

Dear Sponsoring Churches,

The last time I wrote to you, I was preparing to head for San Diego. While I was there, I visited the San Diego Hospice. It is a wonderful facility which was built on land donated by the widow of the founder of McDonald's. She provided much of the building money as well. They are on a hill and have a panoramic view of San Diego. They were very helpful and interested in staying in touch and providing help in the future and they shared some of their methods of dealing with end of life issues. I also visited Point Loma Nazarene College where I met a couple of candidates for the nursing education program in Liberia that I have been working on.

Then I was off to Hawaii where I spent time on Oahu with my friend JP who is a chaplain in Honolulu and also on Kaua`i where I visited with old friends from my time there as a parish pastor. I got to see some of the kids who were three, four, and five when I was there. They have grown up well. If I was going to complain about the weather - and I wouldn't do that because my sisters live in Minnesota - I would just say that the trade winds were not blowing and it was a little warm. Nothing like India in May, but a little warm. But I am not complaining!

The day before I was to leave Hawaii, I discovered that I was flying to San Francisco but my connecting flight to New York was taking off from San Diego! After some scrambling around and some very heartfelt begging, I managed to get a flight from San Francisco to Denver and then to New York City. The last minute changes got me stuck in the middle of a row for part of my trip but I guess somebody has to sit there - and I did get where I was going!

I had a couple of days in New York and was able to visit the church of one of my seminary classmates, and then I was on the next plane to Chennai, India via Brussels, Belgium. In those few travel days, I crossed 15 1/2 time zones! They say that jet lag takes one day per time zone to go away. It was true!

As soon as I got back to Sneha Deepam, I had to play travel agent again because Martha, the Liberian nurse who is going to be training in India to become a Dental Nurse Practitioner, had not gotten her visa in time and so needed to postpone her flight to India. I was going to go meet her in Calcutta and travel with her by train to Bihar in the north of India so all those reservations had to be changed. She came to Chennai and then Vellore instead for a week of adjustment. I'm getting really good at this travel agent thing, but I think I will keep my day job!

I was very glad to get back to the weekly Anointing Services and the first one after I returned was very interesting. We somehow started a little early and there were only three people who came forward for prayer - three pastors and three people wanting prayer. But when we were walking out, we encountered another 30 people! And I may have done my first exorcism! A woman asked me to pray for her because she was possessed by a bad spirit. I prayed, she shook, I prayed a bit more, and she became calm!

Also when I got back, it was also time to finalize plans with the Missionaries of Charity. Sisters of this order - Mother Teresa's order - will be coming to Sneha Deepam and CMC for some training to help them care for the people they take in from the streets. They are well trained in spiritual care and some nursing care - we hope to be more specific and simple with our training in supportive care and symptom relief. Our theme for this is a quote from their founder, Mother Teresa. She said, "I am interested in persons, not programs. Programs are for a purpose; but Christian love is for a person, and I am committed to helping persons."

Please keep us in your prayers and pray that we always remember our commitment to helping persons. And thank you for your support! Rev John Lunn