

Mon., 11:55 p.m., India/Mon., 2:25 p.m., EST

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

All is well here in Eluru. It is very, very hot (chala, chala vedi!). I have no idea what the temperature is but I thought I may have heard the sun complaining once.

Saturday brought complete rest due to beginning travels and other circumstances here in the orphanage. I was fried. Slept until 2:00 p.m., woke up to eat and fellowship, slept until 9:00 p.m., woke up for coffee and fellowship, slept for the night. On to Sunday...

We worshipped at the Church of God in Eluru, Rev. Sambabu's church. It's always good to visit him and his people. They are very welcoming. Rev. Sambabu delivered the message in his native tongue of Telugu. Every once in awhile he would look my way and give me the reference so I at least had a clue what was being said. His emphasis was on James 1:27 while also visiting Job 31.

The rest of Sunday was spent fellowshipping and discussing future ministry goals.

Today was a great day despite the heat. We traveled to Nadipalli and visited the Hebron Church construction site. Today, they installed two door frames and surrounding bricks (half walls for now) in addition to a cinder block wall (also a half wall for now).

I have attached four pictures for your review.

Picture #1 is the door frame installation. This thing weighs a ton. OSHA would put this contractor out of business. Two people support the frame once it is in place. Next, they take two sticks, one on each side of the frame, and angle them out about 45 degrees. Cinder blocks keep the sticks from moving. While all of this is going on, another person is tying the sticks together and to the door frame at the top of the frame. Incredibly, it holds.



Picture #2 is a mother/daughter combination with Rev. Sambabu and I. We were helping them load bricks onto this circular tray. They would then travel barefoot, sometimes through hot sand, about 30 yards, dump the bricks, and then come back for more.



Picture #3 is Rev. Sambabu and I watching this poor young woman carry about 11 bricks on top of her head. If you're a chiropractor and you're looking for work, well....



Picture #4 is me laughing with the contractors at my inability to do just about anything when it comes to holding objects made from Lowes. With that said, what a joy and privilege to participate in the work of this particular ministry.



We drove back for lunch and rest only to drive back to Nadipalli this evening to see the completion of today's work. Rev. Sambabu and I spent a couple of hours talking on the roof about various things in addition to talking to the villagers. The setting here is absolutely beautiful. There are palm trees and coconut trees everywhere and a huge sky that lights up the village at night with the stars God provides. Wow!

Parents, how many of you would let your 4th grade boy run around a flat roof at night that has no walls? Not to mention that if they fall, they travel about 15 feet or more and possibly hit their head on a cinder block. It freaks me out! Everybody says, "No problem, Brother. It's o.k...really!"

Tomorrow brings more God-given time for Rev. Sambabu and I to discuss future ministry goals. In the evening, the first of four crusades will be conducted at Rev. Sambabu's church.

All of your continued prayers are much appreciated, especially those for my family until I return.

God bless you.

In Christ,
Michael