

Is the Door Closing?

I have heard and read the stories of persecution and arrests of other missionaries, but this past November I experienced first-hand the reality that the charge to share the gospel to the ends of the earth is becoming more unfavorable and hostile. I had been to India two times before and thought no way this would happen to us. But, within just a few minutes of being in India, my previous notion was proven wrong and I began to wonder if we would not only be allowed to finish our trip, but if we would be arrested.

There were five of us in our group, so we split up and entered different lines for the visa / customs clearance. Four of us were quickly accepted and our passports stamped, but one person seemed to be having difficulties with the government agent. The agent became suspicious that we were there as missionaries and began to question us about our intentions in India. He became irritated that we answered him that our purpose was to visit the Dayanilayam Orphanage and school which we support financially.

We were detained and questioned for about two hours. On one occurrence, the government agent put his finger in my chest and said, "This is my nice way of asking if you are missionaries!" After our long wait, another agent came over and asked why we were still waiting there, and we told him. He looked around, then told us to go ahead and go even though the other agent had not come back and cleared us yet. Without hesitation, we got up and went on through security and were able to enter India.

During our detainment, the government agent put his finger in my chest and said, "This is my nice way of asking if you are missionaries!"

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We witnessed God's amazing transforming power in the lives of so many there and were encouraged through the ministry of AIM. Upon our return to the United States however, I received an email from Jayamani in India that a government agent visited the orphanage and questioned her about the purpose of our visit and presented her with a detailed list of our daily activities while there. I would like for you to do two things after reading this letter. First, pray that God will not allow the door to be shut on missionaries travelling to India. Secondly, pray and ask God to show you how you can be more involved prayerfully, physically and financially with AIM over this next year. It has never been more urgent to give sacrificially than right now as the door may be closing before our very eyes!

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