

FREEDOM'S RING
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"Proclaim liberty throughout the land" (Lev.25:10).
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Elma Lea Memorial Library

What are you going to do with those good books that you no longer use? You may wish to consider making them available to eager students in India.

In April 1996, I received a request for copies of *Free In Christ* from Dr. J. B. M. Prasad in the state of Andhra – Pradesh, India. Since that time I have sent him sixteen mailings of books. Many of these mailings were M-Bags of books including various titles. Dr. Prasad traveled far and wide on his motor scooter (provided by some of you) distributing those books without charge to preachers, church leaders, preacher training schools, and to students in the seminaries of other groups who welcomed the books.

In 1998, *Free In Christ* was translated into the Telegu language and three printings have been made in India amounting to 4000 copies. These books are given free and no one gains a penny from their production and distribution. The good problem has been in trying to supply all they want.

Now, without notifying or consulting with me, Dr. Prasad has established an “Elma Lea Memorial Library” honoring my sweetheart of 57 years. He has sent me official papers of registration with the government in which he is listed as the Founder and President with a Board of Directors consisting of T. Sujiva Rao, BA, Dr. P. Ratna Kumar, MBBS, Dr. K. Vijendra Kumar, MD, and K. Bajjibabu, BSc. The library will be in Jaggampeta, East Godavari District of Andhra – Pradesh.

They will be depending upon us to supply the books. So here seems to be a great use you can make of your good books which you no longer use. Whatever you have that has been helpful to you in your Bible study can be helpful for them. That can include different versions of the Bible, concordances, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, atlases, topical studies, word studies – whatever has been helpful for you. Those with education in India are proficient in English, but they are not blessed with an abundance of books like we are.

We trust that no one will send books which export our polarizing issues that have brought strife and divisions in our country. Let us focus on God and Christ and the grace and love they have shown to all men.

Sending books into other countries is expensive. The more economical way is to send by M-Bags which can range from 11 to 66 pounds at the cost of \$1.00 per pound. Most of you probably have not used this method. The workers in your post office will be most helpful in answering your inquiries and assisting you. The books must be packaged in boxes or mailers small enough to fit in the bag. Each package should be addressed fully just in case it is lost from the bag. Books must be packaged tightly lest they suffer much scuffing in their journey of about three months.

Do not send books to me. Send them to:

Dr. J. B. M. Prasad
H. No. 11-37; Opp. SBI
Jaggampeta 533 435
E. Godavari AP INDIA

Dr. Prasad also gives this email address: < heart to heart@rediff.com >.

Although this will honor Lea in a manner in which she could not have dreamed, the real purpose is not to honor a person. It is to give others tools to learning so they can better understand what God has to offer them. With your names in the books you might send, really, it will be a sort of pooling of honor for all contributors.

Please know that I am not asking you for your books. I am informing you of an opportunity that Dr. Prasad has opened for unusual and lasting use of books you might have treasured. I have few books left from my small library for I have already sent them overseas for greater use. But I do intend to rob my shelves again leaving me with only the books of questionable value.

I would be pleased to learn of your donations of books or money for this library honoring my Elma Lea. []

(Cecil Hook: November 2004)

Talkin' Texas: Six flags have flown over Texas – those of Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy, and the United States. But not the flag of Britain! Many of our states were never claimed by England.

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