

## Vision for Christ News - October 2007



August was a month of jubilation in India this year as the 60th Independence day was celebrated with all pomp & glory. We, at **Vision for Christ** had more reasons to celebrate as the lantern of HIS Glory was carried to some of the remotest hearts in India.

In the first week, it was the joy of shooting with a Scottish girl & an English boy for a documentary which, while tracing the evolution of the School for the Hearing Impaired children, highlights the sacrifice & compassion of Florence Swainson, the founder of the School. We are amazed at the way the Lord brings dedicated people from abroad to toil with us day & night, when we need them the most. Pat has already done the Voice Over for the abridged English Version.



In the second week, as the VFC Team was getting ready for the release of the first ever native production of a Gospel Video CD in '*Desia*', a tribal dialect spoken by nearly one million people. We were warned by our friends in Orissa that there were floods in several parts of the State & it would be advisable to postpone our trip.



But with Courage from above & God-given faith from within, we planned to proceed. Apart from the VCD Release, we had also planned to record Christian songs in native languages, with local voices. Handel had already worked hard here in recording the music tracks for these songs. The Team had to be on travel for 2 days & 2 nights in trains & on bad roads. The Lord God who made way for the Israelites through the Red Sea did help us to reach our destination & finish all our assignments as planned.

Initially, we had planned to make ten copies of this VCD & hand it over to the missionaries we knew. But with the calculation & encouragement of our missionary friends we dared to print 500 copies. The appointed time arrived, for the release of the VCD. We had invited missionaries from various mission organisations.

We had the sensation of the Lumiere brothers when they showcased their invention of cinema to a spell bound audience 100 years ago. We could understand the joy of William Carey when the Bible was first printed in the Bengali language or that of Zegan Balgus when he brought the printing equipment to the Indian shores to see the first impressions of the Bible in Tamil. Praise the Lord !

All the anxious moments, arduous labour & communication problems, along with the pressure to wrap up the planned shots before the day of departure, melted into a pot of joy as the CD "**KOJI...KOJI...**" (*In search*) with 5 songs & a drama was released. Unusually, the release function was arranged in three different places in Orissa because of the rain & floods. Bus service were irregular & unpredictable.

So instead of making all of them travel, we travelled to all the three centres. It was a day of revival & commitment for the full-time & part-time missionaries. The local leaders, along with the missionaries from the South, prayed with tears & pledged to join hands with us & among themselves to reach out to the people groups in their own tongues through videos, which they realised was very very powerful. After this time of prayer we had a practical discussion in which probable regional script writers, artists, song composers, musicians, locations, etc. etc. were identified. They also promised to meet periodically & pray for this venture. They promised to get in touch with us with their assessment of the need to produce video films in various dialects. The invitees were filled with love & gratitude for us & the Lord.

The price of the CD was heavily subsidised, so that "every tongue can confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"(Phil. 2:11). 300 CDs were given out in the first centre. The other two centres had less than 100 each. After assessing the use of the CD during our next visit, we may have to go for more copies. One of the key dancers was a boy from the Orissa - Chhattisgarh border (now the Chhattisgarh - Orissa, Andhra - Orissa, Jharkand - Bihar borders are full of Naxalites, the armed militants of the Left Wing) had come for the release function but had to leave before his song could be played on screen, since he heard of some riots & proposed violence by the Naxalites in his area.



The next morning he turned up & asked us if he could see the CD. We played it for him in our Lap Top & he was in tears. When he left he took 50 CDs to be distributed in his place. We would solicit your earnest prayers for the Naxalites too. As we were leaving Orissa, amidst the cold rain drops, we were able to feel our hot tear drops for the land of Orissa to know & accept its Saviour.

The sown seeds are springing up now. We have enquiries from various mission organisations to help them produce visual media tools in languages like *Kui, Desia, Oriya, Kathaba, Kondi & Telugu*. This could be the most relevant reflection of the pentecostal experience of 'speaking in different tongues' to proclaim the gospel in our era.

By the grace of God, the entire production, post production, mass replication and release expenses of **Koji...Koji..** ...were borne by VFC. Where God leads He provides. Another encouraging news is that 2 professors from a nearby town, a full-time worker of Evangelical Union, and a Government School teacher have offered to come with us as volunteers to Orissa for the next round of videoing, bearing their own expenses. Praise God ! Let the vision spread !

In July, we were able to bring out a multi-coloured tract exclusively written & printed for the merry makers who come in thousands to a nearby waterfalls. Many of them engage in heavy drinking and debauchery. Pray for the effectiveness of these tracts as our volunteers distribute them.

On September 16, in association with another like-minded organisation in Mumbai, we presented a Premiere Show of "*One Night with the King*", the recently released film on the challenging life of Esther, in the city of Tuticorin. Before the show we shared with the audience about the aims & achievement of VFC. The show ended with a challenge to 'stand up in the gap for the nation'.

We thankfully remember AMEN for its prayer & support , as Deborah sang "*my heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the Lord*". Judges 5:9.

Caroline and Reginald