



Photo taken by Dale on recent trip to India



**Dale Stagg**  
Chief Executive Officer  
13 November 2019

**Dear Friend,**

I am way out of my comfort zone, and yet strangely in the middle of nowhere I feel at home. I am at the centre of our 'Light up a Village' project in a remote area of central India.

You may recall, this is where we began distributing solar powered lights and shortwave radios enabling the Voice of Jesus to spread throughout the region – about 100 small villages in this region already!

Flying in the night before, I was met by our partners Dolly and Val. The next morning, we embarked on a 6-hour road trip where the roads became progressively narrower and ultimately ended up being tracks only suited to four-wheel drives. The towns and villages became smaller and less populated until we were passing small villages and family compounds. We had to share the tracks with shepherds and their bullocks or goats, causing our driver at one point to stop and question if we were really on the right track!

We eventually came to the village where we would be staying the night and were enthusiastically welcomed by the pastor and his family.

After a quick cup of chai, we piled back into the four-wheel drive and headed off along various tracks. I think we crossed 3 or 4 creeks and had to get out of the car to make it easier for our driver as he negotiated the creek beds and rutted tracks. We eventually arrived at what I would call a family compound that housed 4 or 5 related family groups. This was the site of the community church being built that I have talked about in previous correspondence.

“*In the middle of nowhere, God is there!*”

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It was a privilege to be introduced to the tribal leader. This was the man who set aside land to build the church. This was the man who only a handful of years ago was prepared to sacrifice his daughter to the gods he worshipped to find favour; that was until he was introduced to Jesus.

One of the reasons we have seen such an impact in this region is that the pastor who has so courageously continued to reach out to the dozens of small villages is also the 'voice' of our shortwave programs to this community. He is familiar to them and speaks the language of the tribal villagers. He is 'close' to them, even when for many weeks of the year they might not be able to attend church because their villages have been cut off due to floods.

After being hosted for afternoon tea by his family, we say our goodbyes and head back to the church. There are now dozens of local villagers waiting to greet us! After a vibrant Thanksgiving Service followed by a community meal, night begins to fall. I'm standing around watching the joyous dancing and worship of the villagers as we get ready for church. The church courtyard is literally awash with the vibrant colours of the saris worn by the women.



As a visitor, I am given the honour of walking into the church building with our team from Delhi, ahead of the tribal people who have come from surrounding villages. It has taken some of them two hours to walk from their homes.

I am unable to go into further detail, but later that evening we had to leave the village abruptly. Pastor L embraced me several times. I think our shared experience had genuinely created a strong connection and friendship. It was the first time we'd met personally, and while on this occasion we could only spend less than 24 hours together, it was something we'll both remember for a long time. We couldn't speak each other's languages but we both knew that God was using us together.



Some other things happened that night that I look forward to telling you about in our next Voice and Hands newsletter.

Until then, we continue to value your prayers and financial support that allows Reach Beyond to make the impact it does, so that others might find God in the middle of nowhere.

Yours in partnership

Dale Stagg, CEO

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