

PREACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

ENTRUSTING THE GOSPEL TO GENERATIONS TO COME

The primary goal for this work that our Lord is doing through many of us here is sustainability until the Lord comes. For this, we need to train others who will be able to teach others also.

- I. Objectives
 1. To teach every book of the Bible
 2. To provide tools for proper research and exegetical studies
 3. To equip Christians to be soul winners
 4. To provide needed tools to mentor new Christians in a local setting
 5. To provide needed skills to be an able communicator
 6. To provide tools to evangelize the adherents of other Indian religions (Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians and denominations)
- II. Goals
 1. To simulate 2 Timothy 2:2
 2. To send out faithful Christian workers, leaders and preachers to teach others.
 3. To infiltrate India with Christians.
 4. To help start a congregation of the Lord's church in every village
 5. To help evangelize rest of the 99% of the Indian population (Christians are < 1%)
 6. To transform India into the likeness of Christ
- III. Program
 1. Three Year Bible program
 2. Focus on the text of the Bible: Exegetical
 3. Needed tools for evangelism, church planting, church growth, biblical languages
 4. Daily practical evangelism (following up on new contacts and new converts)
 5. Special seminars to be held by seasoned evangelists
 6. Evangelistic campaigns twice a year.
- IV. Cost per student: \$200 per month (feeds a student while at school)
- V. Present Need: There are over a Thousand men who deeply desire to be evangelists. With souls adding to our number every day the need for workers is equally increasing.

On top of that, there are- some 458,000 villages in India without any "Christian" presence. This is according to the Joshua Project of the unreached people. If that is the case, the villages without the Lord's Church will be tremendously large in number.

Will you please consider this vision of evangelizing India by training as many evangelists as possible? We believe this is an urgent need for the church here in India with the vision of helping the church remain faithful until the Lord comes! Will you help a village taste the sweetness of the Gospel? Will you help these unreached souls get to heaven?

PREACHER TRAINING PROGRAM: CURRENT STATUS



By the early part of 2015, the number of contacts that are being generated through various avenues of our work reached to a point where it was beyond the purview of just a handful of us. We just could not keep up with the increasing demands of follow up on the number of contacts. Our Free Medical Clinics, TV program, various forms of disaster relief contacts, and other avenues like Academy, clean water projects brought in many thousands of contacts. Through all these avenues of outreach, God placed almost 50,000 (fifty thousand) souls into our hands and we just did not have the manpower to take care of that.

That was the point when the decision has been made to start a custom made, uniquely designed Preacher Training Program in order to meet the ongoing and increasing demands of evangelistic follow up. After much prayer, contemplation and counsel, our three-year rigorous Preacher Training Program has been launched in the Fall of 2015.

Three Major Outcomes for Each Student

1. First, to help train an evangelist and leader for the work of the Kingdom.
2. Provide experience with everyday hands-on evangelism by following up on the thousands of contacts that have already been made through various outreach avenues.
3. Plant at least one congregation during the student's three-year time.

Current Group of Students

Our students come from divergent cultural, language, educational, social and religious backgrounds. One of them has a PhD, one was a lawyer, three engineers, eight students have graduate degrees, three Hindu priests, two former Muslims, and three village leaders. There is a **waiting list** of applicants who wish to be considered for training through our Training Program.

Success Thus Far

Our program is uniquely designed so that each student gets to spend one half of the day in class room gathering basic tools to be a preacher and an evangelist. The other half of the day, students are out in the villages and communities around us. They are simply following up on already made contacts through our TV Program, Clean Water Projects, Free Medical Clinics etc. In the weekends, many of them go back to their villages to preach and be with their families while others travel hundreds of miles to study the Bible with various groups of villagers.

At the closeout of 2017, God through the dedication of our Preacher Training students brought in a bountiful harvest of **2451 souls who were baptized** and planting **48 new congregations** in various states of India. These congregations are primarily in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Currently, in 11 states of India, numerous Bible studies are going on whether personally, or through our TV Program or the correspondence courses. There are Hindu temple priests and Muslim Imams among the converts!

Persecution and Tragedies

With the current radical Hindu government ruling India along with already existing animosity toward Christianity as a “western” religion, preaching the Gospel is not a bed of roses in India. Not every area in India is radical though. A Christian sister was brutally murdered by her own husband for being a Christian. Here is an article I wrote for The Christian Chronicle: (<http://www.christianchronicle.org/article/faithful-even-to-the-point-of-death>).



In March 2016, one of our students, brother Sangeeta Rao was brutally killed by radical Hindus for preaching the Gospel. They waited on him as he was coming back late in the night from preaching at a village.

Seen here with one of the many congregations he planted.

Then another student, brother Samson was badly beaten by radical Hindus during one of the follow up periods. Another student was manhandled by radical Hindus and only left him thinking that he was dead. When he came home and knocked on the door, his wife could even recognize him with all the blood, injuries and torn clothes, she thought he was a beggar.

Brother Abu, was a Muslim Imam before he became a Christian. Even today after years after forsaking Islam, he continues to live in fear of death. Recently, some radical Hindus tried to break into the house of Mator, one of our students who was injured after an altercation with them. In July 2017, brother Prava Rao, another one of our Preacher Training students, was brutally stabbed and killed.



FEBRUARY 2018, one day where several of our student families were sleeping in rented places, they were attacked by a group of radicals. Women, children and men were beaten seriously, resulting in broken bones, head injuries even among pregnant women.

One of them was taken in for emergency hysterectomy after **her uterus ruptured**. Her baby of 18 weeks was dead. She not only lost the baby but also the possibility of any future pregnancies due to hysterectomy.

We are trying very hard to provide safe housing to these families who are putting their lives on the line preaching every day. These are just a few of our students who suffered persecution. The number and the narrative of Christians who continue to go through persecution would fill books if I start writing about them.

Yet each one of us go out every day to seek souls for our Lord fully knowing what we are doing is precisely what killed few of our Preacher Training students. The only reason we continue to do what we are doing is that we are fully sold out on the fact that salvation is available only in Christ. We continue to reach out to millions of souls through various avenues of outreach because we want every single individual we meet in life to have what we have in Christ.

Need For Student Housing

With increased persecution and the raging radical Hindu government, tragedies are just around the corner. And for our students who leave their wives and children back in villages, and for them personally, the risk cannot be overstated.



Currently our students sleep on the floor of the church building during the week. Few others sleep on the floor of another room adjacent to the church building that we use during the day for our Free Clinic.

The Lord has provided a piece of property and we decided to use it to build student housing. The need for student housing is based on the following reasons:

1. To provide **safety for our students** while at school. One of the two students who were killed by radicals was last seen at the building where they would spend nights.
2. To provide **safety for students' families** as well along with having families together. At this time, our students go back to their families only on weekends. That leaves women and children vulnerable to radical attacks in villages.
3. To help **train the wives** of our students to be partners with their husbands in the Kingdom work. We hope to develop a women's program in the near future.

Student Housing Construction Project



This current group and many, many future students and their families on top of an untold number of souls they will minister to will benefit from this student housing.

Goal is to build 30 units on three floors at a total **\$750,000**, (cost includes building, furniture, appliances etc.).

This is a **one-time investment** for training generations of evangelists, preachers, teachers and leaders for the church in India who will reach out to thousands of souls once this is in place.

The Lord has already provided **\$315,000** toward this and we are trying to raise the needed funds to finish this housing. (Thus far \$465,000 has been raised and need \$165,000 to finish)

******* With the increasing persecution and the recent deaths of our students and attacks on their families, **the need for secured housing is greater than ever before.**

Please pray for this building project and prayerfully consider donating so that we can send out more evangelists!