

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Psalm 37:4-5



Celebrating Holi

My time in India is quickly coming to an end. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers. While here I've enjoyed many festivals including Diwali, Holi and an Indian Christmas with Biryani instead of roast turkey. Highlights have included telling a total of 400 people my testimony, telling a first generation believer about the Holy Spirit and sharing my faith with a Hindu inside of his temple for over an hour.

A friend once told me that Jesus set an example to us by always leaving a situation better than how he found it except in the instance of the fig tree. I'm leaving PATH Centre better than how I found it by the grace of God and your prayers. Jo has become a lot more confident and co-leads worship at church on a Sunday afternoon. K2 has now recommitted himself to his family while Lal and I are happy with the improved daily structure of the Centre and the twelve week treatment program that we're in the process of completing. Thanks to the support of my family and friends the Centre now has lots of games including my personal favourite, Carom. We have a counselor who regularly visits each of the residents from week to week and we still have our dog, Chabi, who has helped to create a family atmosphere around the place. Simple things that I'd previously taken for granted in the West are now in the Centre including curtains, a dining table (with flowers on thanks to Dr Marie) and a stereo that is often playing Petra and Steve Vai. We have regular interest from potential new residents from across India and a volunteer who visits each week and lots of interest from other people wishing to aid the work of the Centre. Thankfully God has also provided Kerygma with replacement staff for me and Lal which I am so grateful to him for.

Something that's been reinforced for me while staying here is that you can take action but you can't control the outcome. This is something that I think each time I hug another client goodbye. It's a fact that stands out more here than in the UK as I'm working to a limited time frame and this could be the last contact I ever have with these guys. I'm unlikely to bump into them down Princess Street. However, lots of people are speaking positively to me about returning to India in years to come. Conversations often begin with people saying "When you come back to India..." rather than "If..." so I'm optimistic about doing long term mission here in the future if it is the will of God.

Prior to coming to India Dave storm at CCE prayed that I would have a greater dependency on God and that has certainly happened due to the language problems, the stresses of a very busy city and people continually trying to rip me off. One other annoyance that I have had to get use to is that IST rarely means Indian Standard Time and in fact means Stretchable Time. These four things in particular have forced me to look more to God and he has faithfully kept to the promises of Psalm 37. I can't help returning to the UK a changed man extremely thankful to God. Having felt called to India three years ago and being here now I am so thankful that God chose me and chose to equip me to do his work. I feel so very blessed and joyful. Ishvar accha hai; God is good.

Please pray:

- ❖ for the ongoing growth of PATH Centre and its residents (Jo, K2 and Johnny)
- ❖ that I find somewhere to live in Edinburgh when I return
- ❖ for my safe return to the UK (hope to see you at CCE on May 4th)