

Compassion 575 – 2011

A fundraiser for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

By David Argabright, Work & Witness Coordinator, South Asia Field

I have been blessed to serve in Nazarene Missions on 5 continents since 1982. I am so thankful for this incredible journey, the great Work & Witness veterans that have influenced my family, and many awesome missionary giants. And now in this chapter of my life, I find myself drawn to invest myself "building futures" in South Asia.

I will never forget my first trip to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. It was sensory overload. I am still haunted by the children I saw in the long feeding lines in refugee camps I witnessed while documenting the Koshi River flood in Nepal. I was challenged to do more for the children; to truly live a lifestyle of compassion. The overwhelming needs of the children in South Asia has led me to ask "what more can I do?" to give an offering to make an eternal difference for these children.

In South Asia, we are building Child Development Centers (CDCs) that will serve the children and be ministry centers serving entire communities. These centers will be used to meet the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of the children. Additionally, they will be used as centers for community based health care programs, shelters during times of natural disasters and training centers for pastors. A local church will also use the buildings.

It has been quite a ride since joining the NCM team in South Asia – literally. In June 2009, supported by my wife Sharon in a SAG (support and gear) vehicle I rode a bicycle 575 miles in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina. It was an incredible 9 days of miracles while riding in those steep mountains. My knees have not forgiven me.

In 2010, I was planning to do another 575 mile ride for the children on the Natchez Trace Parkway, beginning in Nashville, TN. Then some friends from the Living Word Church upset my plans and asked me to ride to Houston. They said they would ride with me a lap around Houston the last day of the ride. I was not worried about the last day, it was the 819 miles from Nashville to Houston that was my concern. After praying about this for a month, I specifically heard God's call to leave my comfort zone and not limit God to my abilities and talents. I needed to trust in Him. The ride went well and people prayed from all over the world to make it happen. The Lord answered the prayers of the children in South Asia and friends from around the world. He got me through the 819 mile trip. It was awesome.

Friends, partners and churches have now invested over \$227s,000 these last 2 years in the children of South Asia. Thank you so very much. It has been amazing to see the difference the Lord has made in the lives of children that have been given to opportunity to attend a Child Development Center. He is doing a great work and it is a privilege to work in His harvest field. You are making a difference. God bless you.

Including the elliptical marathon fundraiser for Bangladesh by Glen Argabright in 2008, 20 new Child Development Centers have been established. 13 in Bangladesh, 4 in Nepal and 3 in Sri Lanka. I praise the Lord for this investment in changing the next generation for Christ. It is incredible the opportunities that are now provided by these sponsored children. Literally, "the poorest of the poor" are being reached.

In the fall of 2010, I was praying about another ride. While reading God's word on the morning of September 4, Ezekiel 22:30 hit me like a ton of bricks. *"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."* Ez 22:30 (NIV). I began crying and said yes to God's call to ride across the USA for the children of South Asia. I want to stand in the gap on behalf of these children.

God has reassured me many times that I should do this ride. See my blog dated December 21, 2010. Simon Jothi was a homeless orphan boy, without family or hope. He was sponsored when education was completely out of his reach. Now he is the principal of the South Asia Nazarene Bible College. God has transformed his life, and now Simon is leading the charge to educate thousands of pastors in South Asia. You see, **"one child sponsored can make a difference"**.

How can you help? As Sharon and I pour ourselves into this ride and campaign, we need prayer partners to come along side us. Take this journey with us. We are depending on you. We plan to begin the ride on or about March 15, 2010. We need prayer warriors to lift us up as we prepare for this 3,100 mile bicycle ride. As always, Sharon will be in the SAG vehicle.

Join us in the journey of building futures for the children of South Asia. Please spread the word. Send out our updated website, youtube and facebook links to family and friends. Forward the 2011 brochure by email. Please consider a heartfelt gift today to change the life of a child. See our updated site:

www.compassion575.com

God is moving in South Asia and we all need to be part of it.

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See Compassion 575 and David Argabright on facebook

"Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. Speak up for the rights of all those who are poor." Prov 3:18 (NIRV)

If you would like to receive the prayer and praise report on the exciting work in South Asia, please contact me or Glen Argabright at gargabright@rbnet.com.