

# VanderPol Update

TEACHING THEOLOGY FOR MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY (MINTS) IN ASIA

MARCH 2012

## Expanding

Beginning on February 21, I travelled to India for a nineteen-day trip to pursue more extensive teaching opportunities for MINTS and to build on work which we had already begun.

In the NE Indian town of Mirik, for example, I visited Rev. Dr. K. A. Rai, a Presbyterian minister from Mirik, and Rev. Dr. Lima Pallab, a Reformed minister from Calcutta. We discussed how MINTS could assist them in their teaching ministries. Both men have enjoyed a long-standing association with the Darjeeling Hills Bible School (DHBS). Dr. Rai has directed the school, and Dr. Pallab has served on its board. The school needs help to continue and expand its ministry.

After discussing with them the need to extend their teaching ministry to a greater number of students, I could see that MINTS and DHBS could work together to teach more pastors and church leaders the Word of God. By using MINTS courses, DHBS will possess greater ability to expand its curriculum in NE India and teach pastors who cannot receive on-campus training. By implementing the MINTS study center structure, Dr. Pallab will have the necessary resources to develop study centers in the Calcutta area and other vast parts of eastern India. In many cases pastors will receive their first formal training in theology. They will receive Reformed theology!

The potential of these men to take advantage of MINTS to train pastors deeply impressed me. Both have taught Reformed theology extensively before. Both have developed contacts with many pastors. Both demonstrate love for Jesus Christ.

I plan to return in several months to equip these pastors and their colleagues by teaching them how to present MINTS courses and how to report the results of the students' academic work to MINTS' academic dean.



*Sign of Darjeeling Hills Bible School  
Dr. Lima Pallab  
Dr. R. A Rai*

## Building

I also went to India to build on work which I had begun. In Vijayawada I taught the educational leaders of the Presbyterian Church of South India (PCSI) how to teach MINTS courses in their more dominant language of Telugu. We have begun the Telugu Project (our effort to translate a complete MINTS Bachelors curriculum into Telugu) with them. A translator has already translated some MINTS courses. We continue to search for more translated theological works in Telugu which students can read to fulfill their course requirements. These ordained men seem eager to promote Reformed theological education in the PCSI. Many of their colleagues in the pastoral ministry have received no theological training. They prepare sermons each week with no study helps such as commentaries. Very little Reformed material exists in their language. Though the Telugu Project has advanced more slowly than I had hoped, we remain thankful for the progress which has taken place. The leaders would like studies to begin in June.

Later, I taught in Ramachandra Puram, a more remote town in central East India. A small group of pastors, under the leadership of Rev. Moses Rao, gathers for study periodically. I taught them a course which I have written on the Doctrine of Man. Since they compare Reformed theology with the teachings of other churches near them, their interest intensified when we discussed the issues of trichotomy and the imputation of Adam's sin. I hope to return to them, and other places mentioned in this letter, in July.

## Prayer Requests

Gratitude:

- for safety as I travelled in urban and rural places throughout eastern India,
- for new opportunities in NE India to equip teachers to begin new study centers and teach pastors,
- for highly motivated church leaders in India who desire to teach their fellow pastors how to handle God's Word faithfully.

Requests:

- for speedy progress as I resume writing on the Doctrine of Scripture, a project which had a significant interruption in 2011, and for speedy progress with the Telugu Project,
- for continued financial support (The Lord provided for all our needs in 2011; we depend on Him again this year),
- for the ability to organize future trips so that I can work efficiently on them.

## Financial Support

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