

## **A MONKEY WILL LEAD THEM**

"Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go,' whether to the right or to the left." Isaiah 30:21 "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Proverbs 16:9

These verses helped lead me to be "mission-driven" and came to life for me most recently on mission to Bangladesh.

One day while we were visiting the Tea Gardens, a playful monkey crossed our path. He seemed very friendly and extremely interested in us! He was intent on holding our attention, as if he was directing our path. He often ran ahead, but always stayed in sight. His playfulness was attractive so we followed him. He led us into a village compound, completely uninvited! The monkey ran to his master, who gave him a big hug, rewarded him with a piece of banana and then attached him to his perch.

Another man welcomed us and asked, "Why are you here?" Through an interpreter, I told him that we had come to share our faith in Jesus. He looked shocked! He shared with us that he, in fact, owned a Bible. He admitted that he had tried to read it but was unable to understand what he read. He told us, "This is why I remain a Hindu; I cannot understand your Bible."

I realized that God has led us to this very place to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! I asked him, "Would you like to understand the Bible?" and he responded with a resounding, "Yes!"

I shared the Good News with him, using the salvation bracelet I was wearing. It is a simple and visual reminder of what I would then teach him. I explained that our sin causes separation from God. I told him that God's Word says that the shedding of blood is required for forgiveness of that sin. Then, with a smile on my face, I communicated that God sent His own Son, Jesus, to die and pay for our sin, so that we might have a right relationship with God.

I said to him that if he believed what I told him and chose to accept the gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, all of his sins would be removed forever. He would then have the Holy Spirit living in him to give understanding of the Word of God.

He immediately prayed to receive Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and visible change of heart we saw in him! God took this man's heart of stone and gave him a heart of flesh as Ezekiel 36:26 says. He then asked, "Can we pray for my wife?"

I will never forget that day. God sent a monkey to deliver His Word to a man who was seeking Him. Jeremiah says, "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

I am grateful for the scholarship assistance I receive from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering that enables me to follow God's lead.

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