



MISSION: EXPLOSION INTERNATIONAL

In A Global Hunt for Lost Souls
Matthew 28:18-20

April 2008



Rusty Writes:

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit so they may rest from their labors for their deeds follow with them," Revelation 14:13. This Scripture is so true. Brother Mani died in the Lord and his deeds will continue on for years. A man of Mani's character is hard to find in this world today. I cannot count the number of times he was persecuted, physically and verbally, for preaching the Gospel in the Red Hills district. He will be greatly missed by his wife and children, his church family and his fellow preachers. Brother Mani was full of faith, prayer and ministry. He was courageous, bold and stood strongly on the Word of God. He is now with Jesus, the One whom he loved most of all.



Mani Home With the Lord

I never knew his last name. When I interviewed him for the first time, he said, "People call me Mani." He had a big smile on his face and joy in his heart every time you met him. His family was a reflection of Mani's character: loving, hospitable, never a harsh word. The church at Red Hills grew to love him and respect him as a spiritual leader of the congregation. When he became sick, they rallied around him like no congregation I have ever seen. When he could not walk to the church anymore, they carried him. He preached the Gospel for the last time on March 16th. After that message, he lay down and began his journey into eternity. Mani died around 1:30pm on the 27th. This is the first time we have had to say good-bye to one of our preachers. It has been hard. Even though we know he is not suffering with the cancer and he is at rest with the Lord, it is still hard because there are not very many men who will boldly preach the Gospel as Mani did. There are not very many men who would hold up under the kind of persecution that he faced in that village on a regular basis.

If there is anyone in the Bible that he could be compared to it would probably be Steven. Mani's death has made us ready to take on the challenge of preaching the Gospel no matter what opposition may come our way or what it may cost us to do so.

He set an example for us to follow, and for that we will always be grateful. Even though he was a meek and humble man, he was always prepared to stand up against the teaching of false religion. If you would like to help with Mani's funeral expenses and to help us take care of

his family for some time, please send a one-time gift marked "for" Mani's family on your check. Thanks to each of you who have prayed for our dear brother and who have sent money to help us pay for his medical bills, chemo treatments and other medical expenses. May God bless each of you for your gift.

Short Term Mission Trip Update

The May Maui trip has been cancelled. The August India trip dates will be changed to early June. If you are going, I need to know ASAP. I will be leaving for India shortly for a few months.

2009 winter trip to India is still set for February. There will be a great opportunity for preaching and teaching on this trip. Make your plans early to be a part of this adventure. I would like to see many more of you participate in our short-term mission program. You are very much needed. Remember to invite a friend and save \$100 on your trip.

Where Do You Get More for Your Money?

In last month's newsletter I asked you to prayerfully consider financially supporting a preacher in India. To date, not one response. To be honest with you, I'm very sad. Let me tell you why. At Christmas time you put your dollars in the Salvation Army kettle as they stand there and ring the bell. What was that money used for? Or maybe your money went into filling a shoebox. What was that money used for? What good will it do in the long run? You see, by supporting a preacher and his family you are being guaranteed that at least six days a week they will be sharing the Good News of Jesus and the message of salvation to countless numbers of people in India in any given week.

Many of you subscribe to countless magazines from the Hollywood scenes to the Country Living to the News and Sports Magazines. You are paying big bucks for these every month. Why not cancel your subscription and subscribe to a preacher in India where you know he will be standing up against false doctrine, idol worship and a pagan religion? Many of you make it your daily practice to stop by the Starbucks or some kind of specialty coffee shop every day. Why not have a cup of 7-11 Joe, save your money and invest it into the kingdom of God? Sponsor a preacher where you know he will be proclaiming the name of Jesus to a country of over a billion lost souls every day.

Churches today are treating overseas ministries like they are simply a charitable contribution to which they give from their organization to make themselves feel good. First of all, we have been commissioned by the Lord to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. The Lord's church is not to give to a charity, but to assist in reaching the lost with the Gospel. MEI is not a charity. We are a church-planting ministry and we need more preachers to be willing to sacrifice their life and put their families in the greatest hardship you can imagine. We do not need your sympathy, we need your service. We do not need your pity, we need your partnership. Someone said, "Why can they not support themselves or the church pay them a salary?" I simply say, "Where much is given, much is required." We are a blessed nation, but we are also a nation in decline. We have forgotten what it is like to give and invest in the kingdom of God.

If I were asking you to give money to help sponsor a child in an orphanage, chances are you would get out your checkbook. But when it comes to preachers, the checkbook is locked tight and tucked away in a safe place. Why is that? What makes us want to sponsor a child where we can feed his stomach, but never feed his soul? Eventually that child will grow up and have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel salvation message, but yet he would have had food in his stomach on his way to an eternal damnation. Please understand that I must lead by example, and I have. My family is supporting a preacher. Just the other day my son decided he was going to support a preacher. Now my daughter is going to do the same. They can only give about \$75 per month. We Americans waste so much money on everything's \$1 store, home shopping networks and every info-mercial's gadgets known to mankind. Just the other day I found the "bullet" in my cabinet not being used and I'm sure if I looked hard enough I could find many other things. Maybe we should all have a garage sale and send the money to the preachers in India. Folks, I need your help. I need you to support these men who sacrifice their lives every day for the kingdom of God. Will you please help them?

Finding a Way to Lift Up the Name of Jesus



I had the privilege of baptizing Priya into Christ a few years ago. She is the daughter of our India director, Brother Wesley. Priya just started college this year and told her dad she was bored and there was nothing for her to do. She could not even go to worship because she's not allowed to leave the campus. I was told that Priya has found a ministry in nursing college. As the nurses make the rounds with the doctors, filling out the charts with patient information, Priya has managed to find a way to privately tell each of the patients that she is a Christian and that she will be praying for them to get well. On many occasions she has held their hand and prayed with them in their hospital bed. Remember, India is 93% Hindu. God is using this young Christian woman to be a great witness for Him in this hospital. Pray for Priya because she will be praying for the patients. May God continue to give her boldness and a desire to serve.

We need more people to have this child-like faith to step out from their comfort zone and begin to serve God in a mighty way.

My Last Will and Testament

Upon my death, I leave **\$\$\$\$\$** to Mission: Explosion International. This money is to be used to further God's kingdom, to reach lost souls for Christ, equip evangelists for ministry and to build up the Lord's church. Are these words written in your will? They can be. Please prayerfully consider putting Mission: Explosion International, Inc. in your will. After you have taken care of your loved ones, what better place to leave some of your funds than to a Christian, church-planting organization?

We promise that your hard-earned money will be used to bring glory, honor and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You can rest assured that your money will be a gift that will keep on giving. Ask your financial planner how you can add MEI to your will today.

Mission: Explosion International

PO Box 1331

Athens, TN 37371-1331

MissionExplosion@MissionExplosion.com