



MINUTE FOR MISSION

November 15, 2006

God Is On the Move in the Slums of Delhi



India Amith

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An Emmanuel Health Association community worker named Rajesh had been meeting with a committee that he had created to work on health issues in one of these unofficial slums. During a resident committee meeting, someone casually mentioned that he knew two children with measles. Rajesh immediately suggested



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An Emmanuel Health Association community worker named Rajesh had been meeting with a committee that he had created to work on health issues in one of these unofficial slums. During a resident committee meeting, someone casually mentioned that he knew two children with measles. Rajesh immediately suggested

that the committee do a quick survey to see if any other children had measles. Measles in malnourished children is fatal 90 percent of the time. After they found twenty-five children with measles symptoms, the committee wrote a letter to the Public Health Department asking for a nurse to give immunizations. Four days later a team from the Health Department rolled into the slum and set up an immunization camp that lasted three days.

“It was an awesome and funny event,” writes mission worker Scott Smith. “Kids and their moms came from everywhere. Normally, an immunization camp is a very noisy affair. Kids start screaming before they even see the needles and the volume increases as the needles approach. In this camp the kids were soundless because they had no idea what was happening. Five- and six-year-old kids had no experience with immunizations and needles. They calmly sat there while the nurse prepared the injection. Even when it was over, they would look puzzled as they walked away rubbing their leg where the injection had been given.”

It was a proud moment for Rajesh and the slum health committee. Slum dwellers had had the nerve and drive to approach government offices with a request. The manager of the immunization team said the office had no idea these slums were there. “These people are not even in the UNICEF statistics,” continues Scott. “And now the committee that the community worker had helped to create feels that there are other needs that they can begin to solve: drinking water, drainage, and other public health problems. They are now looking at getting their children into local schools. They are on the move. God is at work in the slums of Delhi.”

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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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