

January-March 2020

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

We trust that each of you are off with a great start of this New Year 2020. My family and I are excited and anticipate a very fruitful year in our life and ministry. God has already shown His favor in many ways in our lives and continues to enlarge our boundaries as we strive to reach the people of India with the Gospel.

Ministry Update: Much has been happening politically in India. Thousands of young people have taken to the streets to protest against the new changes that are impacting people who had lived in India for decades. Although the media has been sharing much about the change in citizenship laws of India, it is only the beginning of a new era in India. Hinduthva has never been stronger and powerful as it is right now. Even in the midst of all this, God is still working and opening amazing doors of opportunity for us. In our previous newsletter, I had shared with you all regarding the opportunity to present the Gospel in the prison located 300 kilometers north of Bangalore. Our team was excited and nervous at the same time (due to the rising tensions in communities regarding minority religious conversions). It was so risky for all the officers who were involved in granting permission to witness in the prison. It reminds me of the book of Acts and things that the disciples experienced as they were seeking out the lost in their time. As the prisoners gathered (193 of them) songs were sung and a clear presentation of the gospel was given to those who had gathered - including the officers and prison guards. Among them 10 people desired to accept Christ as their Personal Savior. It is a MIRACLE in times like these in India. One thing for certain is that the Gospel is still at work in the darkest souls of men. I and my family are so grateful for the opportunity to plant churches, train nationals, establish discipleship programs that enable our folks in India to move forward for God's glory and it would not be possible without your fervent prayers and financial support. Bibles and discipleship materials were distributed in the prison and now we have an open door to continue to reach the inmates as a ministry of our church in Bangalore. My brother, Dr. John Paul, along with several people from Russel Baptist Church have been very diligently endeavoring in reaching the people with medical care and evangelizing when we have opportunities like these. Because of the stringent laws in India, these avenues continue to give us access to present the Gospel to the lost. After the prison outreach, our team and church staff were welcomed by another village, where people were infected with Leprosy and needed care. As I saw the images from the village, my heart is moved and saddened to see how the infectious disease eats away the flesh of man just as sin eats away the heart of man. As the people heard the Gospel message one woman's eyes were flooded with tears because for the first time in her life she heard about the God who loves her and died for her. Believe me, it is not a comfortable thing to be surrounded by lepers, but this is the true picture of New-Testament Gospels as the Lord was walking through cities and villages preaching the Gospel and the encounters he had with people that needed Him. The Bible becomes very real in situations like these.

Church Planting and Evangelism: During the later part of March, Lord willing, I will be in India laboring and anticipate some very exciting events to take place. One of the things I have been praying about is a New Church plant in the eastern state of India. I had received a call regarding the possibilities of starting another church in this region. We strongly believe that God's plan for us is to start local New-Testament Baptist Churches across the nation. Our church ministry has already seen four churches planted, as many of you know, but now we will have the blessing of starting another one for a community of people in the eastern region. Much planning is taking place at the moment in preparation for my trip and all that we are hoping to accomplish. Would you commit to pray for us? Would you pray for my safety and all those who are assisting me in India? Would you pray for God's provision of a building/place to meet? I know that persecution is inevitable, but I am constantly reminded that those believers in the book of Acts spread abroad during immense persecution, and reached the people who hadn't been affected by persecution yet.

As we seek to reach my countrymen we are earnestly praying and seeking for areas where we can freely go in to plant churches and preach the Gospel. Much prayer is needed as I move ahead with your prayers and support. We are praying about inviting the surrounding villages to come and hear the Gospel and hope to see hundreds of people gather during this time. Please pray that Satan will not cause any hindrance for