

Preston's February 2018

We have been back in Chennai for a month now and felt it was time to update you all on what has been happening so far

The YUK groups continue, as do the Sunday Night Lights event each month and the Sunday Fellowship on the weeks in between.

The two YUK (youth) groups are run very differently – the local one has been following the alpha youth course as the bible studies seemed to be going over their heads but the city centre one has followed the studies with interest and participation.



Band practice in the new DIY sound proof garage

Sunday Night Lights- was well attended by folks from near and far. The theme was about 'love' as it was near Valentine's day. I, David, began with some humorous interpretations of contemporary love -> falling in love – I had an accident, madly in love – a form of insanity and compared them to God's genuine and lasting love. The music, skit and short message kept the attention of a very varied crowd.

Sunday evening fellowship – this has fluctuated in numbers and attendees as it begins to get established. I come ready to go in several directions so that it can be relevant to whoever turns up.

Alpha course – We got to meet & share with several couples in the community but work prevented them from attending the course. Two couples came to the first evening but one spouse hadn't enough English to take advantage of it, so we are continuing with one couple whom we had been previously counselling.

Home visits – We continue our thrice weekly exercise in the mornings and Janet has transformed it into an art form! I go out aiming to complete the running and exercise routine. Janet goes out with the same ultimate goal but befriends the other walkers, takes twice as long to complete but ends up responding to their needs and requests for prayer.

This mainly Anglo-Indian community have welcomed visits from us and share their lives' experiences very readily. Some have been in physical pain and asked us both for prayer and we have seen God take the pain away. One even asked if I would teach them French once they learned I had been a French teacher. The mix include the elderly, young marrieds and students.



Flamingos – a welcome day's outing to a Bird Sanctuary

On a practical front, I have now added riding Colin's scooter to our various modes of transport. It was scary at first as one is just so much more vulnerable on a scooter. But both Janet and I have braved the Indian traffic to visit the local shops.



One unsuccessful journey was to expedite my driving licence renewal application to Coleraine, Northern Ireland. DHL would oblige and deliver my letter by courier for a mere £60. I don't want the licence that badly! I settled for registered post in the Indian Post Office but still had to pay £18. Our dishwasher however is free!



Cheap dishwasher – reasonable rates

Challenges

Present - community building happens at a much slower pace than with an established church or indigenous mission where the daily programme is always pre-arranged and full. A big challenge for us has been adapting to the last-minute change of plans that occur daily. We also need to make sure that we release each other into our different areas of gift and service. This means that not everything needs to be done as a couple

Future – our stay in Ludhiana has been shortened to one month instead of two to avoid police surveillance which came into operation after the killing of a pastor last year.

We will be leaving Chennai for Ludhiana (Punjab) in early March. We do not have plans in place yet for April until mid-May. The Jungle camp in Avalanche is the third week in May.

Praise for:

- Good conversations in the locality
- Healings
- New folk attending Sunday Night Lights
- Youth Alpha Course
- YUK bible study

Prayer for:

- Couple doing Marriage course
- Sunday Night Lights (4 March)
- Break through encounters in the community
- Travel to Ludhiana (6 March)
- The agenda for our month in Ludhiana
- Plans for April to Mid-May

J **Janet's phone has been stolen. 😞 Please note the old number below. Back to the old phone**

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