

Episode 28

Faith in Action DUANE AND CINDY TANNER – INDIA

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HOST: Welcome to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel:

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HOST: A show about welfare, humanitarian aid, and service around the world. Today we welcome Duane and Cindy Tanner, who served in New Delhi, India as humanitarian missionaries. Welcome, it's nice to have you here.

DUANE TANNER: Great to be here.

HOST: Tell us a little bit about yourselves, first: Bro. Tanner, what did you do for a living before the mission?

DUANE TANNER: I was, I worked for over forty years in Information Technology, and retired in April of 2008, and we immediately began preparing for the mission.

HOST: No, no pause there. Let's just do this thing. So something you talked about, Sister Tanner, for quite some time, or?

CINDY TANNER: Yes, it is something that we truly had a desire to do, and given the first opportunity we were there.

HOST: And you have children, and maybe some grandchildren?

CINDY TANNER: We do, we have eight children, and we have twenty wonderful grandchildren. (laughing)

HOST: Wow. Are they close by so you can see them often, or?

CINDY TANNER: Some are. We have a son in Montana, two daughters in Arizona, we have four children here in Utah, and we have one daughter in Australia.

HOST: Great.

CINDY TANNER: Yeah.

HOST: Well, let's talk a little bit about the process of, we've decided to go on a mission. What is the process, what happens now? You go to the bishop and say, "Here we are, what do we do now?" What happens?

DUANE TANNER: Well, what we did was, first, after retirement, we wanted to go around and visit all the children and all the grandchildren, including the trip to Australia. So, we got that out of the way and then went to the bishop who enabled us to go online and submit the application. And that's how the process began.

HOST: Okay, can you request a proselyting mission, or humanitarian mission, or where you want to go? How does that work?

CINDY TANNER: Yes, you can. You can request. Oftentimes I think that that, that is followed through with. But we decided that we would let the Lord decide that, and so that's, that's the direction that we went.

HOST: With that in mind, then, family around you when you opened the envelope? Explaining your destination. How did that, what, what was that day like?

DUANE TANNER: Actually, when the envelope came I was home alone, and Cindy was up in the Salt Lake area with family. So we got on the phone, and I said, "Do you want me to open it and tell

you where we're going, or do you want to wait and open it when you get back?" And so we opened it... (laughing)

CINDY TANNER: Yes.

DUANE TANNER: ...over the phone. She was with her parents and some of the other family was there. So I just read it to, read it to her over the phone and it was the first time I saw it, and yeah, it was, it was a surprise.

CINDY TANNER: It was, and it was, it was a thrill to us. Because my parents, actually their first mission about twenty-eight years ago, served in India and Sri Lanka.

HOST: Wow, same place?

CINDY TANNER: Same—

HOST: Same country.

CINDY TANNER: They were in, yes.

HOST: Same country but not the same area.

CINDY TANNER: That's right. They were in the southern part of India, we ended up in the North around Delhi. And, but it was such a thrill to us. I know that my, we had my parents on the phone also, and they had tears (laughing) because they were so thrilled, and my father said, "Oh, you know, when we left your mother said, 'How can we leave? Who will take care of these, these wonderful people? Who will love them the way we have loved them?'" And he said, "So now, you get to go back and take care of these wonderful people." So, yes. We were very thrilled, very touched and so anxious to get on with what the Lord was asking us to do.

HOST: The day the plane touches down, what's your initial reaction? The country, what is, I see your eyes about as big around as silver dollars, Sister Tanner.

DUANE TANNER: Well, let me tell you what happened.

[LAUGHING]

CINDY TANNER: Yeah.

DUANE TANNER: The, we arrived; it was around 1:00 in the morning. And, then you go through all the customs and all that other stuff, and then our president, mission president, President Ricks and his wife were there to meet us. Couldn't get inside the airport and they were knocking on the windows when they saw us come out, so we, we got hooked up with them. Found out the day before there had been six bombings in Delhi and with people killed and over a hundred injured. And there was a question whether we would even be able to go across the river into the area where he was assigning us. But as it turned out, what there was no problem. And Sunday morning we were over there after about, what was it, four hours sleep?

