Tam would usually say, "Could you please tell me again why we are doing this?"

It was recently as I was traveling to Northern Pennsylvania on a Sunday to minister at a prison when this question came up again in my own mind, this time I asked myself the question It would be the first of two grueling trips in consecutive days to minister in prisons in Northern Pa. I was tired, having worked all week, away from the comforts of home and Tam and it was a beautiful Sunday Morning and I would be traveling most of the day.

Prison ministry is very frustrating at times; I had spent considerable time trying that week to get the ministry into several Prisons in Northwestern Pennsylvania and seemed to be rebuffed at every turn. Finding a chaplain in the prison is often nearly impossible and the state does not give the extensions voice mail so you can't usually leave a message. And when I do finally get a chaplain then you got to convince them that the ministry would be a benefit for their prison. And I know I am one of the few guys on earth who gets frustrated trying to get into prison. Sometimes I am convinced that to have a prison ministry I would be better off convicting a crime that way it would be easier to get into prison, to minister. Of course I am not serious but getting into the state correctional system is not always easy. Being associated with Jim Newsom helped immensely and Frackville and Mahoney were originally his ministries before he moved to Kentucky. But since then Streams of Life has added other prisons where the work of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the inmate is being done. Through the work of Delmar Weaver and others the prison ministry is growing. Even this week another prison has opened where I'll be going for the first time to minister to. The needs in prison are so great and our services have been so fulfilling and God truly is doing great things for us.

Waking up at four Am on a Sunday morning to travel and minister doesn't seem rational to many people, but it is a calling. And as I sat in my vehicle to travel back home after that service, I thought in my own mind, if hypothetically God would allow me to come back to earth and live life all over again. And I had a choice of what I would be doing, this is what it would be.

In the Master's Service,
Del Burkholder



Beyond "The DaVinci Code"

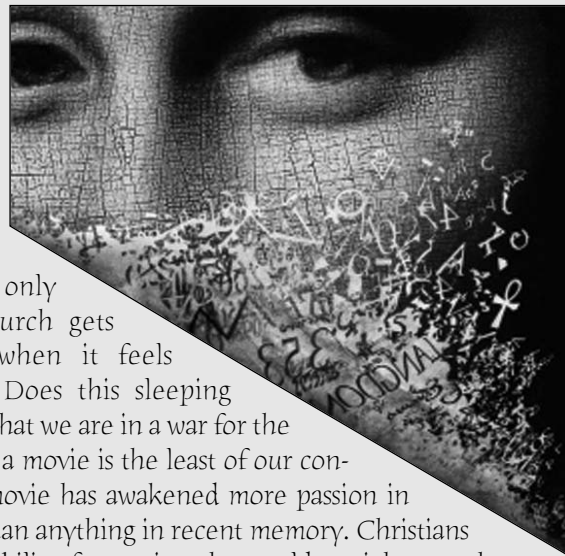
Events like the recent opening of "The DaVinci Code" movie and the "discovering" of the Gospel of Judas have dominated recent religious themed discussions both within the church and outside. Countless hours have been spent debating the authenticity of the facts put forth in each. I am not going to take up space exposing the fabrications in each; others have done that better than I ever could. Instead I want to explore the churches reaction, especially to "The DaVinci Code."

I think it is admirable that the church has responded so strongly and forcefully to the lies put forth in the Dan Brown's book and movie. There have been boycotts organized, and many church leaders have spoken out against it. The movie raised a different question in my mind. Why is it that the only time the church gets aroused is when it feels threatened? Does this sleeping giant realize that we are in a war for the lost, and that a movie is the least of our concerns? This movie has awakened more passion in the church than anything in recent memory. Christians bear responsibility for setting the world straight on whom Christ is, but doesn't this calling extend beyond "The DaVinci Code?" While the movie helps us illustrate what Christ isn't, everyday we are presented with an opportunity to show what Christ is.

It is easy to get caught up in issues like this, and miss the bigger picture. In Matthew 16:15 Jesus tells us to "Go into all of the world and preach the good news to all creation." Christ has called us to be proactive in the spreading of the gospel, not to merely defensively react to attacks on Christianity. Christians risk losing relevance in an ever-changing world if they only choose to expose themselves during debates such as this.

Issues like the "The DaVinci Code" serve an important purpose. They encourage dialogue about important issues and pushes conversations into areas they may not normally go. They present opportunities for Christians to share their faith and provide a bridge from the things of this world to the realm of Christ. Yes, we should not miss this opportunity, but let us always remember our ongoing responsibility to spread the word of Christ to a lost and dying world.

Jordan Martin



Thoughts and Impressions from our trip to Eluru, India (March 19-28, 2006)

God is so Amazing! When I'm exposed to situations outside of my daily routines, it marvels me to realize that God is everywhere and that he knows all things. Imagine how many prayers he is being asked to answer each day. That's something I can't even comprehend.

In a time zone 10 1/2 hours ahead of ours, a small church in Eluru, India was praying for upcoming evangelistic meetings. Praying that God would safely bring to them 2 brothers from the United States to share with them in carrying out the Great Commission. In the US, Hinkletown Mennonite Church commissioned Del Burkholder and myself to carry out the mission that God had placed on our hearts: to share His love with a community of people in India, through the ministry of the Church of God Eluru. This is a church that was started by Pastor M. Sambabu, in faithfulness to God's call.

Our week in India was full and challenging. We experienced a very warm welcome and great hospitality by pastor Sambabu and the church he is responsible for. We know that they walked by Faith in all the preparations for these meetings. We believe that God answered their and our prayers.

God has made His children all over the world unique individuals. We all need each other. Even though to an extent we carry our own cultures with us, I try to resist the temptation to be critical of our differences. It is so amazing how people from very different parts of the world can come together for a week and experience unity. That's because we belong to the same heavenly kingdom.

We experienced the joy that this local body of believers had in following Jesus. Praising God through singing in this fellowship was done with great enthusiasm. Many songs they sang were written by church members themselves. We also saw people committing (and recommitting) their lives to Jesus. Many came forward at the end of the evening meetings each night to be prayed for, for God's blessing to be upon them and for healing from various illnesses. We saw the joy that many had despite their very limited financial resources.

I came home having learned many lessons from these people, through their faith in Jesus and their persistence in prayer.

We have faith that God's purposes were accomplished through this visit. I pray that people were able to see Jesus in us, despite ourselves. To God be the glory.

Marc Hostetler



Summer Calendar of Events

June 12	Delmar Weaver	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
June 17	Del Burkholder	New Holland Park	New Holland, PA	5:00 PM
June 19	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
June 26	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 2	Del Burkholder	Forest Correctional	Marionville, PA	1:30 PM
July 3	Gerald Fox	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 10	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 16	Del Burkholder w/Hearts For Corrections	Frackville Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 17	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 23	Del Burkholder	Houtzdale Correctional	Houtzdale PA	8:30 AM
July 24	Delmar Weaver	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
July 31	Del Burkholder	Somerset Correctional	Somerset, PA	6:00 PM
July 31	Delmar Weaver	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
August 2	Del Burkholder	Middle Creek Brethren Church	Lititz, PA	7:00 PM
August 7	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
August 14	Delmar Weaver	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
August 16	Del Burkholder	Middle Creek Brethren Church	Lititz, PA	7:00 PM
August 21	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
August 22	Del Burkholder	Shippensburg Presbyterian Church	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM
August 29	Del Burkholder	Mahoney Correctional	Frackville, PA	6:00 PM

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