

# Jesus Loves You!

## THE EXCITING WORD

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## Cast your bread upon the waters

**F**or an Indian man, one would think that Ramen would be on the top of the world. He was born into a priestly family of the high Brahman caste. He had served his time in the military and was now retired. He also had a wife and two young beautiful daughters, yet his life was coming unglued. He was depressed, and the battle going on in his mind was tearing up his marriage as well. He considered suicide, but he finally thought to himself, "If I could just get away and become a Hindu monk, I could be my old self again. There won't be any pressure there."



### The Invitation

Regi, on the other hand in 1985, had just become a born-again believer. With his new excitement and passion for the Lord, Regi met the downcast Ramen and immediately shared the Gospel. When they met, Regi was on his way to a prayer meeting, so he invited Ramen to join him. During the prayer meeting, Ramen asked Regi and his companions to pray because he was searching for the true God.

At the end of the prayer meeting, an invitation to receive the Lord was extended, and Ramen accepted the Lord. Ramen was Regi's first individual to come to know the Lord as a result of his ministry. Ramen went back to his family with his newfound joy in Jesus. He and his family began to attend church, and in time Ramen and his wife made a public confession of their

faith and were baptized. Regi's first convert made him exceedingly glad.

### The Commitment

But for Ramen and his family, mountains of problems began to appear in their lives. Their family and neighbors began to persecute them. They were thrown out of their home, and Ramen's family considered him dead. Without home or a job, Ramen and his wife still stood for the Lord and endured all the suffering with joy. With help of some believers in his church, Ramen started a laundry business (not a typical high caste occupation), and the Lord blessed him. He and his family grew in the Lord, and they dedicated their daughters for the Lord's work. Ramen also loved to share his faith with others.

Eleven years later, Ramen had a heart attack and died, leaving his wife and two daughters. A year later, Ramen's wife too passed away; every one in the village said their deaths were the result of a curse from the Hindu gods and goddesses. Ramen's two daughters were now under the care of their uncles who were Hindu temple priests. They never allowed these girls to meet any Christians or pray to the Lord but forced them to worship before the Hindu idols. Yet, the girls, who were in their teens, knew the Lord and truly believed in Him. So at the Hindu temples they pretended to worship, and in their personal time they

And He said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old." Matthew 13:52 (NASB)

prayed to the Lord.

The girls received a New Testament but knew if they took it home, it would be taken from them. Instead, a schoolmate kept it for them and brought it each day so that they could read it during recess. When the older girl, Joti, was 18 years old, her uncle compelled her to marry a Hindu man who was a temple priest. When the younger one, Rani, finished high school, she escaped from the clutches of her Hindu uncles by running off and studying in a Bible college.

### **The Renewal**

Two years ago when Regi was coming back from a meeting, Regi spotted Joti and her husband, Anand, waiting at a bus stop. He gave them a ride in his car. They talked about Ramen and his wife, and their friendship. That reminiscing opened the door for Regi to share the gospel with Anand. Then Regi encouraged them to attend a house-church near their home. The next Sunday they came with their children. The prayer and worship in the service touched Anand.

Because of Joti's experience concerning her parent's conversion, they started attending a church service in a nearby town. Anand and Joti received baptism and boldly began to share their faith with their friends and relatives. They too had to pay the price. Their family rejected them and warned the villagers not to have any relationship with them. Even the village store owner would not sell them anything.

But their evangelism efforts paid off in the nearby villages. As they were sharing their faith, and prayed for people who asked for it, our gracious Lord answered their prayers—people were healed and delivered. The Hindu radicals tried to intimidate the villagers to stay away from the couple, but it is hard to keep sick, troubled people from going to the source of healing. People began to invite Anand and Joti to their villages and homes. In the past year, they have started 11 house-churches in different villages.

Now the Hindu radicals are persecuting Anand and Joti to stop them from going to any villages. Last month, they both were literally pushed out of a village. But in the same month, we also had a good number of people baptized.

### **The Fruit**

Recently, Regi met Ramen's second daughter, Rani and her husband, who are in ministry in a remote area. They have started more than 120 house-churches in different villages, and today they have 11 co-workers helping them.

God's word says, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." Almost 30 years ago, Regi sowed the seed of the Gospel in Ramen's life. In the Parable of the Sower, the Lord promises that the seed that fell on the good soil would produce 30-, 60-, and even a hundredfold. Today, we are finding multiplied 'hundreds' in the unreached villages of North India. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is being preached, and people are responding to our Lord's call.

As Teri, Tom, Steve, and Allen Robertson (a new EWM Board member) go to India to encourage our evangelists, missionaries, and pastors, we need your prayers to undergird us, so that the words that come out of our mouths are from the Holy Spirit. Because of time and resources, we get to minister to these men only once a year. Yet, they are ministering to others daily, even hourly. They are the frontline—not hiding in trenches trying to hold off the devil—but are a tremendous army—actively charging into unreached areas taking the devil's property away and bringing it into the Kingdom of God. So, please pray for us that not one word will be wasted! That everything done and said will be to the glory of God and to the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Thank you for making this trip possible. The Lord has made you just as much of a partner in this ministry as those in India.

May the Lord bless you...

...until He comes,



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