

## Minister's Message – February 2004

### Harvest India

*Behold I say to you lift up your eyes and look to the fields for they are already white for harvest (John 4:35).*

#### Allahabad

Our train slowly made its way through the morning fog as we headed to Allahabad in North India. We were three hours late but friends from the Institute, now University, where we once worked, were patiently waiting for us. We pushed through the crush of people at the station and into the waiting jeep. The horn started blowing as we cut a path through the jungle of pedestrians, cycles, rickshaws, auto rickshaws, motorbikes, carts, cows and cars.

How exciting it was to be back seeing old places and renewing friendships. How wonderful to arrive on campus and hear hymns being sung by trainees from many villages. Our dear friend Dickson was away on study leave so Alfred looked after us. Thomas who was in my agronomy class many years ago was now married with two children and lecturing at the university. He arranged for me to give a lecture. I was inwardly asking the Lord how I would share in this lecture, when the professor, a Hindu man, suddenly asked me to lead in prayer. I later visited his home to read prayer with his family. Harvest India is ready.



On Sunday we witnessed the massive gathering of people at the *Yeshu Darbar*, Jesus Court on the banks of the Jamuna at the University. Thousands gathered to hear the word of God. What a change for Allahabad. This ancient city of over a million people is usually known as the place of pilgrimage for Hindus. Each January millions of come to take a holy bath in the Sangam, the confluence of the two big rivers of India. Harvest India is ready.

Later that day I went to some villages. It was a joy and matter thanksgiving to see young children singing with great enthusiasm songs of praise to Jesus. They had learnt these at a Bible camp arranged by Dickson and were now teaching others in their village. The Lord had raised up Samir to carry on this work in Dickson's absence. In the city churches I was told that hundreds had come on Christmas day to hear about Jesus: people from all walks of life. Harvest India is ready.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon*