

Thur., 11:50 p.m., India/Thur., 2:20 p.m., EST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Mentally and physically exhausted after two days with 32 kids (I remember the days when I felt this way after a few hours with one of my own!).

The original plan was for me to stay at the Esther Children's Home (ECH) on Wednesday during the day, through the night, and through Thursday 5:00 p.m. Well, that never happened.

Yesterday was so hot! 44 C, or, 113 F. Unbearable (Tom, this is for you). Truly, this was some of the worst heat I think I've ever experienced. But we managed to have fun anyway. Believe it or not, we played soccer in this stuff (Tom, we used the ball you brought in January). It was guys against the girls. I actually played goalie for the girls or they would have gotten crushed. The guys one anyway, 4-3. They get so excited when someone scores. It's pretty cool. We spent all day there; through their baths and dinner. Rev. Sambabu made the call for me to come home. I was thankful.

We left last night around 9:30 to shower and eat dinner back at Rev. Sambabu's home and then returned to ECH around 11:00 p.m. to pray with the kids. They were all sleeping, but it was nice to go to each one and offer prayers to the Lord for them.

Today we went shopping for the children at ECH and BHCH (Building Hope Children's Home). We visit BHCH tomorrow. For only \$39.00 16 baseball caps, 16 sunglasses, 21 learning books, and a cricket set (great sport) were purchased. What a deal! We got to ECH around 3:00 p.m. and stayed through 9:30 p.m.

After distributing gifts and taking photos we played cricket for about two hours. The heat did not seem as intense today; maybe 105 F at its peak (just a guess). Most of the remainder of the day was spent hanging out and talking with the children. In previous trips this has been hard to do because our schedules have been so tight. Most of the blessings the Lord gave to me today came by sitting in a chair and just watching the kids. I was so blessed by them and God working through them.

Leaving ECH is difficult. For those who have ever been to orphanages on missions I'm sure you can relate. Nothing really prepares you for it. Your world goes to a life-surrounding atmosphere of God's children to a quiet, quiet car of emptiness as you take forever to drive home. Only sleep will eliminate the void.

For those of you who sponsor these kids, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have seen them when they had no sponsors and four times since. You truly make a difference in their lives. You would need to experience India to really know what I'm talking about as my words, simply, do not do justice.

Tomorrow, we go to Nadipalli to have worship at Hebron Church, which is still under construction, but, constructed enough to have a worship service. It will be an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and all of that. It should be a very exciting morning, especially for Hebron Church who has patiently waited 12 years for a structure to worship in.

Afterwards, we travel to BHCH to visit 21 other orphans. Most of you at Trinity sponsor children from here. I am looking forward to seeing them again as well, especially since they have been under sponsorship for three months now.

Tomorrow evening is an all-night prayer service at the Church of God in Eluru (Rev. Sambabu's church). Not sure what time it begins but I know it ends 5:00 a.m. Saturday.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me and my family.

God bless you.

In Christ,
Michael



Boys with caps



Dali Balaji playing cricket



Girls with shades



**Hanging with the ECH
kids**



Intense game



Soccer in the heat