
PRISONERS *for* CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Don Szolomayer * Bob Jordan * Mark Havens

Upon arrival at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

India 2015

Prisoners For Christ has had ministry in Hyderabad for more than a decade with the great Indian evangelist Dr. Prem Raj Varma. Dr. Varma's reputation among the poor, the leper, the sick, the orphan, the widow, and especially the prisoner is widely known. Over the years he has amassed a large team of dedicated ministers, musicians, volunteers, and businessmen and works tirelessly in the ministry.



For this mission to India the team is led by Dr. Bob Jordan, who is ministering in Hyderabad for the fifth time, and this is his thirteenth foreign missionary campaign. Co-leader is Don Szolomayer, who is returning to Hyderabad for the third time, and this is his fifteenth PFC



foreign campaign. Rounding out the team is Mark Havens, who is returning to Hyderabad for the second time, and this is his fifth international missions trip. The team is a veteran team and well-experienced in PFC ministry, especially to Hyderabad. This is also the third time Bob, Don, and Mark have traveled together, having previously been together in 2013 in the Philippines and 2014 in Haiti.

Earlier in the year Bob was impressed by the Spirit of God to focus on the volunteers in India for the 2015 missions campaign to Hyderabad. Every time before PFC has held its customary volunteer conferences, and has canvased much of the region doing prison-wide evangelistic crusades, but this time the Lord was leading this mission in another direction. Thought it was not clear why, it was clear that the emphasis should be on the volunteer and not traveling far and wide visiting multiple prisons.

The PFC home office arranges the logistics with our overseas hosts with direction from the American team leader. Jill Payne-Holman, Sr. VP of Operations at Prisoners For Christ, worked diligently with Dr. Prem Raj, with input from Bob, on the agenda for the missionary campaign. As time developed the schedule was established with emphasis on the volunteers and visits scheduled to only four or at the most five prisons. Then the Indian Government imposed a moratorium on American prison volunteer access to the prisons, a first in our history that affected all American missionaries.

An event took place by an American team (in no way associated with PFC) that garnered national and even international attention that was done under illegitimate means, that betrayed a trust to the Indian Government, and that had the effect of all American ministry being shut down nationwide. This occurred on the eve (within three weeks) of our scheduled ministry in India.

Though Dr. Prem Raj is well-known and well-connected with the senior prison officials of not only the local prisons and jails, but also with the officials of the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh, and though he pursued the matter diligently and repeatedly and desperately, his



New State of Telangana is shown with blue border, the un-bordered white area is the current State of Andhra Pradesh. Formerly all of the white area was the State of Andhra Pradesh.

requests for access were regretfully denied. Thus PFC would not have any in-prison ministry on this trip.

It was now even clearer why the Lord was leading Bob and the team in focusing on ministry to the volunteer. With no access to the jails or prisons, we would have the time to focus on ministry to the volunteers in multiple conferences and targeted gatherings.

One thing new is the former state of Andhra Pradesh (the 5th largest in India) has divided into two states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. For now the central government offices in Hyderabad serve as the headquarters for both States, but in two years Andhra Pradesh will have its own capital city in its borders.

Following is what we refer to at Prisoners For Christ as our Block Calendar. It describes the three parts of a day in which we schedule events. It also becomes a summary of events as the final Block Calendar is always different than the original Block Calendar.

