



Christ Through Crisis: Testifying God's Leading

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On a beautiful Monday morning in July 2022, we gathered at Spicer's Ellen G. White Center for devotion as a group of students and our teachers. The students were on their way to Warangal, Telangana, for a mission trip. The team was divided into three groups, each going to the train station separately. It was a fascinating occasion, one that I, myself, was looking forward to very much.

All was going well until we started facing issues one after the other. The excitement became a crisis when my group arrived late

at the station due to heavy traffic. Despite our best efforts and calls, the train had to leave without us. During this unprecedented crisis, some of us considered canceling the mission trip, but ultimately prayer was the only option when the team ran out of leads. While we were still in the taxi, we immediately decided to take the taxi to Solapur to catch another train; however, we were held back since the driver asked for Rs 7000. We could not afford it, so finally, the driver dropped us off at the Pune railway station at 10:40 am.

When we arrived at the train station, to our good fortune, we discovered that a train heading for Solapur was leaving at 11:40 in the morning. However, our primary concern was whether or not we would make the later train, which was due to depart at 7 pm. In the run-up to our outreach trip, God had already provided a solution to our first challenge. To further demonstrate His providence for us, a bus was waiting for us at the bus terminal in Solapur to take us to the main bus depot when we reached there. The journey was supposed to begin at Solapur, continue to Hyderabad, and then continue to Warangal. We were taken aback by the fact that there was a bus waiting for us at every stop along the route, and we finally arrived in Warangal at approximately 5:00 the next day.

When our group of 12 members awoke the following day, rain fell outside. We prayed, praised God for His mercies as we traveled, and requested Him to control the weather so it would cease raining. The faithfulness of God was demonstrated when he stopped the rain so that people may attend our service at 6:00 pm. Even though it continued to rain after the prayer meetings, one of the attendees made a specific request to pray for sunlight on the second night, and guess what happened? Our prayers were answered, and God made it so that it did not rain during the remaining of our meeting.

We went from house to house, distributed books, and prayed alongside the locals. As soon as word got out that students from Spicer were preaching, people in the neighborhood were eager to listen to what we had to preach. On that particular Sabbath, we were honored to be invited to preach in three distinct places of worship thanks to our decision to divide into three groups. In addition, there was an unusual development in our community. Following the pastor's prayers, a couple in which the wife had been suffering from acute abdominal

discomfort instantly improved her condition.

On the night of our final meeting, Satan was almost certainly up to no good. The children could only make it to the meetings because it was pouring rain outside, and the electricity was down. When I think back, I remember the Bible's conversation about Job and how it may have applied to our predicament.

GOD: Have you seen my servants down there? They adore me and worship me.

SATAN: Isn't it because you provided them with a place to worship and calm weather for the entire two days? Obviously, they will praise you.

GOD: All right. Please do what you will with the weather, but do not endanger their lives. (I believe Satan attempted to stop the meetings that night with the heavy rains, but we kept singing and praising God)

GOD: You see! Despite the heavy rain you sent, they still worship me.

SATAN: That is because you provided a church and electricity.

GOD: Ah, I see. Go ahead and turn off the power. (There were no lights, but we kept singing with no microphone and music, and it kept raining.)

Satan gave up in the end. After some time had passed, it ceased to rain, the electricity was quickly restored, and people started attending church. We got a delayed start than expected because of the persistent rain. As soon as the pastor started preaching, the women started shouting because a girl had passed out. We first thought a demon possessed her, so the church pastor and the congregation's elders gathered around her and prayed for her. Eventually, she regained consciousness and said that she felt much better. During the mission trip, we experienced Christ in our struggles, and despite the challenges and crises ahead of us, He never failed to provide timely solutions and breakthroughs. For this reason, we praise God for His guidance, safety, and leadership.