CINDY TANNER: I think so.

[LAUGHING]

HOST: Well, that's gotta be frightening, then, a little bit, is it not, or?

CINDY TANNER: It was a little unnerving, but I didn't feel nervous at that point.

DUANE TANNER: Nor I.

CINDY TANNER: And I, I think that, well, I know that we were watched over and we were given a very calm feeling. But the whole time we were there, because, of course, yes. It's an area where there are things that have happened and are happening and, and will happen but the

Lord was with us and, and we were protected and we had such wonderful opportunities and blessings. Being there, and we just went ahead with what we were doing and trusted in the Lord.

HOST: How did you set up home there? A flat that the Church recommended, or what was the first place that you lived like?

DUANE TANNER: They had arranged to, for, it was a house, well, a flat. We had the first floor and the missionaries at the time were living upstairs. And so we had the ground floor, and it had been unoccupied, I think, for two years. And so they'd gone in and made an attempt to clean it and put the furniture in and everything, but to be blunt it was a shock (laughing). What happened? We went straight to church, and then they took all our stuff over and, and deposited it in the, in the flat. So we got there after church. But I want to mention something about that first Sunday. It, we were in Noida, which was in Uttar Pradesh. It was, it was across the river, the river from Delhi. So we were there, we'd been asked to support the Noida Branch, even though, you know, we had this humanitarian assignment, which became, support of the Branch became one of our primary responsibilities and took a lot of the time and had brought us some of the greatest joy from that mission. But that Sunday there were some Brothers who were being given the Melchizedek Priesthood and that was another reason I think the mission president was there. So we came in and we sat down, and the Spirit was there so strong. It was just unbelievable. But anyway, it came time for the ordination, and I remember Brother Ajeedsing was the first one. He had never met me, and he's sitting in the chair, and it, we were meeting in a, in a home, really, that had been remodeled for a little bit for the Church. But anyway, he sat in the chair and he just looked down the, the row right at me and they asked him who, who he wanted to ordain him. He just pointed at me, he didn't know my name. And, so I went up and, you know, within hours of arriving in the country, blessings were coming already.

HOST: Interesting. What is Sacrament Meeting like, and what is the chapel like? You said it was a remodeled, refurbished home that you were meeting in?

CINDY TANNER: The Noida Branch actually started out as a home group. And graduated to a branch in, in a home. It actually was a place of business and in an a residential area. And the residents were not excited about it being there and would not allow the, the Church sign to be hung except when meetings were being held. And even after a little while, requested, quite forcefully, that we not even put the sign out then. So it—

HOST: At any time.

CINDY TANNER: At any time. And so it became a problem and eventually the little branch did outgrow that location anyway and we relocated to a different sector. And at that point, then we could hang the sign out at the meeting time, but again it had to come in after. And it was in, in an industrial area. We had part of the first floor that had been built according to the Church's specifications. There were classrooms and Branch President's office, Clerk's office, a little small, small area that was, had a sink that was for a kitchen and a very long area that we used as our sacrament, for our sacrament meetings and for little branch activities and that kind of a thing. Monkeys often passed outside. In fact one time I came into the church, turned around, and it was a single glass door, and looked and there was a monkey that had come and stood there and put his little hands on it, and its face looking in at the sacrament meeting. And so it really was quite an adventure every time we went, dodging the cows along the way in our little auto-rickshaw, and—

HOST: No, no, no, wait, wait, wait. Let's go back here, for just a second.

[LAUGHING]

HOST: We're in Delhi, I have pictured this as a large city, but you're saying it's across the, a river where you were serving?

DUANE TANNER: The, they refer to it as NCR, the National Capital Region. There's over fifteen million people in, in the region.

HOST: But even in this area there are still cows in the road?

DUANE TANNER: Oh yeah.

