



The story of Reverend Talivaldis Smits (Big Rev).

2006 I think it was, if my memory serves me correctly, (which now a days it rarely does) I first saw the Rev walk into to town.

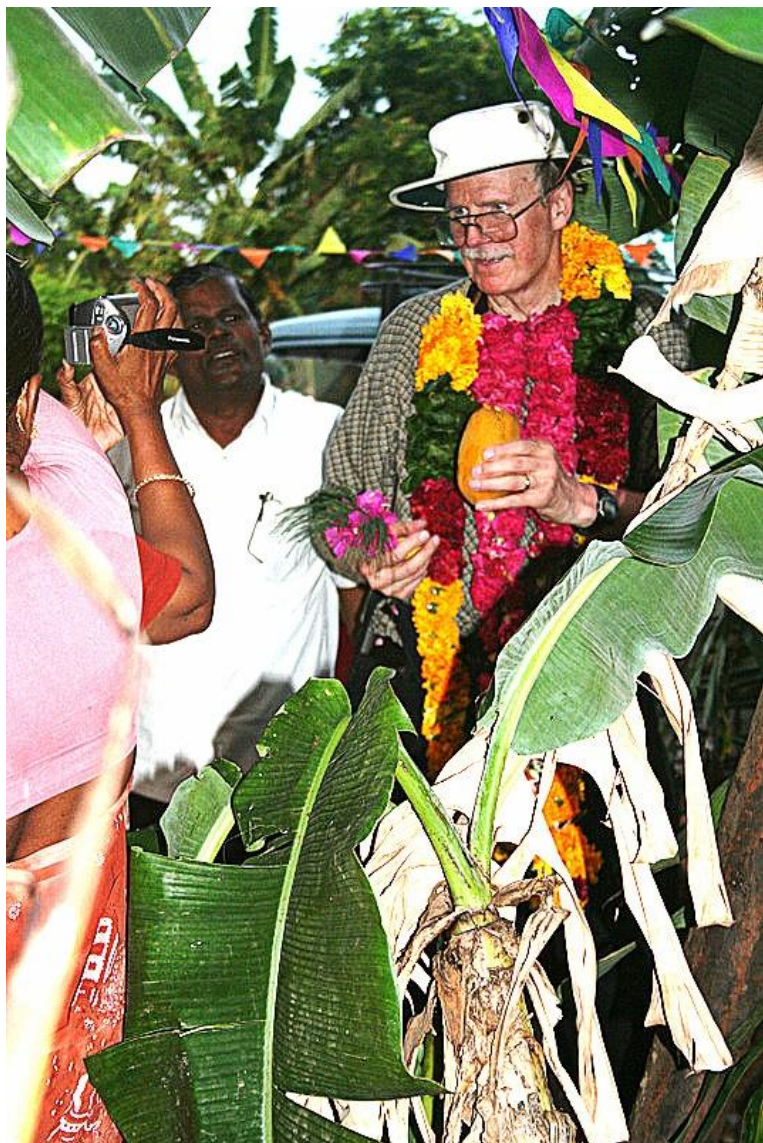
Explosions, shouting, weird music and dancing had no effect on his equanimity. He strode through the smoke and litter of the local welcome as though strolling the streets of Washington DC.

(Which probably would have seemed just as strange and foreign as this village of Keelakalpoondi in Tamil Nadu)



The natives gathered closely awed by this visitation from civilisation.

Asking- no, demanding, to know of his home, family, reasons for being among them, how much money had he on him, and would he give them some(or all) because they were poor destitute country folk whose sons needed the where with all to get to America to start up Indian take-aways

