



# *Voice* of FCBC

Volume 16, Issue 1

Fall-Winter 2011

*We seek to communicate our vision and enhance our fellowship at FCBC*

## *India 2011: “Touching the Untouchables”*

*by Donald Yuan*

*In 2009, Donald Yuan joined FCBC’s first short-term missions team to India. On that trip, Donald saw first hand how God can use ordinary people like us to bring people to Christ. Donald returned to India in 2010 and witnessed how God could use his team as “foreigners in a foreign land” to effectively share the gospel. This summer, Donald went on his third trip to India. The following article is a moving account of his trip.*

It has been a whole month now since I’ve returned from India and yet I have so much on my mind of what we saw, encountered, and experienced there.

First, thank you so much for your partnership through financial and prayer support as we worked among the remote villages of India. God did an amazing work while we were there. If you have not yet heard, our team of 29 Americans was able to reach an unbelievable number of 7,000 people with the gospel, of which 1,200 adults and 260 children professed faith in Christ! All of this happened in only four days of village ministry! But the exciting news is this: the vast majority of these people had never heard of the name of Christ before! We give God all the praise and glory.

Jesus sent his disciples in pairs to go into villages to do three things, as described in Luke 9 and 10; so we did the same in the villages in India! We preached the gospel, we prayed for healing, and we even cast out demons in Jesus’ name! We saw lives changed and people coming



The India 2011 Team

in droves to want to know Christ!

One such man ran after one of our team’s vehicles to tell them that God had healed his very

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sick wife after the team had prayed for her just two days earlier. He then opened his shirt to show that he had taken off his amulet of fear and bondage that he wore as allegiance to his god. Christ brought him freedom and hope!

One such lady who had been in bondage of a demon for 15 years was miraculously released from its grip in front of the whole village after the team prayed for her! Christ brought her freedom and hope!

On the practical side, we tearfully rejoiced when one elderly lady was able to thread a needle again for the first time in a long time after we gave her a pair of reading glasses! We gave to the villagers reading glasses, toothbrushes, fresh water filters, and taught them about the prevention of HIV/AIDS. We are an extension of Christ's love to others in need, both physically and spiritually.

And then we witnessed numerous "men of peace," or village elders, who held in their hands and began reading for the first time in their lives the very precious Word of God! What a sight to behold!

There are many more stories we can tell of what God did in India! You may ask of anyone on our team. Yet, for me, I still hear the words of Dr. Thom Wolf, the first senior pastor of Mosaic church, who now resides and ministers in India. He addressed our team on our first day of arrival: "In India, the Untouchables or Outcasts are those who are 'without a caste.' They are deemed lower than man and a step above animals. They are in fact considered as 'talking animals.'" What a

terrible shame, since God made **all** men in His image! May God move our hearts to touch those that have both physical and spiritual needs, for we had come to touch the untouchables.

With this in mind, we plan to return to India, but this time we desire to add a medical team. Our church has so many fine medical professionals! Certainly we can send a medical team too?! A medical team could do so much to meet the basic physical needs of the people. The physical and spiritual needs are great in India and the harvest is plentiful. Let us together touch the untouchables.

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## *Mandarin Ministry: FCBC's Own Acts 2 Church*

*by Melinda Cheng*

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...(Acts 2:42-46)"*

Yan Len Chen's life was filled with torment. Idols filled her home and demons invaded her life. No matter what she tried to do on her own, she could not get rid of their presence. It wasn't until she was introduced to the Manna class with First Chinese Baptist Church's mandarin ministry where she found freedom.

"I tried to cast out demons," said Chen. "Nothing worked until I came to this church. I prayed the prayer and accepted Christ and then I gave myself to the Lord so he could become my Lord and Savior. Afterwards, Pastor Joseph Gong came to my place to pray over me and help me to take care of all the idols."

The demons and idols were removed from her life and replaced with a new authority. "In the very beginning I was very fearful of all the idols, all the demons. But as I grow in my relationship with the Lord and know him more, I now realize that God has already given me authority over Satan. In Jesus name I can cast out demons and bind Satan's hands."

