

Beulah Gardens.5

He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7 v29

Waiting at Madras Central Station were 'Georgie and Grenalah' who quickly took my case and drove me through empty city roads to the headquarters. I noticed the driver gave three warning toots as he approached the gates and, driving slowly and repeating the toots, the gates opened without us stopping. Truly a royal welcome.

I joined the Saturday night 'fasting prayer group' but I was tired and although I prayed I was jaded and the prayers seemed stultified.

Sunday morning, Headquarters, Madras.

I awoke at 5.30 a.m. feeling very unwell with a stomach upset. I took two of the tablets I had brought for just this eventuality. I struggled to get a Word from the Lord but then prepared my heart with "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land but if ye refuse and rebel...?" I felt queasy and ill and took two more tablets and prayed. The meeting commenced at 9 a.m. with the Tamil service and then continued at 11 a.m. with the English service. The Lord helped me and after the meeting two brothers were waiting for me.

They asked for prayer. One was my interpreter from Royapurram and another Brother in charge of one of the centres. David Paul had prepared a list of his family for my future prayers.

I was resting in my room after dinner when the phone rang. "Could Brother Tony be ready to go to Beulah Gardens at 5 p.m. Could Brother Tony give the Word there?" The traffic was horrendous but with God's help we arrived safely..

Beulah Gardens is a beautiful banana plantation set in many acres. Brother Joe showed me the roadway recently built up to avoid the flood waters. The palm trees gave shelter and I walked in the cool of the evening preparing my message.

Brother Joe had told me "they are simple village folks" so I changed my message as I sought the Lord's face, walking up and down among the trees. There was a small pandal erected, with matting laid out for perhaps a 100 folks. The singing was lovely. The scene was lovely. The blessing of God was upon us. How wonderful to see these villagers

gathering around to hear God's Word. The Lord gave me a great love for them as I sang and testified. I told them of the 'black cat' and preached on "What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us". Brother Joe followed me and the meeting closed around 8 p.m. As I walked again among the trees giving thanks to God a small group of men waited for me to pray with them. Later I saw crowds still waiting outside Brother Joe's room where he was engaged in personal work, counselling and praying with folks. I returned to the city and began to prepare for the Bible Class tomorrow. "Lord, please help me"

Monday, 2nd February, 1998.

Slept until 3.20 a.m. It was so hot I could hardly breathe. I awoke to put on the air conditioner and dozed until 6 a.m. when I continued to prepare my message for the Bible Class. My head was fuzzy. Commending the day to the Lord I wondered, "Lord what do you have in mind?" It was not long before I found out. The telephone rang, "Brother Tony, could you be ready at 8.15 a.m. Brother Joe is taking a wedding service.

Once again I was in the Mercedes wedged between Brother Whitson, Paul and Brother Grenalah. As we threaded our way through the city traffic we came across an accident. A poor moped rider and a 'yellow

peril' had been in collision. It took a long time to get passed and we all prayed for the injured. Later we drove into the compound of one of the centre's of the L.E.F. A young man from the Bible College was to be married. The man's father was involved in the original 'revival meetings' 56 years ago in Kakinada, so it was a special time of blessing for all. I was asked to read a Word and was blessed at this privilege as I was a total stranger.

It was after lunch when I returned to the headquarters and rested before preparing my message for the evening Bible Class. The Lord helped me and my message was "Our God is a consuming fire". Shortly after this I visited Joe in his den and we prayed together. I then took the car to the airport. What an 'amazing time' in India. Looking back on it I thank God. I never would have believed that I would live to see such things. All Glory to God.