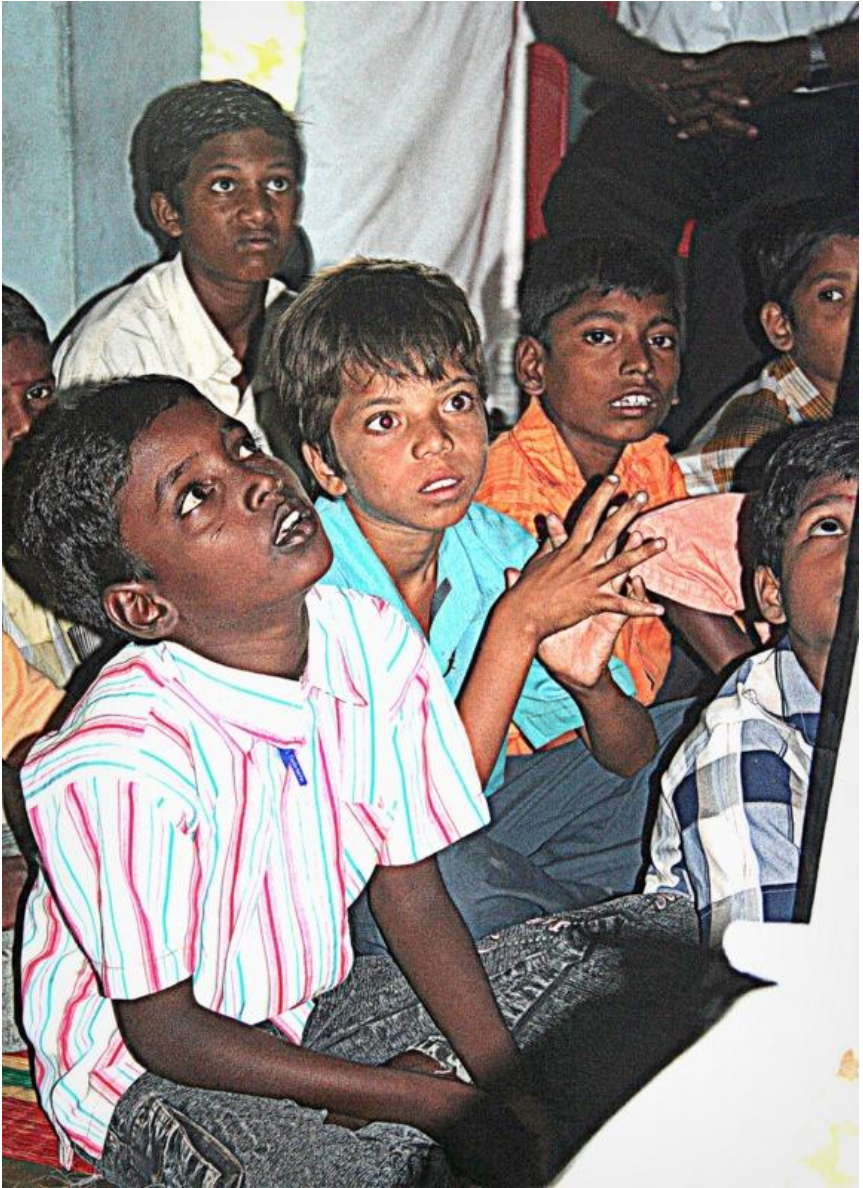


The Big Rev. was welcomed with strange tribal ceremonies designed to increase banana and coconut production and his soul captured on a sony video camera.



The villagers offered The Big Rev local foods on a traditional table and tableware made in China, strange fruits and an English type meal from a local Indian Takeaway.

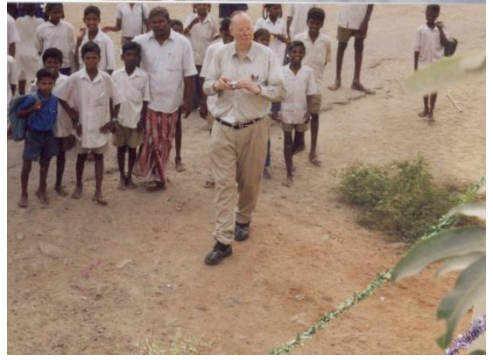




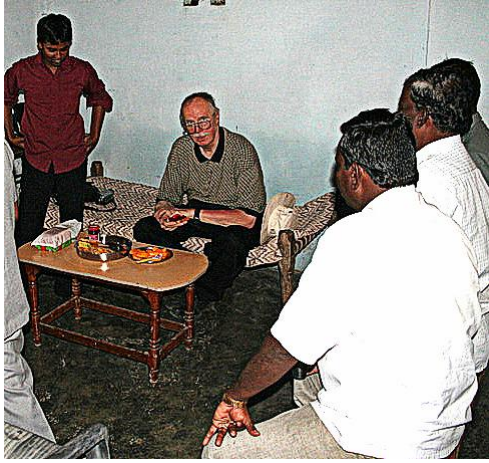
The young were excited and always looking up to the Reverend, even if somewhat overwhelmed.



Overwhelmed by the Big Rev looking down at them from a great height. Always though, known to be smiling, so they



gathered around the Rev concerned for his welfare, talking with him, reading to him and generally happily socialising even with out language.



The Big Rev organised his support team with pre match team talk.



He raised the enthusiasm of the multitudes and conducted them in stirring hymns.



*The Reverend questioned the
converts intensely and found
their
strengths
and
weaknesses*





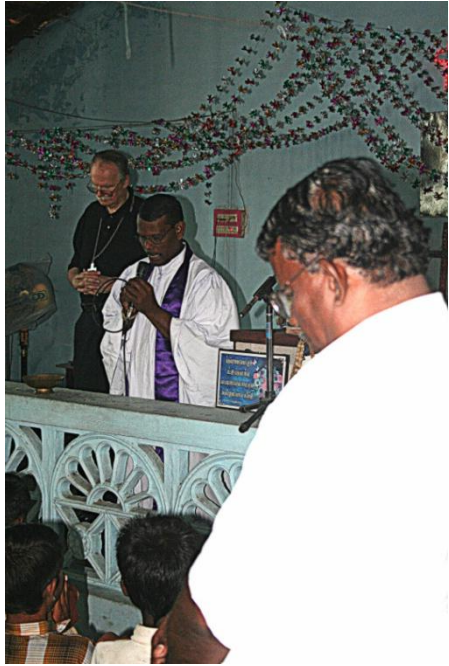
But still the crowds gathered, waiting patiently after streaming into the arenas for a glimpse of the big man;

Dancing to entertain themselves while waiting and for joy at his arrival.





The Big Rev attended many strange village ceremonies, as this one, where he was asked to judge the local country women's society pet parade.



*St Paul's Church
Kaludur was full for
Reverend Smits blessings*



*They
greeted
Rev Smits
Warmly and in return
He demonstrated the
Basic steps of square
dancing.*





The Big Rev visited people in their homes and distributed gifts to the lame and food to the elderly.





“Look out, there may be more there yet”

At all times security was on the alert for trouble!

(Actually Roselyn had just confiscated a plastic toy gun from an evening class boy)