HOST: And there's still...

CINDY TANNER: Oh, yes.

HOST: Yeah?

CINDY TANNER: And in Delhi, also.

HOST: Oh. In Delhi?

CINDY TANNER: Yes, Delhi is a city-state much like Washington D.C. And the Yamuna River, which is a sacred river to the Indian people, the Hindu people, that flows into the Ganga, we call it, I had always called it the Ganges, but the Indian people call it the Ganga. But it flows into the Ganga, now the Yamuna separates Delhi from the state of Uttar Pradesh, where Noida is located. So it took us, on a good day, probably half an hour to forty minutes to travel into Delhi. But, yes. We were in Noida just outside of Delhi Proper.

DUANE TANNER: Not, not to give a wrong impression, now is, Delhi as a city does not have cows roaming in the streets.

HOST: But it is that close, it is adjacent...

DUANE TANNER: Well, what, what, what there are, though, there are what they call village areas. Much like you, in the States you'd say, "Well, you have reservations for, for the indigenous people, or the Native Americans." Now, the way the thing is evolved, they have some of these village areas. Now, within those village areas, you will still find cattle on the streets.

HOST: Okay.

DUANE TANNER: But they have fairly strict laws that if you own those, they can't go out on the, the major highways and things in the city proper.

CINDY TANNER: That's right. Although there are elephants on the major roads.

HOST: Oh, yeah.

[LAUGHING]

CINDY TANNER: So (laughing), every kind of vehicle and animal that you can imagine. It's quite an adventure!

HOST: You're listening to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel. Today we're visiting with Duane and Cindy Tanner who served in Delhi, India as humanitarian missionaries. We're in India now, we're, we're participating each Sunday in a branch that you've been assigned to. What is some of the responsibilities that you have, what is some of the humanitarian things that you're taking care of now?

DUANE TANNER: In terms of the projects.

HOST: Right, in terms of the projects.

DUANE TANNER: When we arrived, they, there with the previous couple who had left. They'd returned to the states in May, we got there in September. There was another senior couple, Elder and Sister Browns that kind of, they were not humanitarian missionaries, but they had kind of bridged the projects, or, or tried to keep the thing going a little bit until we arrived. One was a check-dam project in the state of Rajasthan, which was in a rural area. They hadn't done much with that at all, other than just maintain contact with the NGO, the non-governmental agencies that we were collaborating with. There was also some activity on neo-natal that they had continued and that's a, that's a story that we could probably take a whole program covering. Neo-natal resuscitation in India. Great, tremendous deal of satisfaction for having been able to participate in something that was so significant in that country. Could I take just a minute and talk about that?

HOST: Well, certainly. We, we've talked about, you know, I guess it's the, the Church is involved in a training program, basically in neo, neo-natal...

DUANE TANNER: Right, it's one of what; it's one of what they call the major initiatives. And worldwide. In India, which is the second most populous nation in the world, but it has for all of its progress and technology; it still has one of the highest infant mortality rates. The, the Church had gotten involved and had one project. I think it was in late 2006. And the one we arrived, it was another project scheduled. But five, by the time we left we had done five. Now the significance of that is that when you're talking about addressing infant

mortality specifically asphyxia in the first few minutes after birth, you're dealing with three areas. One would be births within private hospitals, births within public hospitals, and then births that were outside either type of facility: in the home, or something other than a hospital. The one project that had been performed in late 2006 had been working with UNICEF and one of the NGO's in the medical arena in India. And it was targeted at providers that worked in public hospitals. The day, the first week we were there, we were to travel north to the state of Lehar. And we met with some people from the Indian Academy of Pediatrics and began a relationship and a program that that NGO established called First Golden Minute that the Church played a significant part in facilitating and being the catalyst for the, for the growth of it. By the time we left, I don't know, their training levels were in the pro-, they had a target of a quarter of a million doctors in the private arena to be trained within, I think four years. And they were well on their way to achieving that. And that's a story in and of itself. Along the way, the federal government became aware of what IP, the Indian Academy of Pediatrics was doing, and approached them and got them involved in helping the government put up a program. And I can't give you the name of it, it was in Hindi (laughing), and I can't remember it. But it was NSSK, it was the initials of it. So by the end, and they also had a target then to address the non-institutional deliveries also, which was a complete turnaround, because the government had been offering incentives for women to come to hospitals to deliver, and it'd been doing everything they could to push that rather than support home delivery or anything like that.

HOST: I'm sorry, was home delivery most prominent then, at that particular time? Before this?

DUANE TANNER: In the rural areas, yes.

HOST: In the rural areas?

DUANE TANNER: Yeah, mmmm. Yeah. You'd have midwives and so forth, and some of them wouldn't necessarily be trained. So the government, when they got their program going for the public institutions, also stated the objective of then taking that into the non-institutional deliveries and begin going after trained midwives and so forth. And so by the time we left, the whole landscape, if you will, for delivery of infants was now had a program targeted towards it for the training of those that would assist deliveries in the neo-natal resuscitation techniques.

HOST: So the Church's involvement then is sending in trainers, or was sending in physicians, or how, what, what is happening here?

DUANE TANNER: We, I'll just keep rolling on this one (laughing). In each project that we have, there's, the standard, as I understand it, we had four doctors or nurses that came from the United States. Not always the same. We had some that, that were repeat, and just great people to give up their time (emotional). But the whole objective was for them to come and train trainers. We, we always refer to it as a T.O.T. So they would come and train people that would then be semi-obligated to go out and train others. We also provided the materials for the training kits: the manikins and so forth. And I could tell some stories about some great things that happened there too, with Lerdal who provides those manikins. But the, but Doctor Clarke was the one I worked with, our short-term specialist throughout the whole, whole time. He was the, the consistent contact that I had for the whole eighteen months I was there. And it was, it got by after our last project then Hyderabad was done in conjunction with the IP, is what they call Peticon. It was a conference of over eight-thousand doctors. And we had the people from the United States who had come out of the auspices of the Church address sessions of the, you know, plenary sessions as well as workshop sessions in that conference. So LDSC was quite well-known through the, the two Peticon conferences that we participated in.

HOST: As humanitarian missionaries, Sister Tanner, were you able to talk about the Church to people, or if you were asked could you talk about it, or was it just something you, you just couldn't do?

CINDY TANNER: Yes, we could do, there is proselyting in India. Yes, so we, we could talk about the Church and were given a few opportunities to do that, and really had a very good response from the professionals that, that we had contact with. So, so yes. But many, many times people were not aware, those that were actually being served, were not aware who we represented. I think that they were just aware that there were people who cared...

HOST: Mhmm.

CINDY TANNER: ...people who wanted to serve, people who were helping. And that was a very sweet experience. In fact, I remember going to a hospital at, in some of our travels, and there was a grandmother standing by the side of a little bed that had a tiny, oh, sick little grandchild was, was sleeping. And, and she had tears running down her cheeks. My reaction and response I, I couldn't help but go over and, and hold her, and, and hug her. And we wept together, for a moment, as grandmothers, mothers, and mostly as sisters. And that experience that I had as I would meet women there, such a strong, strong feeling of sisterhood. When we'd go out to villages, there would be women, you know, with their faces covered, you know, with their, their little veils. And, and we had a communication as sisters and there were some very, very sweet moments that way. Such, such a

testimony I had, and was strengthened as I felt that bond between these women that I couldn't communicate with in any other way, except that our spirits communicated and there was a bond. And we left as friends.

HOST: There are missionaries in the country. Are they allowed to tract, or how do they, how do they, how do they find participants in, to teach?

DUANE TANNER: Over the course of our mission, it, it changed somewhat. In, in Delhi it's rather cosmopolitan, and much more liberal. You go across the river where we were in Noida, and you're kind of stepping back from that quite a bit. And so the whole atmosphere there was different, it, it initially, when we arrived there, the Elders would go out and make contacts on, they what they called ITL-ing: initial, Invitation To Learn. They would ITL on the streets openly with people. By the time we left, that was no longer happening, and I'm not going to go through all the events that transpired. In Delhi I think they still did that somewhat, but we were now resigned upon members to provide referrals or to do a much more subtle form of ITL-ing, if you will. Where you could engage somebody in a conversation, and be sure who you were talking to, and so forth, before they gave that. But we were, we were fortunate in being able to go with the Elders and participate in lessons and teaching, and...

CINDY TANNER: Oh, such dear Elders. Hand-picked.

DUANE TANNER: Mhmm. Oh, yes.

CINDY TANNER: Just hand-picked. Wonderful, they were our sons while we were there. We loved them, and, and...

HOST: Is it a difficult experience for them? Is it, is it hard for them?

CINDY TANNER: It's not easy. It's, it's not easy, but then I don't believe that it is anywhere in the world, you meet your own challenges, different challenges anywhere that, that you serve. But yes, these young men had to have certain strengths that, that helped them through some difficult situations they were in, and very valiant in their service and their testimonies. And very, very fine young men.

HOST: Do you have an opportunity to visit several branches to see the diversity in, in the Church while you were there?

DUANE TANNER: Actually, we did. We were at branches in Delhi quite often, not necessarily in their Sunday meetings, but we got to know a lot of people over there, just from our activities. Sister Tanner served as the District Young Women's President the last eight months that we were there. So that took us into Delhi along with the humanitarian activities that we had that took us over there, so. Three of the branches, yeah. We became quite familiar with a number of people there. When we went to Hyderabad in the South and, by the way, we did get permission to go (laughing), because we left our mission. We went to a branch there that met in a Church-constructed building that just, it blew us away. I mean—

HOST: This was the first one that you had seen.

DUANE TANNER: Oh, yeah. Yeah. There were no buildings that we'd, we just used rented facilities up North. And so, here we are on Hyderabad, and they had, I think, four branches there. But we went to this building, and I think it was designed to be a stake center, and it will be some day. But we went in to church, and wow (laughing). She, Sister Tanner came back from Relief Society, said, "There were forty women in there!"

CINDY TANNER: Oh, oh it was wonderful, because in our little branch, many times there were maybe two or three of us in Relief Society, and we loved it, the Spirit was there, we had our lesson, it was just like, just like the big kids, but it was wonderful to be in a Relief Society where there were more. And we actually were in a branch in Nepal. Nepal was in our mission.

HOST: Mhmm!

CINDY TANNER: And so that was quite an experience. They meet on Saturday, because that's the, the day set aside there in, in the country for, for worship.

HOST: That's interesting.

CINDY TANNER: The Church is not recognized at this point as a, as a church in Nepal, but members do meet. They've sent out several missionaries from that little branch. Very strong.

Wonderful people. And it might be interesting to know: Pakistan is also in our mission. Our mission was the northern part of India and all of the countries that bordered India at, at the north.

HOST: Mhmm.

CINDY TANNER: And there are more members of the Church in Pakistan than there are in the Delhi area.

HOST: Oh!

CINDY TANNER: In Northern India. So I...

DUANE TANNER: And there are two, two districts in Pakistan and nine branches.

CINDY TANNER: Yes, very, I thought that was very interesting. I just hadn't even imagined that there would be members of the Church there, but there are and they are very strong. There are Elders there, they are Pakistani Elders, and, but they, they do serve in their country. And, wow, I ju—they, the strength, and the testimony of these people, of course, is so very strong to be able to live their religion there and be faithful. Quite, quite testimony-building to me.

