



BP Ledger, Nov. 7 edition

By Staff

Nov 7, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: BP Ledger carries items for reader information each week from various Southern Baptist-related entities, and news releases of interest from other sources. The items are published as received.

Today's BP Ledger includes items from:

The Institute on Religion and Public Policy

God's Courtroom (news release)

Compass Direct News

B&H Publishing Group (news release)

Parents Television Council

International Mission Board

Dale Evans Project (news release)

Pastor in India organizes open-air crusade

AGRA, India (God's Courtroom)--In a community near Agra, India, where the Gospel had never been publically proclaimed, a crusade was held September 13th. According to Pandu Maddala, the local pastor who organized the crusade, the area is dominated by Hindus and there could be violent attacks on believers if the Gospel was proclaimed in public. The few churches that exist are permitted to hold services inside a building but never in public.

Desiring to reach his community for Christ, Pastor Maddala had been working with Hindu children in the area and has earned the trust and support of their parents. He decided it was time for the first-ever public open-air evangelistic crusade in his Hindu community.

Maddala wisely recruited the support of one of the politicians who promised to attend. By doing this he knew there would be no violence because in India local politicians have a lot of power and influence in the communities. When the team arrived to hold the crusade, a crowd had already gathered, dozens of children, old and young people eager to watch; some were standing on buildings, others crowding doorways.

When evangelist Bruce Kugler began to speak his message "God's Courtroom," the crowd seemed to increase as people in the community came out to see what was happening.

At first the crowd did not look friendly, says Kugler. "I know that Hindu people believe in the existence of millions of gods and I was not sure whether the crowd would turn angry because I was proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and they needed to surrender to Him as the absolute boss of their lives."

During the message, the Holy Spirit moved on the crowd. At the end, more than 20 Hindu people publically raised their hands to accept God's offer of a pardon through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Maddala stated God worked so mightily as some of the Hindu woman were in tears as they listened to the message. There were children and young men who also received Christ.

For Kugler, it was a unique experience because many had never heard the Gospel. During the entire crusade, there was no threat of violence. In retrospect, Kugler believes the Gospel message had such an impact because of the prayers of many people at his home church and the prayers of the local pastors and believers.

In this community of India, perhaps for the first time, people heard there was a God in heaven who loved them, knew the number of the hairs on their head, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross to pay the penalty for their sin, and was offering them a pardon. Maddala is excited about the success of the crusade. After returning to the USA, Kugler has been informed by him that many people are still asking questions about Jesus and requesting Bibles.

Kugler was invited to India by Ron Herrod, president of RHEMA, an evangelistic ministry. Kugler was a member of a team of eight people who traveled to train pastors in Goa and Mumbai, India. RHEMA trains native pastors in a 10-week Bible and pastoral training program. Several pastors and seminary professors from the USA volunteer for a week to teach at the Bible Institutes in India.

Kugler, an attorney, is executive director of God's Courtroom, an evangelistic ministry of Living Faith Baptist Church in Sherman, Ill. He can be reached at bruce.kugler@godscourtroom.org.
