

Life Is So Unnerving

Description

For a servant who's not serving.

General Conference is such a great oasis in the desert of intense uncertainty we find ourselves in. Yes, we are still in a holding pattern, still not allowed to serve in our calling as humanitarian volunteers.

The closing hymn of the Saturday Evening Session really hit home, especially the phrase: "More used would [we] be."

We sincerely wish the Indian government leaders would be more open to foreign aid to help their people, especially the poor and needy, of which there are so many. But it is what it is. Despite this reality we hold out hope for a sooner-than-later resolution to our immobility.

Every day we see something new, or meet someone who knows someone who needs help, or who *can* help. We can only smile and say we'll know more soon about how we might be able to help, or collaborate with them in helping to lift and bless people's lives.

In the meantime, we continue to explore Vizag and its many features and allures. Here's this week's highlight reel of photos and videos:



Vizagians love to decorate their "lorries"!



How do they balance these loads?!



I stretch for yummy leaves



Pretty flower in walking park



Another pretty flower



Yet another pretty flower



Happy and gracious



The designs are for inviting prosperity



Seen on the way to Yarada Beach



Also on the way



Home/shop on the way



Yarada Beach



A fleet of fishing boats at Yarada Beach

<http://firstthreeodds.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/04/caught-some-big-ones.mp4>

Caught some big ones without fishing boats!



Inspecting the catch



Puffer fish



A ray



Mackerel or tuna?



Maybe not this one



Definitely not this one!



Let's check out these rocks!



A serene woman amid the craggy rocks

<http://firstthreeodds.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/04/waves-at-yarada-beach.mp4>

Waves at Yarada Beach



And cool sand



Even cacti need some shade!



Coal-powered clothes iron!



Smiths at work!

<http://firstthreeodds.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/making-stakes.mp4>

Make no mistake — he's making stakes!

Yesterday, to celebrate Taunya's birthday, we had lunch with the Bairds at a nice restaurant in the Dolphin Hotel downtown.



Welcome to the Dolphin
Hotel

The food was great—not nearly as spicy this time as the food we ordered for delivery a couple of days before. Alas, I may never arrive at the point where the Indian degree of spiciness adds to rather than diminishes my enjoyment of food! Balance and moderation, the happy medium, the beautiful blend — give us more of that, please!

The phrase from “More holiness give me” I mentioned earlier has a precursor: “More fit for the kingdom.” We need to stay focused on the kingdom and each of our small but important part in building it. To be fit for the work we need to maintain and enhance our spiritual poise in the face of discouragement and uncertainty.

To quote Lumière again, “Life is so unnerving for a servant who’s not serving.” Far more unnerving than that, far worse than the pollution in much of this earth’s air, water and ground, is the pollution that festers in people’s hearts. Would that this pollution be rooted out, would that we all become pure in heart, a people prepared to bring again Zion, to be ready to meet the Lord when He comes! We know He IS coming, and when He does He will usher in a thousand years of peace. This planet *will* be cleansed from the filthiness on its face, and find rest with its grateful inhabitants in the healing presence of the Prince of Peace!

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