

## More thoughts...



We visited children in the slums, children who are orphaned, widows and the leper colony again. We fed the children, gave out toys and gifts, did a mini children's programme which was fun ( because I played Goliath ) and great to see the children light up and interact with us all!  
The widows also received teaching, prayer and gifts, plus prayer. It was amazing to see the same faces we had encountered last year and how they are looking so well and it is clear to see they are taken care of well by Juna and his appointed pastors over each area. My heart was full and as always we received so much more than what we had invested!

We saw breakthrough in people's lives. I could genuinely say I loved all of it wherever we went it was an honour to be there.

There was also a baby dedication in the leper's colony which was precious to see and be part of. We all felt humbled and honoured to be there in that community again.

I am always so impacted by God being in the smallest to the largest of details and time and time again he shows us that NOT ONE is not seen or forgotten.

Lisa Drabble



**Want to know more? Obviously space has limited what we can say in this report—so much more happened! Please speak to any of the team members, please continue to pray for the projects and yes, we are doing it all again next year in June/July 2020!! Is God asking you to come with us? Contact details below—please give me a call!**

**AID**  
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Aid International Development  
67 Beauchamp Avenue, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4FW

Tel: 01761 416703 and 07976 423990  
Email: [bobhamer@aidinternational.org.uk](mailto:bobhamer@aidinternational.org.uk)  
Web: [www.aidinternational.org.uk](http://www.aidinternational.org.uk)

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# SPOTLIGHT on VIJAYAWADA



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## A report from the Build/Mission Team to Vijayawada, India May/June 2019

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A partnership of charities taking aid to the poor



Introducing the team... The team was Jen Baker, Lisa Drabble and Bob Hamer from Bath City Church, and Kim Jones from Bourne Christian Centre, Bristol



Thoughts from the team...

The Team travelled to the capital of Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada to work once again with Pastor Juna of Calvary Prayer Tower.

**The highlight** for me was towards the end of the trip when we visited a very poor village near Vuuyuru some 30 kilometers from Vijayawada. The temperature was around 45C, it had been a very long, tiring day and it would have been so easy for us to go straight back to our nice hotel. But Juna insisted that we visit what he calls 'his tribal village'. As soon as we stepped foot out of the air-conditioned car the heat (and the smell) hit us—but we were given a wonderful welcome particularly by the children (see picture). They did some dancing and singing for us and I told them where we had come from—although no one knew where England was. And our translator said they would not understand many thousands of kilometers so I had to explain we had travelled on three planes to get there—I think they understood that! Then we gave all the children some practical gifts of food and various other things.



What really struck me was the awful living conditions (by Western standards), some concrete block houses but mainly mud huts with straw roofs and a definite lack of sanitation. And the monsoon season was only a few weeks away. Back in the car I mentioned that it reminded me of Jeremiah 29:11—for I know the plans I have for you, plans not to harm you but to prosper you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Our translator Jennifer then stunned us by saying that in the Telegu language there is no word for 'hope'!! What hope or future do these kids have without Jesus and without any knowledge of 'hope'!



**But there is hope!!**

Juna has just started a church there and a young couple from the village are pastoring it. All the kids are getting some education with Christian teaching and are being fed once a day. If all we had done during the trip was to tell them that we had come a long way to tell them that Jesus loved them and wanted to be their best friend it would have been so worthwhile. It was a privilege to be able to tell them that. Praise God Alleluia!!

Bob Hamer  
Aid International—CEO

The colours, sounds, people, poverty, temples, temperatures and beauty of India is difficult to describe, but suffice to say that experiencing it changes you forever.

The sensory overload began the minute we stepped into the sweltering 45C temperatures(!) and only finished once we arrived into Gatwick airport ten days later.

Part of my role on the trip was to preach and teach the pastors / leaders who work with Pastor Juna, which I did over three full days. They have never had a woman



teaching them before, so this was a new experience for all of us! Admittedly, the first day they were a bit unsure and hesitant, and the second day we had tremendous warfare around the preaching (yet still with significant breakthroughs), *but* on the final day they were on their feet, hands raised, shouting in victory and strong in faith. It was a beautiful picture as laughter and freedom were palatable in the room which had felt quite oppressive up to that point.

We also saw healings, including a man who had suffered a stroke and couldn't speak clearly, but gave testimony to his healing by speaking freely!

At the women's meeting, as I started to pray for them, the Lord highlighted to me one short woman in the back. I asked the interpreter to get her attention and she slowly walked forward. When she arrived I noticed her foot was bandaged and asked about it. She had been bitten by a cat and as a widow she had no more money for medicine to fight the infection. As a team we prayed over it and then we were able to get the proper medication so Kim could clean the wound and dress it. I loved how God saw her need and called her out of the crowd to receive His love through spiritual *and* practical help.

There isn't space to talk about the leper village, the orphaned children, the new home for widows or the church members hungry to hear preaching and receive prayer late into the night, desperate for a miracle.

India is a stunningly beautiful culture and I feel truly honoured to be part of what God is doing in that country. There are millions of people there and yet this trip reminded me that although God loves the multitudes, He always sees the one.

Jen Baker