HOST: So you're humanitarian efforts, probably, I would assume, change a bit from Pakistan, or from, and from Delhi, or from other regions that you might--

DUANE TANNER: Well, in Pakistan, there, there is no humanitarian activity there that I'm aware of. In Nepal, you come and do where the branch is, that Sister Tanner mentioned, there are two humanitarian couples there. And they continue to support it that way. Even though the Church isn't recognized, the Latter-Day Saint Charities as an NGO is recognized, and so there's an on-going series of projects that they keep going there. And then of course they're there to support the branch, and what-not. So, yeah, we were quite surprised. We had a couples' conference and went to them, and gave us an opportunity to, to go to Nepal. And, it was, it was amazing.

HOST: To go to Nepal: train? Airplane?

CINDY TANNER: We flew.

DUANE TANNER: We flew.

HOST: You flew, okay.

DUANE TANNER: From Delhi to Kathmandu.

HOST: So it wasn't taking a dirt road somewhere, all the way to...

[LAUGHING]

HOST: Okay.

DUANE TANNER: We'd been on a few of those, though.

HOST: Okay, moving away from the, the neo-na, neo-natal projects. What other things were you involved in? What other things—humanitarian efforts?

DUANE TANNER: Well, we, I think earlier you'd asked about what we brought to the mission, and so forth.

HOST: Mhmm.

DUANE TANNER: In my background in work had been, you know, in project management, software development, so forth. And so, one of the things that I immediately was able to apply myself to was coming up with a strategic plan for the neo-natal and putting the check dam project with some type of organization to it, so there was accountability and

reporting, and so forth. And, you know, it was all done in a very cooperative way. There was never, *never* at any time any, any resistance to that, you know. We just had great people to work with, and all you had to do sometimes was ask, and, “Oh yeah, well, we’ll take care of that.” So, yeah. We got that documented and then went out and visited the dam sites. And with Sister Tanner was mentioning about the sisterhood thing, early, early in the mission we, we did an inspection trip into Rajasthan. And went with, Rotary International was the primary NGO that was working with this. They’re what they call their water conservation trust. And we went to a dam inauguration, and I, I watched my wife connect with these sisters, these women that were down on rugs and this thing, we were sitting there, and it was so subtle. Started with just let her raising a couple of fingers and then a smile from one of them that saw her do it, and then pretty soon they were, you know, it eventually evolved to them waving back and forth to each other, and then standing for a group picture, and following us around afterwards. And, and with no veils. And it was just amazing.

HOST: It sounds like, it, when I think of, of India, I just think of multitudes of people. Did you ever feel like you were kind of overcome by people, or is this something that really isn’t a problem?

DUANE TANNER: In the, in the Delhi area, yeah.

[LAUGHING]

CINDY TANNER: There, there certainly are, are many people, and you are never alone.

[LAUGHING]

DUANE TANNER: Yeah, population density takes on a whole new meaning.

[LAUGHING]

CINDY TANNER: But, you know, it just, things are alive and there’s, there’s always something happening there. Always motion, movement, people, something happening all the time. And so it, it, it didn’t bother us at all, but yes. There certainly are a number of people in India.

HOST: Brother Tanner mentioned you were Young Women's President. Young women's facing the same challenges and problems in India as they are in anywhere else in the world, or are there some differences?

CINDY TANNER: Absolutely, they're facing many of the same challenges as most of the young women throughout the world. A few that are, might be unique to that area, just in the fact that they, Christianity is not a popular religion.

HOST: Mhmm.

CINDY TANNER: And many of them have joined the Church without other family members joining; People wanting their children to follow the, the Hindu faith. And something that is a little unique is, of course, the arranged marriages in, in India. So the youth don't date.

HOST: Mhmm.

CINDY TANNER: So we try to teach them that, that, yes, the Lord finds it best when we can choose our own partner. This is an eternal relationship and he wants us to choose well. Not that someone else chooses for us, but that we have that agency to choose. So that, that is difficult because they, they, they want to be able to do that, yet their parents don't understand. So they're not allowed to, to date, or to have any kind of relationship, or to even, oftentimes even speak with, with a young man. Speaking of, of the young women. So yes, there are some things that are unique to that area. But these young women are growing, and they're strong, and their faith is monumental, and they have such a desire to, to do and to become what their Father in Heaven wants them to become, and to have their testimonies grow. They are lovely and beautiful young women, inside and out. They are the foundation of the Church. The young men, the young women there are the foundation that the Lord is preparing to build his Church upon there. And He's chosen them.

