



EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING THE CHURCH IN INDIA

BY MALINI ASIRVATHAM

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.” ~Isaiah 60:1



New believers are being baptized in fulfillment of the Great Commission Jesus gave to His disciples to, “. . . go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt. 28:19-20a

In 1987, God placed a vision on the heart of Dr. Paul (Bobby) Gupta to disciple the nation of India through a strategy of Saturation Church Planting. God impressed upon his heart, the words of Habakkuk that God’s desire is for His glory to cover the earth as the water covers the sea.

The ministries of Hindustan Bible Institute covenanted with God to be part of what the Lord is doing in India in reaching every boy, girl, man, and woman with the life-changing gospel, discipling people, planting churches where no church existed, establishing church planting movements among people groups, building transformational leaders, and bridging into communities and transforming individuals, families, and communities.

In 1987 India had only 114,000 churches in a country with more than 638,000 villages and a fast-approaching population of one billion people by 2000. If every village were to have a church and every 1,000 people in every people group, we would need one million churches.

Twenty-seven years later when we look at India, we could confidently say “the nation of India is blessed beyond all measures.” God has established more than 700,000 churches in India and His glory is beginning to shine all over the nation with churches, house churches, prayer cells, and cell groups permeating villages, colonies of every town and city of our nation. Praise the Lord!

While spearheading and disseminating the vision of discipling the nation of India, simultaneously HBI

started a church planting movement committed to reach the unreached, plant churches where no churches existed, develop church planting movements, and develop indigenous leaders.

Today, God has planted 7,844 churches through the church planting movement of HBI by equipping and empowering 760 village church planters. They have discipled more than 460,000 people who are added into these churches in 22 states of India and Nepal.

One of our village church planters is Pastor U.C. Jena from the state of Orissa who established a church planting movement among an unreached people group. God laid a burden in the heart of U.C. Jena to serve among a people group called the Kuvis. The majority of them live in small communities scattered all

over the hills and reaching some of these villages means walking 25 miles uphill.

When U.C. Jena joined the church planting movement of HBI, he started his mission journey with one determination—to win one million Kuvi people for Christ. Many a time, he went for evangelistic work leaving his wife and children at home, and walked several hundreds of miles proclaiming the gospel amidst danger, hunger, and threats.

Today he rejoices that God enabled him, an ordinary man, to plant 53 churches among these unreached, hidden villages and discipled more than 5,000 people to Christ. Praise the Lord!

God has used U.C. so powerfully to raise up 300 lay leaders and together they have seen 435 churches planted in Orissa. U.C. Jena serves as the state coordinator of Orissa and gives leadership to 97 Kuvi pastors and Bible women. U.C. Jena so joyfully shares that in more than 100 Kuvi villages, every one has become a Christian. They worship the Lord not just on Sundays but every day!

U.C. says, “I am not content with what is done so far, I want to see 1,000 churches planted and the entire Kuvi people group discipled with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Rayagada district.”

Our prayer is that several cross-cultural missionaries will be developed to build indigenous church planting movements that are contextual to the people groups in India. Please pray that the next generation leaders will understand and embrace the vision and strategy of Saturation Church Planting, and take it to a new level to complete the great commission in their generation. Please pray for the discipling of every boy, girl, man, and woman in India who will get an opportunity to hear, understand, and respond to the gospel; and the glory of the Lord will cover the whole of India as the waters cover the sea! ✂

— NEWS BRIEF —

LIFE TRANSFORMING MINISTRIES



By Amy Tartick

Dolph Laraio, with Life Transforming Ministries, is effectively helping to engage Renovation principles in many churches and communities located just west of Philadelphia, PA.

In Coatesville, he's working with a team of pastors who are in the initial steps of planning three collaborative prayer nights on a rotation during the year. They are also discussing the possibility of an urban theological institute as a way to raise up home-grown leaders to reach Coatesville.

In Phoenixville, Dolph is encouraged that the pastors in the group are wonderfully connecting with each other and that they have a real heart to reach Phoenixville together. Building relationships in this context is going very well. They are currently compiling fall outreach opportunities and leveraging ways to use each other's resources to combine their efforts for more fruitful outcomes.

And in the Downing-West Chester group, they have put together a small group video series that takes believers who attend different congregations, but might live in the same neighborhood, through a study on how to personally grow in the Lord, and how to reach out to their neighbors. Doing the study in the context of neighborhoods offers many benefits including: participants can be very specific in praying for their neighbors, they can help each other, and be accountable to one another since they are in the same vicinity. To learn more about this movement visit Godmovehere.com. ✂

— LOCAL CONNECTION —

Interested in getting involved with one of our local ministry partners? Here are some places for you to start serving!

DESTINATION LIFE FELLOWSHIP

22nd Street & Linwood Ave
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
716.297.7799

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Several local locations
716.743.2020
heritagechristianservices.org

LOCKPORT CARENET

229 East Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094
716.434.1771
lockportcarenet.com

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

PO Box 2657
Niagara Falls, NY 14302
info@niagamissions.com

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 1013
Williamsville, NY 14231
716.893.1840
sgmworld.org

XCEL LEADERSHIP CENTER

567 Hertel Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
716.819.4100 x295
xcellleadershipcenter.com

For a complete list of ministry partners, visit thechapel.com/kingdomcome.

The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

JUNE 6-8, 2014

MARRIAGE & PARENTING EVENTS

Dr. Kevin Leman will be joining us for a great weekend including The Chapel's Marriage Event and Parenting Seminar: "Have a New Kid by Friday." Visit thechapel.com/kevinleman for more information or to purchase tickets.

AUGUST 3-6, 2014

KINGDOM BOUND FESTIVAL

You are invited to join in the fun at Kingdom Bound 2014! Excellent seminars for adults, KB Kidz tent, extreme sports demos, and the best in Christian music is just a part of what is being offered this year. For more information and tickets, visit kingdombound.org.