| Week 1 | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| # of Days | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Weekday | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu |
| Date | 10/30 | 10/31 | 11/1 | 11/2 | 11/3 | 11/4 | 11/5 |
| Morning | Dept Sea 9:40am Em Flt 228 | Arr Dubai 10:55am | Church of Christ 8am to 9:30am Church of S India 9:30am-12:30pm | Breakfast Planning Meeting, USA Team | Cultural Event | Basic Volunteer Conference | Advanced Volunteer Conference |
| Afternoon | Travel | Dept Dubai 2:50pm Em Flt 528 | Lunch Planning Meeting, USA and Indian Team | Leper Colony | Leper Colony | Basic Volunteer Conference | Advanced Volunteer Conference |
| Evening | Travel | Arr Hyderabad 7:50pm | Methodist Church 6pm - 8pm | Praise Service at home of Dr. Prem Raj, volunteers | Appt with Prison Official | Visit at Sister Hoglah's home, key Indian volunteer | Appt with Government Official |
| Hotel- City | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | Hyderabad Anmol Int'l |
| Week 2 | | | | | | | |
| # of Days | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | |
| Weekday | Fri | Sat | Sun | | | | |
| Week 2 | 11/6 | 11/7 | 11/8 | | | | |
| Morning | Shopping | Packing | Dept Dubai 3:15am Em Flt 227/Arr Sea 6:05am | | | | |
| Afternoon | Appt with Prison Official | Leadership Conference | | | | | |
| Evening | Jesus Calls Preaching and Prayer Service | Depart Hyderabad 9:20pm Em Flt 529/Arr Dubai 11:59pm | | | | | |
| Hotel- City | Hyderabad Anmol Int' | Hyderabad Anmol Int'l | | | | | |

Days 1 and 2 – Travel The campaign began as all campaigns begin, with the missionaries meeting at SeaTac airport in Seattle, Washington for the journey abroad. Up to this point each missionary has raised and/or funded their own campaign expenses, and the team has met for assignments and other preparations for the work before them. As always, each campaign member is responsible for the finances of their own campaign. As always, it's our donors and prayer warriors back home in America who make

the campaigns a tangible reality. Any rewards by the Master for any of our missionary campaign accomplishments are shared by those who prayed and gave to support the work.

With enthusiasm, optimism and energy the team left Seattle for the first leg of the trip to India. Our first destination city is Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. This is a first for us, a 14-hour flight (the most we have done before is perhaps 10 hours). We arrive in Dubai and find our way to the appropriate gate for the final flight to Hyderabad. We arrive in Hyderabad and gather our bags and meet with our beloved Indian team. Many have come out to greet us, as is the custom in this great city. After warm embraces and many photographs, along with the presenting of traditional Indian headgear and garlands, we depart for the hotel, unpack, arrange our things, and collapse into bed. It's been a long 24 hours of travel!



Dr. Prem Raj, daughter Monica, Don, Bob, Mark, Sister Salome, wife of Dr. Prem Raj

Day 3 – Churches As we arrived on Saturday evening we are invited to minister at three churches the following Sunday. It's an early rising affair, and for the morning services Don and Bob depart for the opening time of ministry.

All of the churches we attend on this day are large edifices that are used by many congregations with each congregation attending to a specific language and each congregation having its own pastor. In each of these churches there is a strong parallel to an American Catholic church. Though there was no statuary, there were about everything else that would be associated with a Catholic service. Don was raised as a Catholic and pointed out the many similarities.

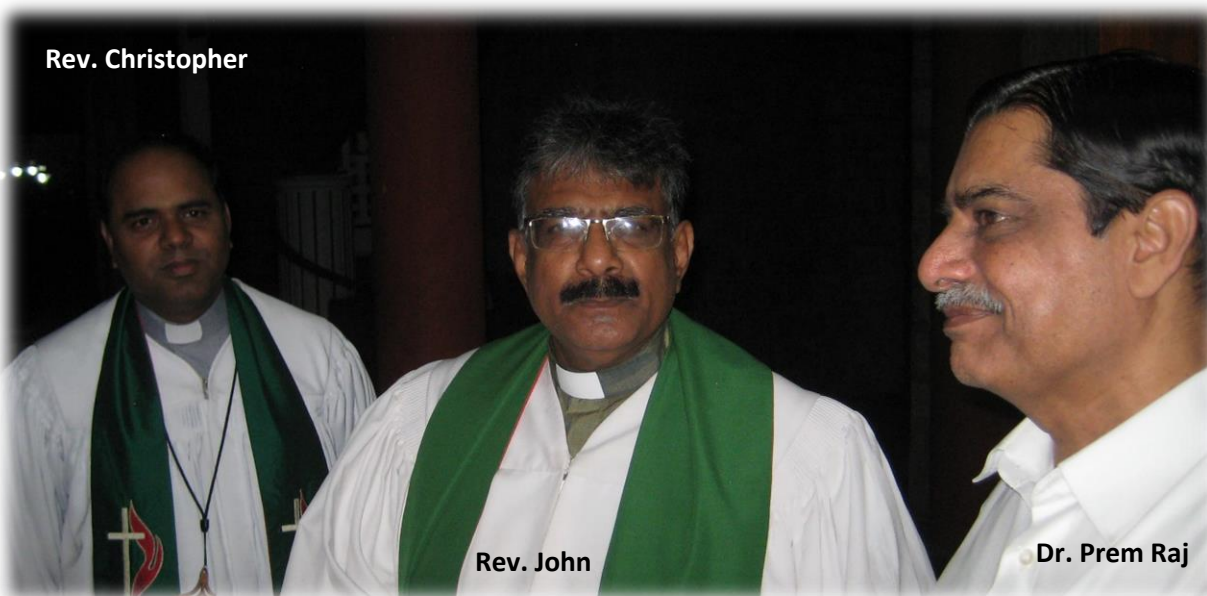
The first service is pastored by the Rev. Yu Daniel. Don shared about PFC and our purpose here, and gave his testimony. Bob preached on “The Heartbeat of God” from Matthew 25. There were over 200 in attendance.