HOST: Because of traditions, is it more difficult, perhaps, to teach an older man and wife than a, than a younger person? Do you know where the more success is as far as conversion?

DUANE TANNER: Interesting you'd use that word. In, in India we don't use the word conversion.

HOST: Mhmm. I...

[LAUGHING]

HOST: I usually don't either, but it was the first thing that came to my mind.

DUANE TANNER: No, the reason, the reason being is over there, the, it's a very common term for us, but in India it carries a connotation of someone has been forced...

HOST: Oh...

DUANE TANNER: ...or bribed in some way, so, you don't want to say, you know, I'm a convert, because then that would imply that you had done it against your will. Anyway, that's just a side note.

HOST: No, that's very interesting.

DUANE TANNER: So, anyway, back to your question. There, there is a large number of Christians in India, and so they look for people to talk to amongst that population. But also, from the Hindu side, in the North, and in the South, and in the, there are other religious, religions. In fact, I can remember one branch activity we had. We had, I've got a picture of this, but there was a mother and a daughter that were both Muslim. We had a young, a young man in there who was a Sikh. We had Christians not of the LDS faith, and then we had the, the LDS and we had Hindu in there, all in the same activity, all. And it was rather, an eclectic group of religious faiths right there.

CINDY TANNER: And we had a wonderful time.

DUANE TANNER: Oh, we did.

[LAUGHING]

HOST: What a great time, what a great experience. Anything that I haven't asked that, some great experience, a touching experience that you had? Something that, as you look back over the, over your mission, just really stands out as a, as a great time? A great moment in, in your life?

DUANE TANNER: Can I speak first?

HOST: Okay.

DUANE TANNER: I had the opportunity to serve as branch president for the last three or four months of the mission. And I had experiences that will treasure all my life; Opportunities and I developed. I get, well, let me back up. I guess it was because of the relationships that had been developed in the branch for the entire time that we had been there. Kind of came to a culmination with some things that happened, that, near the end that were just life-changing for a number of individuals. And it goes back to some of the challenges that Sister Tanner was talking about. And we had an opportunity to work with young single adults on several occasions, with conferences, and it just—The thing you bring away is the fact that you have been a representative and a servant of your Savior, and helping other people grow and develop. That's the part that I treasure.

HOST: Hm. Sister Tanner.

CINDY TANNER: I, I, I can't honestly say that there was one, one thing, but there were so many that I, I can't even, can't even count. Whether it would be serving in the branch, in the district, seeing these wonderful things happen through the humanitarian services that, that we were given. But on a personal level also, before we went I was given a blessing that said that I had been preparing all of my life for this mission. Not just in a few months prior to, but all my life. And that's what I found in this mission, is that, you know, the, the Lord didn't ask me to do something that I didn't know how to do. I was asked to do the things that I had been prepared to do. And the, probably the biggest thing I took with my well, was, of course, my testimony, but my love of people. And I was given so many opportunities to love. So I, I went there to love and to teach, but I said that I was taught, and I was loved so very much more than I would ever have thought. So I was blessed more than I can even relate to you. And it was such a wonderful, wonderful opportunity. Things came to me that, well, had, did change my life, and will change my life forever. Because of the decision that we made to, to serve and so I'm so very, very grateful for

that opportunity, for the, hopefully we left something behind. We have been of service, but, oh, so much more than that, we have been blessed.

[START MUSIC]

HOST: You've been listening to Faith in Action on the Mormon Channel. Today we have been visiting with Duane and Cindy Tanner, who served in Delhi, India as humanitarian missionaries. Thank you so much for coming.

DUANE TANNER: Thank you.

CINDY TANNER: Our pleasure, thank you.

[END MUSIC]