

500 Pastors and Wives in One Place – Under the Big Top... ***God shows His Power even when the lights go out!***

The roaring lion in 1 Peter 5:8:

“...the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

Harvest India, North Metro Church and Fresh Start did battle against the roaring lion and God was the victor. During the first evening session, right after the “Unforgiving Servant” skit, the power went out! The predominantly Hindu area had a festival in town and they turned out the town lights during their celebration. With the lights out, the 500 participants sat in the dark, outside in an enormous tent, until we came off stage and with cell phone lights and a few flashlights shining on the placards. We walked through the massive crowd sharing the “Heart Placards” (Denial Booklet) as people’s eyes were glued on the images! What an incredibly “Powerful” kickoff to our 3 days of sharing the message of forgiveness. What the enemy tried to destroy, God used for good! Amen.

Our time in India can best be described when one woman came on stage to testify what the seminar meant to her. She said, “Her heart had been wounded and she had carried that wound for 8 or 9 years. As she listened to the personal testimonies of both Richard and Brad, and how we had forgiven those who had hurt us, she wept in her chair and cancelled the debts of others who had hurt her.”

During our time in India we had many wonderful blessings including:

- Richard presented encouraging messages on abiding in Christ and several other wonderful topics. They were captivated by his messages.
- We both shared our personal stories of forgiveness weaved into the process
- Spending meaningful time with some of their 300 school children
- Spent time with the key leadership team, dreaming and planning about the future for the other 1500 pastors in their pastors network spread throughout India over the next 3 years
- Discussed the possibility of 2 separate Fresh Start conferences – one for men and one for women during the same week. Women rarely receive encouragement or training of any kind
- Discussed how we could bring a dentist(s) along to attend to the pastors and wives dental needs
- Participated in the ground breaking ceremony for their new bible college
- Toured their massive building for hosting teams from around the world
- Discussed a goal of translating all Fresh Start material into Telugu

It was an exploratory venture for Fresh Start as we were invited by North Metro Church and Harvest India to determine the viability of a 3-way partnership.

All that was accomplished, and what is planned for the future is all due to the faithful prayer warriors who went with us through prayer, and support.

Thank you very much for all your prayers,
Richard Ramsey and Brad Thomas