The second service is pastored by Rev. Mani Nadava. Again Don shared his testimony and Bob preached on “Concerning Forgiveness” from Ephesians 4 and Colossians 2. There were more than 100 in attendance, and afterward there was an excellent Indian breakfast served at the church. It was a blessed time indeed.

The third service is pastored by Rev. Mathu John and associate pastor Rev. Christopher. It is nighttime now. Mark and Don each share their testimonies and Bob preached on “Believing God” from Hebrews 4.

Bob has spoken over the phone with Rev. John and Dr. Prem Raj earlier in the week and all men were eagerly anticipating meeting the others. It was a wonderful time together.



The preaching took between 30 and 40 minutes in each service. All three churches have elevated pulpits that had to be climbed into without much wiggle room! In the second and third services we participated in the Lord's Table. There was an excellent season of prayer at all services. We look forward to the time when we can come back, and we were invited back at all three churches.

Between the morning services and the evening services the American team met with Dr. Prem Raj to discuss the campaign. It is confirmed that we cannot enter the prisons. The will of the Lord be done. We have been prepared for this by the Holy Spirit. We also have a veteran team, a team that is prepared for this. Had we had new persons on the trip it could have been a major disappointment for them to not access the prisons. God knoweth. It is always our goal to have an open heart, and open mind, and walk through open doors. God has a plan for this campaign, and we follow His leading.

After the last church service, and after visiting, Enoch (son of Dr. Prem Raj and a real favorite with the PFC team as he's a stunt driver, newly married, a sharp businessperson, and an all around great kid) and the three Americans head out to a late dinner. The place we go to is in a rough part of town, looks very worn out from the outside, has slow service and zero atmosphere, but the food is to die for and there's tons of it and we order soft drinks and the bill for the four of us come to \$12 total (less than 800 rupees).



Day 4 – Leper Colony We arrange to meet and visit a very large leper colony. This is the colony we visited three years ago, at night. Today we visit during daylight hours. A leper colony has many persons living in it not affected by leprosy, but have family members that are. Also, there are children, none of whom are afflicted with leprosy. Bob as always carries hard candies with him and passes out candies to the children, to their delight and the delight of their mothers and fathers.

Because we are a prison ministry we seek to focus our attention on prison ministry matters, such as evangelistic campaigns inside the prisons, bringing humanitarian aid to the prisons, and training and equipping our volunteers. Yet we often make room for one or perhaps two non-prison ministry events, such as visiting orphanages, visiting churches, visiting displaced persons due to flooding or other matter and providing foodstuffs. For this campaign, along with the church services we choose one event, and that event was the leper colony.

