

James 3:18 Ministry

Jon Nichols, Cathie and Jerry Gates

Jon, Cathie and Jerry traveled to India, recently, for the purpose of teaching biblical peacemaking principles to a group of YWAM leaders and Member Care people from India, Korea and Nepal. The report of their experiences follows:

The beginning of the week is always hard as they don't know us, and we don't know them; however, by the end of the week we have become dear friends and hate to part from one another. We are always very blessed by the friendships that are made while teaching and by the amazing stories of faith we hear. Many of these people have come from a Hindu culture and are completely rejected by their families due to their belief in Christ. They have been led to live in extremely difficult situations in order to minister to people that are completely rejected by society: prostitutes, HIV/Aids victims, children's homes, and others. Most of them are living on very little as they have so few people helping with support, but they remain faithful to their calling in spite of the hardships.

We're happy to report that the peacemaking teaching was received with joy and great anticipation of how it will positively affect the ministry of the teams. It is a difficult teaching in this society where it is not culturally appropriate to ask forgiveness or admit when one is wrong. We had several couples who were encouraged to practice among themselves until it felt more comfortable for them so they could be the examples for others on their team. We were amazed at the capabilities of many of those who acted as mediators in the practice case studies and they were thrilled that they didn't have to have "the answers" to all the problems! We learned so much that we will be able to incorporate into our teaching when we go to West Africa at the end of March. Every time we teach we learn more about how to make this teaching applicable to those of other cultures. We are indeed blessed to be used by God in teaching these peace and reconciliation principles to so many around the world. The men and women of this group were commissioned to go forth and teach the material to those with whom they work and minister. Please pray that God will use them to further the cause of peace in His kingdom.

Thank you for your prayers.