Chen is a member of the Manna small group, one of six small groups in the mandarin ministry that launched in April 2010. In just over a year, 10 visitors to the Manna group have become Christians. In fact, outstanding testimonies of changed lives have emerged from the other small groups as well. From new immigrants to the elderly, all types

of demographics within the mandarin-speaking community have testified to new lives found in Jesus Christ and vibrant communities where God's love is shared.

Ten years ago, Dr. Timothy Lin had a burden to reach out to the mandarin-speaking community. A few families from the Cantonese ministry committed to starting a mandarin-speaking worship service. The congregation has since grown to approximately 170 members. During its early years, a fellowship group was formed, but the members of the group felt it wasn't enough. "We had one fellowship that met once a month but it wasn't meeting the needs of the congregation," shared Tracy Tam, a small group leader. "A group of core members decided to diligently pray every Monday for nine months to seek God about starting small groups. After confirmation from God, every member from that prayer group started a small group in their home." These six small groups have become FCBC's own living example of the Acts 2 church.

Zhen Sun is an intern with FCBC's mandarin ministry and is a small group leader. His group meets in his small two-bedroom apartment. When the group first began, there were only two or three people the first five months. Zhen Sun decided that if the people weren't going to come, he was going to find them. Every week he went out to share the gospel and invited people to come and enjoy a free dinner at his home. Since then, nearly 170 people have at one time or another stepped into his home to attend the small group, and 31 people now attend regularly.

Alison Leung, a recent immigrant to the States, is one of those members. She came to the Lord in October 2010. She met Zhen at a lawyer's office where he was sharing the gospel. On that fateful day, she was introduced to Jesus Christ and was changed forevermore.

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Retreat in July 2011

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“I knew that in my life I was searching for unconditional love. When I came to church I saw how brothers and sisters loved each other unconditionally and sacrificially,” shared Alison. “I sensed that it was what I really wanted.” Since then, Alison has made significant life decisions with the help and guidance of her small group. After spending a few months working in another state, she made a faith-filled decision to return to the FCBC church family. Unsure of her future, the brothers and sisters in her small group prayed for her. Within weeks, she received a job located just minutes from her home.

The small groups operate much the same way as the Acts 2 church: they always partake of a meal together, have a time of prayer, Bible study and a time of sharing and support.

“We worship, pray for one another and share about the preaching we heard on Sunday,” explained Junda Chen, a leader of the small group for the elderly. “We also exercise and eat lunch together.” Qine Wang adds, “There are things that you want to say, but don’t ever have a chance to say. Through small group, you get that opportunity to share.”

For Mr. Zhongjian Guan, he is grateful for the encouragement and advice that the group gave him to take the time to go to school and learn English after he lost his job. Guan started attending the mandarin service in October 2010 and after the second week of attending church, he decided to attend a small group. He proudly exclaims he has not stopped attending small group since the first day. He brought his wife to church and the two of them

were baptized this past June. In regards to how much they share with each other during small group, Mr. Guan adds, “Time is not sufficient.”

“We share from the bottom of our hearts,” shared Mrs. Guan. “No one gets lost. It is a channel to communicate with God.”

There are numerous testimonies from the mandarin-speaking congregation about true spiritual transformation. And much of it stems from walking their journey of faith with others. “I am so thankful for my small group,” says Alison. “I’ve learned to serve God and have learned so many other things. I feel so blessed. You see everybody else’s life changing and growing; you also see God’s amazing deeds and can’t help but be really joyful.” ✓

***Voice of FCBC is published by:***

*First Chinese Baptist Church  
Publication Dept.  
942 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

***Electronic Version of the Issue:***

*Available at FCBC web site: [www.fcbc.org](http://www.fcbc.org)  
To obtain your personal copy, please send email to [fcbcvoice@cox.net](mailto:fcbcvoice@cox.net)*

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