The Holy Spirit awoke Mark early in the morning today and ministered to him a message for the lepers. As the American team gathered in the morning we discussed the ministry plan for the day. Mark shares what the Lord did earlier in the morning, and the team agrees that Mark will bring the main message at the leper colony, with Don as emcee. We arrive and perhaps 60 persons gathered to sing and hear the message. Mark ministered on the “Man of the Gadarenes” who was at the time he met Jesus not in his right mind, and afflicted, and separated from his family. Mark shared the message of how the man came into his right mind after receiving Christ Jesus, and how he want to go with Jesus, but Jesus had him stay with his community and testify of God’s goodness. Mark interwove his own testimony and added that many here would serve God in their community, just as the man in the Gospel of Mark chapter 5.



Dr. Prem Raj interpreted and read the scripture passage. Our Indian musician team was already at the leper colony when we arrived. It was touching to see persons hobbled, missing all or parts of their fingers, raising their hands and clapping during the singing.

After the service we went over and served the food and snacks we purchased for the 200+ persons of the colony. They are given a soup item generally, but today they had a more filling meal that PFC provided. Our efforts are a drop in the bucket to be sure, maybe a drop in the lake, but we did what we could with what we had when we could do it.

Mark went to the hospital with two huge kettles of food to serve those who could not attend the service. Many were in beds with bandages and in a very poor state. Bob and Don served food outside where the service was held. Even in the daytime the mosquitoes were out (three years ago at night it was almost unbearable). We will purchase some mosquito netting at the request of those how manage the colony. This used up our personal money as well as the little extra ministry money we brought. We thought it worth it and we believe our supporters would feel the same way too.

In reflecting on our time at the leper colony, it reaffirms to us the love of God. These men and women would have nothing outside of God's people bringing aid and showing them dignity. We are one of many ministries that have taken some small part in lightening their load. God has a place in His heart for the poor, the defenseless, the widow, the orphan, the sick, and the prisoner. God hasten the day when sin and sickness afflict the children of men no more, and God shall be their God now and ever more, amen.



After this we return to our hotel and rest before going to the home of our missionary evangelist Dr. Prem Raj Varma, where his lovely wife and daughter Monica along with their son Enoch and his new wife Ester, along with many prison volunteers, are gathered for an evening of praise, testimonies, ministry and fellowship. It is a delightful evening indeed!

Dr. Prem Raj invited us and other up to the dais and we shared one and all. Mark sang "O How Wonderful" and played the keyboard and he shared his testimony. Bob shared a message from the Book of Ruth and Don shared a message from the Book of 1 Samuel, both applicable to the India mission. Don spend a goodly amount of time over a tasty Indian meal talking with a new prospective prison volunteer, and young man with many questions, and he and Don connected and there was much ministry. Dr. Prem Raj and his family were as always gracious hosts. He and Bob have a deep bond and abiding love one for another and always have. We got back to the hotel right at midnight with full stomachs and full hearts!



Day 5 – Cultural Event; Visitations Today the team participated in a cultural event. In the city of Hyderabad is a very large man-made lake made before the first pilgrims reached the eastern seaboard of the United States. In the middle of this lake is a man-made island that has a 55-foot statue of Buddha (when he was a little slimmer...). Buddhism originated in India and many Buddhist the world over make the pilgrimage to India and neighboring Nepal for that reason. There was a short boat ride to the island where we walked around, read some of the history of the installation and then we headed back to shore. Of note the 55-foot tall statue was hewn out of a single piece of granite. Impressive. It was installed in 1992 and weighs over 370 tons.



Whilst at the leper colony the day before it was made known to us by the administrator (who has worked at the colony for 10 years and is a modest, humble young man) that mosquito nets could be very helpful. The government of India provides some of the medical needs of the colony, but like any institution they rely also on private donations. Since we had already provided a meal for some 200+ persons, the team thought it not proper to use ministry money for this additional need. We also were touched by the people at the colony and decided to each put in personal funds and thus we purchased 40 high-quality nets and returned to the colony to deliver them.

They were very well received. With Dr. Prem Raj interpreting, Bob shared how these nets were from concerned people in America and in India, and we appreciated the people graciously receiving us yesterday, and we wanted to bring these tokens of our appreciation for their kindness toward us.

The administrator had a list of 40 persons who were most in need of the nets and he had them assembled for us to meet. It was a blessed time, and we gave God thanks and praise again for his goodness toward all of us.





