

GOSPEL

Gujarat Outreach Support by
Planting churches, Economic
change and Literacy training

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GOSPEL Annual Field Report 2014

"...this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

God is so good!

The directors of the Board of the Christian Reformed Fellowship of India, the C.E.O. and the team on the ground in Central Western India are all extremely grateful to our God for guiding, enabling, helping, strengthening and leading us in 2014. We are delighted to present this report to you.

Under the gracious hand of God, the work of pioneer Church Planting through GOSPEL continues to progress in the four Central Western Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Gospel of salvation by grace alone is proclaimed; new believers receive baptism, instruction and pastoral care is given; communities are impacted and house churches are planted. We thank God for his abundant blessings.



The men and women of the growing church

Activities in the GOSPEL Mission Field in India:

Prayers of Thanksgiving. The whole team in India began the year 2014, with meetings for prayer of thanksgiving. We praised our God for his steadfastness and outpouring of grace upon our mission activities. He has richly blessed our many missionary families, he has made himself known to new believers, he has strengthened our Churches and in our Bible fellowship groups.



Bless these gifts, O Lord.

Significant Meetings:

- In Jan. '14 there were two regional women's meetings in the Gujarat mission field. They were encouraging for the believers and challenging for those who were not saved. 580 women took part.
- There were day seminars on "Marriage and Family". Satan will seek to hinder Gospel proclamation by destroying relationships attacking marriages and bringing strife and disunity.
- In March there was a one day fellowship meeting, for all the believers in one district. The intention behind such a gathering was to have fellowship with believers of other congregations. There were nearly 2000 believers gathered together.
- Also in March there was a one day teaching seminar. In this program about 1300 men and women gathered together.
- As well in the state of Madhya Pradesh an outreach event was held in April. Over 3 days, believers brought their unbelieving neighbours to hear the Gospel explained.

- On Good Friday, the focus was on the death of Jesus for our salvation. There continued to be meetings on Saturday and then concluded with public rallies on Easter Sunday in many villages. It was a wonderful witness to the risen Lord.
- In May GOSPEL staff conducted Vacation Bible School programs in our entire mission field nearly 3,000 children including many non-Christian children participated all over our mission field. Indeed, the Vacation Bible School is an effective tool to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ amongst children. All over the world and in India it is an amazing reality that 70% of professing Christian believers today heard the Gospel for the first time before they were 15 years old.



This boy needs to hear of the love of Jesus for sinners.

- There were nearly 8,000 participants at the Christmas celebrations in GOSPEL's mission field in four different states. It provided opportunity for many non-Christian to listen to the Gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Significant Event. GOSPEL (working through CRFI) will be 9 years old in a few months time. In 2006 we started anew in a very small way and have in God's goodness now grown into a small denomination.

- Some 4100 attend Sunday formal services on any given Sunday.
- Another 2100 fold attend outreach and prayer groups
- The total number of believers who have received baptism - numbers 3020.



Adult believers receiving water baptism

- We estimate that the total number of believers (including new and not yet baptised believers) is some 5200 (some 2,000 are preparing for baptism or have postponed public baptismal events because of strict anti-conversion laws)
- We are working in 198 villages and there are regular services in 90 of these villages and prayer cells in 78 outreach villages.

Because of the large distances in the mission field, because of cultural diversity and because we now have about 50 full time evangelists, we felt the need for greater local autonomy. Last year we decided that the time was right to have a special commissioning of 10 key leaders of all the regional clusters.

This commissioning event was held in Dahod, Gujarat on 24th September. The ten leaders were formally commissioned by Rev. Bert Kuipers and Rev. Dawie van Vuuren who were our "officiating" special guests. In this "commissioning service" nearly 300 believers joined in a service of celebration. This commissioning marks an important developmental stage for this church planting work in India.



The commissioning service

More harvesters. We were so thankful that a new mission team in Nasik was appointed at the end of '14 because "... the fields are ripe for harvest ...". Our vision is for yet another new "cluster" to begin in early 2015. In anticipation, five more evangelists are ready and waiting to be appointed to start reaching out in the "Narmada" region in Gujarat. We trust that the support will be forthcoming in God's time.

Literacy training. Tuition centres, Special Coaching Class, Children's Club and Adult literacy programs continue to have important role in the lives of children and illiterate-adults and their communities. 562 children attend tuition centres in 20 centres. 125 Adults participate in special literacy classes.



These kids are the future of the Church in India



Adult Literacy

GOSPEL area of activity.



7 Medical Camps. GOSPEL workers with the help of doctors' team from South India held seven medical camps in seven different villages located in very remote areas, where GOSPEL Ministries has its mission field. It was indeed a blessing for nearly 2,100 villagers who have little or no access to medical facilities. This kind of ministry enhances the Gospel message and helps to also build positive relationships with non-Christians so that we can also share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It also helps our workers during the time of persecution as villagers love and support our workers and general disapprove of the activities of the militant Hindus.



Free check-up at a Medical Camp

13 clean water wells. We were able to resource the drilling of 13 bores and provide hand-pumps in 13 interior villages of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. These village people used to struggle a lot to get enough drinking water in all seasons. They had to go far away to fetch water, especially in summer. But now they have hand pumps nearby. They really extend their gratitude.



Good drinking water from a new well

4 Motorbikes. GOSPEL is thankful to the Lord for providing four motorbikes for our staff to travel in very remote areas of GOSPEL Ministries' mission field to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These were generously provided by Compassionate Catalogue givers. Your help evangelists to travel to remote villages where there is no adequate transportation.



Bike for a missionary couple

A sturdy vehicle. Our Field Director who travels huge distances is most appreciative of the provision of a reliable Mahindra Jeep. We thank God for providing this transportation. He has answered our prayers through the fundraising activities of a congregation in Australia.



The Mahindra Jeep to enhance the ministry

The challenge of persecution. There are now more militant Hindu activists in India. They threaten poor and illiterate converts to reconvert. In North India, they have already converted many of "christians" back into Hinduism, but by God's grace, GOSPEL work has not been significantly prevented and believers in our fields are standing firm in their faith amidst persecution.

E.g. In our newest "Nasik" field an evangelism program was being planned. Threats of violence to young believers have curtailed this thrust for the time being.

Goals for the year 2015

1. We have, prayerfully set a target to start 40 new worship groups and 40 new prayer cells.
2. We are earnestly and humbly praying that the Lord may use us to bring 1,300 new believers to the knowledge of and saving power of our Lord as well as to make them disciples of Jesus Christ in through GOSPEL ministries in 2015. Please pray with us.
3. We also plan to start new deed ministries, especially in caring for the sick. Most of our mission field is in remote areas where there are few medical facilities.

Greetings from the field.



Our Lord heard our prayers in 2014. We have been richly blessed and are much encouraged by his blessings. He has been there for us also during our disappointments. Thank you for your partnership with us.

Please do continue to pray for GOSPEL ministries in India.

We thank God for the financial stability he has provided for the GOSPEL ministries India through our partners. Will you join us in becoming a financial contributor and support GOSPEL ministries in India as you are able?

May God continue to bless you! To God be all the Glory!

Newbegin Packianathan,
Director
February, 2015

Become a partner:

If you want to be a regular financial supporter of this ministry, please contact:

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11 Heritage Rise, Riverside, TAS 7250 Australia.
Phone (03) 6327 3058
Mob. 0438 343 101

Full support for a missionary is less than \$10 a day or just \$3,300 per year.

Any level of support is most welcome!

Donation by EFT may be made to our Gospel account.
BSB 017042 Account Number 482218669.