

10 Nov. 2007
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India

Dear members of the MLC family, especially the student body,

For four hours it was non-stop. As soon as night fell another darkness also made itself known. Friday was the Hindu festival of Diwali, called the festival of lights. It is a time when most homes have oil lamps lit outside and thousands and thousands and thousands of fireworks are set off. Imagine, four hours of people setting off bottle rockets, Roman candles, cherry bombs, and even the larger 4th of July type fireworks. It sometimes sounded like a war zone with the “crackers” going off. Chaff covered the streets. We watched one man unroll a string of firecrackers almost 25 feet in length. For several minutes thousands of firecrackers went off in that one roll alone. It doesn't take long and smoke hung over the whole city. All of this activity is done to celebrate Rama's victory of good over evil with lights and noise and the exchange of gifts. But the Christian is burdened to see the darkness of idolatry and so many held captive in Satan's chains.

Yet there is a different light shining in India. The seminary of Christ Ev. Lutheran Ministries, our sister church in India, continues to train workers to share the Light of the Jesus, who said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will see the



light of life.” Already there are 15 national pastors, and more seek to be trained. Every month of the year men come from various parts of India to the pre-seminary and seminary to spend two weeks out of four in Bible study. This year there are 46 men at the school, 17 seminary students and 29 pre-seminary students. All already serve a flock of precious souls. All are eager to let the Good News of Jesus shine in their villages and towns. These men work hard, from 7:30am until 6:30pm every day for the two weeks they are here. All

immediately return home and use their learning. And the Holy Spirit is blessing their Gospel witness. Also this month, 17 Bible women came to school. These women run orphanages and teach Sunday schools. My wife taught a week long seminar to help these ladies in their teaching of Bible history lessons. More and more witnesses who will share the light of Jesus.

Please join me in praying that Jesus keep these brothers and sisters firm in the faith and safe from the opposition of unbelief. Yet never forget, although a festival of Diwali makes it readily

apparent that idolatry is alive and well in India, such idolatry is rampant everywhere. Whether the Muslim faith or the materialism of mammon, whether Hinduism or hedonism, whether in India or America, thousands seek to find fleeting happiness with noise and celebration and gifts. You are training to bring the one thing needful to a world in darkness. You know the true Light of the world. Through your study of the Word Jesus is making you lights to the world of his love and life. Jesus bless your studies. Your brothers and sisters here in India have promised me that they will pray for your studies also.

Jesus keep you safe and secure in his love.

President and Mrs. Zarling