



Mission Connections



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A letter from Sue Hudson in India

May 4, 2009

Rahab's Rope Women's Center

Then Rahab let... [Joshua's messengers] down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall... But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared..."

-Joshua 2:15; 6:25

At the invitation of Nancy Lee Hadley from Grapevine Presbyterian Church in Grapevine, Texas, David and I had the opportunity to visit Rahab's Rope, a project in Bangalore, South India, supported by their congregation and a recipient of a Thank Offering Grant from Presbyterian Women.



The Grapevine team gathers: Bob, Alison, Nancy Lee and Gail (back row); Mackey, Vicki, David, Sue, Shoba, Pat, and Mary Lloyd (front row).

Nancy Lee and her team are "Mission Initiators," a term used by PC (USA) to affirm the work that congregations and presbyteries are doing throughout the denomination to make direct links with mission projects around the world. We were delighted that Nancy Lee invited David and me to visit and participate in her congregation's mission trip during Holy Week 2009.

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NancyLee's connection to Rahab's Rope goes back about four years, but this was the first team from Grapevine to accompany her to Bangalore. David Dass, director of India Gospel League, has been working in partnership with Rahab's Rope to provide a place for women who have been working on the streets, or who have been abused and rejected by their own families. Some of the women are HIV positive. At Rahab's Rope they are treated respectfully and taught skills that will make it possible for them to support themselves in the future. A number of the women have young children living with them at Rahab's Rope.



A mother and daughter who live at Rahab's Rope and show great potential for turning their lives around.

Each member from Grapevine had a sense of "call" to be part of this mission team and used their talents to encourage and train the women at Rahab's Rope. The primary skill the residents and day students learn at Rahab's Rope is sewing. The Grapevine team led workshops on jewelry making, new sewing projects, marketing, basic accounting, and goal setting.

Alison prepared "Rahab's Rope" journals for each woman as a gift before she arrived in India and presented them to each participant on the first day of the workshop. Even the youngest members of the group were captivated by the journals.



The Rahab's Rope journals were a big hit with all the participants!

In addition to being moved by our contacts with the residents of Rahab's Rope, whose life stories are painfully difficult to imagine, I was impressed with the life experiences of the team from Grapevine. They stayed at a hotel with a common meeting space where we shared meals and devotions together. David and I arrived on Palm Sunday evening so that we could meet David Dass and his wife, share a meal with them and the team from Grapevine, and participate in a Taize Communion service.



Weaving hope for a better future, Pat and one of the women at Rahab's Rope are finishing up her first necklace.

During the three-day workshops at Rahab's Rope, David became the ad hoc "photographer" for the team, and we all got some good laughs from the poses he captured! Pat was asked to bring jewelry-making supplies and helped the women braid necklaces with three strands of different colored pearls and stones. The necklaces will be marketed for Rahab's Rope with the "story" of Rahab's Rope enclosed with every necklace sold. The "Rahab's Rope" necklaces represent the hope that the project gives women who are otherwise abandoned.

Mission Challenge and Mission Celebration

Let me take this opportunity to invite you to attend Mission Celebration 2009 in Cincinnati from October 22-24, 2009. It's sponsored by the PC(USA) as a way of bringing together mission initiators in congregations, mission co-workers on home assignment, and Louisville staff for programs which will both educate and inspire. That conference will provide a hands-on way to learn more about Presbyterian mission around the world. You can find more information and register for the conference on the [Mission Celebration Web site](#).

Ongoing mission networks have been established to focus on different regions in the world. Networks for both India and Pakistan will be meeting around the time of Mission Celebration 2009 in Cincinnati. If you are interested in joining one of these networks, please let me know and I will get you on their email lists.

Please lift up Rahab's Rope and all projects sponsored by mission initiators in the United States. These groups are seeking to be faithful to God's call by getting out of their comfort zones and using their talents and resources to uplift people on the margins. Please pray for them to have wisdom and guidance as they venture into different cultures to share their love for Christ. Please pray for the staff of PC (USA) to be able to connect these groups to our long-standing mission partners around the world.

Thank you for supporting women all around the world who struggle to have their voices heard, their boundaries respected, and their talents utilized for the glory of God. As one woman who has been welcomed into leadership by the PC(USA), I am honored to be your partner in Christ's mission in South Asia.

Gratefully,

Sue Hudson

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