

## **Changing Taste – Changing Country!**

In my early teens, I knew a really odd boy. When we'd go out for pizza, he'd order a special one to his own requirements made with no cheese and no tomato, essentially some kind of pineapple and sweetcorn bread. Cheese and tomato just had too strong a flavour. When his family went on holiday, he would dread going anywhere other than the UK because any further south into Europe just got far too hot. As I said, pretty odd!

On 18<sup>th</sup> July, that odd boy and his amazing wife are off to India! Thankfully, my tastes have changed a great deal. I can now barely go a couple of days without a curry and heat doesn't bother me nearly as much. That said, this is my first journey out of Europe and I rather get the impression that, despite my passion for Asian food, I've never really eaten a proper curry.

The days are ticking away very quickly and Michelle tells me there's still a lot to be done. However, what draws my mind is the potential for events that could be life-changing and I don't mean a better tolerance for spice!

Michelle and I are likely to come face-to-face with poverty that we've only ever seen on TV. I also suspect that we'll meet people of faith who will seriously unsettle our comfortable discipleship. If I'm really honest, though, that's a big part of why we're going. Daniel and Dasha Mari felt the call of God to open schools and orphanages in the slums and, at the same time, plant churches which could nurture those coming to know God in a powerful way. God is drawing us out there too and our willingness to have an open heart and an open spirit is a big part of the deal. Could this be the beginning of a new partnership between Christ Church South Manchester and "Evangelizing Asia for Christ" (the name of Daniel's mission organisation)? Can we be Good News for India?

Please pray for us as we continue to make our preparations, for our safe travels in July, and that God would bless everyone we meet in some new way. Please pray for Daniel as he shows us round. I know he is keen to make a good impression! Most importantly though, please pray for Christ Church, as I believe what God wants to show us in India is not just for us but also for the church as a whole.

**Andy Hall**