We left the colony and immediately proceeded to the Deputy Inspector General for Prisons in the state of Telangana. Mark and Bob remember him from three years ago when we visited him when he was superintendent of one of the prisons. Before this meeting we met with another Christian prison official we have also known from before. He explained again to us that all volunteer activity in the State of Telangana – Christian, Muslim, Hindu, anyone – has been suspended and will likely reopen in 2016. Even local Indian ministry teams cannot enter, not just foreigners.

Our meeting with the Deputy Inspector General went well, these meetings only last maybe 10 minutes and include giving of gifts from Prisoners For Christ, a time of sharing of our work, and then we gather around for prayer for blessing of the work of the administration. We hope to visit more officials before departing as this promotes the work of Dr. Prem Raj and is beneficial for the work of the ministry.

To close out the evening we visited Sister Grace, one of our interpreters from three years ago, who is a lovely Christian lady who with her husband run an orphanage and also minister in local jails and prisons. Though we said to not feed us when in India if you visit someone prepare to be fed! So we had a meal there too and after visiting for 90 minutes we departed for the hotel.



Day 6 – Basic Conference We met our host Dr. Prem Raj and then made the long drive to the remote site where we were to hold our Basic Volunteer Conference. This was held in the church pastored by our dear Sister Hoglah's son-in-law. Sister Hoglah has been with us on all five of Bob's trips to India and is the right hand person to Dr. Prem Raj.

We added this conference to the agenda only after we arrived when we learned that we could not enter any of the prisons. To do a mid-week unscheduled conference is a tough thing to be sure – our host Dr. Prem Raj had to secure the venue, invite the attendees, arrange for the musical team, and do it all on a shoestring budget. Well, he did it! When we started the conference we had 25 persons in attendance, but quickly it ballooned up to 50, an astonishing number considering the short notice everyone had, but this is an example of the influence Dr. Prem Raj has in the community of believers.

Don led the conference as is our custom when on any team Bob is leading. Don and Bob have worked together for years on foreign trips and Don always manages and directs the conferences. The conferences

are the most important part of our mission for it is here that we recruit, train and equip prison volunteers for the year-around work of the ministry.

Don, Mark, and Bob all taught two segments, with Don emceeing and directing the flow. Subjects taught at this basic conference included: *About PFC*, *Why Do Prison Ministry?*, *The Four Divisions of PFC*, *How To Start And Grow A Prison Ministry*, *Code of Conduct*, and *What It Is To Be A Volunteer*. At the end we did the Prayer of Consecration for those wanting to begin prison ministry. We then enjoyed a nice Indian lunch and departed having conducted an excellent conference. Don, Bob, and Mark were all pleased with the outcome.



We then visited Sister Hoglah's home, which is near the church, for some refreshments. After visiting and fellowshiping we gathered for prayer to bless the home.

With a full day's work accomplished we made the long journey back to the hotel. From there we changed and Enoch (the son of Dr. Prem Raj) took the three of us out to an outstanding Chinese restaurant for dinner. To say this dinner was outstanding would be an understatement. We all declared it a hit and left warmed and filled...



We arrive at the hotel just after 9pm and then hit the sack. Another conference awaits us tomorrow.

Day 7 – Advanced Conference Today the team ministered our advanced volunteer conference. The venue was a Methodist Church that, in 2008 was the very church that Bob taught his first conference in India. There was prayer and worship, and we were joined for the entire conference by the Founder and Director of Logos Bible College, India, the Rev. Dr. Moses. He was the one who conferred upon Bob the Doctor of Ministry degree in 2012. Bob presented him with another notebook of materials prepared over the last three years. Dr. Moses stamped them and returned one to Bob and one will be kept at the college for students there to access.

Bob also pledged to Dr. Moses that in two years he'll return, by God's grace, with another notebook that is a Through-the-Bible study taken from a practical ministry point of view, covering every book of the Bible. This will be Bob's most ambitious project to-date concerning written materials and will be directed at the new believer, who, like all new believers, need to be taught the principles of the kingdom of God and the ways of the Lord.

