

A Wynter with Jesus in India

by Wynter Ducharme

I grew up attending the Native Bible Fellowship of Calgary. InterAct's Debbie and Dale Kenyon planted this church in the mid-80's. They mentored my parents and led them both to the Lord. Later, the Kenyons felt God's call to serve in India and left our church in the care of InterAct church-planters Dan and Bev Mayerle.



I have wanted to be a missionary all my life. Throughout my teen years God worked in my life and gave opportunities for me to serve Him. I started as a camp counselor at the New Dawn Bible Camp¹, was a part of the On Eagles Wings team² two summers, and worked in Mexico with our Native church on two short-term missions.

Through all of these experiences, God put a desire in my heart to see all peoples reached for Christ.

¹ New Dawn Bible Camp is co-sponsored by InterAct church plants in southern Alberta.

² On Eagles Wings trains Native youth to evangelize and disciple other Native youth.

I recently spent a little over three months with Debbie and Dale in North India, in the Punjab city of Chandigarh, home to approximately one million people. I became a member of the Chandigarh Bible Fellowship, another church planted by the Kenyons and a local family.

One of the first events I took part in was a church picnic. Debbie and I planned games and relays for the day. It was a challenge to prepare games that were culturally appropriate—there is little tolerance for

male-female contact, for



example—and games for which we could easily find equipment. But it was all worth it. From the youngest baby to the elder of the church, they all joined a game or two!

Outside of the church members, I was able



to meet a very special family. Debbie and Dale have been visiting and ministering to this Sikh family for a number of years. I fell in love with them and was soon comfortable in their household.

One evening I brought bannock³ to their home as a gift; I had found a way to make it with the ingredients Debbie had available. Of course, it wasn't exactly the same because of flour and even the baking situation. They don't have a full oven like we do in Canada; it looks more like a toaster oven. This family liked it so much that I offered to show them how to make it.



Wynter shows her Punjabi friend how to make bannock.

One of the hardest experiences I had in India was the day I shared my testimony at a ladies' luncheon. This was my first time in India to share cross-culturally to a large group of unbelievers. It was difficult but the experience was so encouraging. They

were talkative and open with some of their experiences. I wasn't the only one shocked by the similarities I had with this group of Women. Personally and culturally, we all have suffered some of the same tragedies – family deaths, suicides, abuse and abandonment, in one way or another.

Looking back on my India experience, I realized that I wasn't just sharing with a group of unbelievers. I was living my faith, and in a country that is so against Christ.



Wynter braves a camel ride with Debbie Kenyon.

Through all the people I met, God showed me that I needed to step up my faith and live for him in every area in my life.

But what He revealed to me the most was His power and glory. By calling me to India and providing financially, and through all that He taught me on this trip, God showed me that it isn't about me or what I do here ... it's really all about His power.

What greater honor can I have than to serve the Most High and Gracious King?

³ Bannock is an ethnic First Nations bread.