At the conference we taught on *About PFC, Why Do Prison Ministry, Four Divisions of PFC, Code of Conduct, Working with Local Churches to Recruit Volunteers, Evangelism and Discipleship, and Developing a Local Advisory Council*. We had a Recall and Reward session and closing prayer. Dr Moses opened the conference in prayer and he also closed the conference in prayer.





The team then visited a government official, and we presented him with a PFC gift bag, which was well-received. Later in the evening Bob visited the family of a former co-worker with Enoch and they stayed for just over four hours. Mark and Don took a three-wheeled taxi to McDonalds for some very traditional American food (albeit without beef!). The taxi ride was a new experience to be sure!



Day 8 – Prayer Meeting Today the team journeyed into town to do some shopping. Don and Bob acquired some shawls, after a bit of bargaining on the part of Dr. Prem Raj with the shop owner, whom he knows personally. (Note: Dr. Prem Raj seems to know every shop owner, every government official, every prison superintendent, every hotel manager, and every restaurateur in the dual states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh!). Mark purchases an Indian suit, complete with pants and shoes to go with the headgear we were gifted on arrival. He looks like a prince! Bob and Don drove into old Hyderabad and viewed Charminar.

After this a visit was made to a government official who only recently, and temporarily, has been given authority over the prisons of Telangana. It was a delightful visit, complete with tea and biscuits. It always impresses our team when senior government officials take the time out of their schedules to receive us and visit with us and hear our story of our ministry. We always provide a gift and we always ask them if we can pray for them.





At the close of the evening Bob attended a prayer meeting and was invited to preach a message, with Dr. Prem Raj interpreting. There was at least 60 in attendance, including many young persons in their 20s. Bob preached on “What Do You Believe” and challenged the young people to believe the promises of God, to believe what they read in the Bible, that God will lead them, that God will protect them, that God will provide for them, and that God will bless them.



We challenged them in the

areas of faith, morality, behavior, attitude, compassion, and many more themes. After the 45-minute message the host, Rev. Isaac, asked if Bob would pray for those present, and that prayer time took 90 minutes, with much laying on of hands, counseling, ministering healing, and encouragement. Rev. Isaac desires for Bob to return for a series of revival meetings. We shall see what the Lord will do!



Day 9 – Leadership Conference It is customary for our PFC international teams to have a down-day on the day we depart, with perhaps some shopping then rest before heading to the airport. This trip is an exception. We are not leaving until the evening, and we want to bring a leadership conference to key volunteers and Saturday is the day they would not be working during the day and could attend.

The conference took almost 90 minutes and had 10 hand-picked attendees. Topics covered included *The Five Levels of Leadership*, *Biblical Examples of Good Leaders*, *Biblical Examples of Bad Leaders*, *Biblical Leadership Principles*, *Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership*, and *Every Leader a Coach*. The session was concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving.



The American team returned to their room (we held the conference in the hotel) to freshen up, finish packing, and relaxing for a couple of hours before heading to the airport. Though we could not get into prisons for reasons beyond our control, the mission was a success with much accomplished for the kingdom of heaven, to the glory of God.

Day 9 and 10 Travel – The long journey home began with leaving for the airport at 5pm with two loads of cars with luggage and volunteers. We had a season of visiting at the airport and said our goodbyes. The team then checked in and then came back out to meet Dr. Prem Raj, his wife Salome, and son Enoch to say more goodbyes. This is always the most difficult part of the campaign – leaving!

We board the plane for a short 4-hour flight to Dubai. The seats we were given originally are not available (thanks Emirates...) so we all are sitting side-by-side in the back of the plane, whereas we were supposed to all have aisle seats. Oh well...



On the last leg of the flight, 15 hours to Seattle since we are bucking the Jetstream, we all do have aisle seats and this plane is not filled. Don and Bob don't have anyone sitting next to them, and Mark has a small lady sitting next to him, so we all had plenty of legroom and stretch room and spill-over room. After more than 24 hours of travel, including flying over the North Pole, we land in Seattle at 6am on Sunday morning. Everyone is physical tired but not sick at all, no colds, no cough, no flu, no runny nose, nothing that a few hours of horizontal-positioned sleep can't fix!



More Favorite Pictures!







