



CHURCH PLANTER

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ECI KOLKATA AND PATNA MISSION LAUNCHED TO REACH THE UNREACHED! 639 CONVERTS BAPTISED IN BIHAR AND CALCUTTA AND MORE THAN 1000 PRAYER OIL BOTTLES DISTRIBUTED!

The much awaited and prayed ECI Patna Mission was launched on 19th of March 2010. On that occasion 531 new converts were also baptized in the river Ganges among whom most of them were from the Chamar community. It was a joy to witness the believer taking baptism against background of a big cross in the same river in which the Hindus take a

holy dip and believe that their sins are washed away. "It is only Jesus who can wash our sins away" said a new convert who once believed that taking a dip in Ganges would wash his sins away. God is providing us with harvest in Bihar which was once considered to be the graveyard of mission.



531 converts were baptised in river Ganges by Bishop Ezra Sargunam and Dr V G Selvaraj, one of ECI partners and founder of Sugajeeva Ministries

Following the baptism, the Patna Mission was launched by our Bishop Ezra Sargunam along with Dr V G Selvaraj of Sugajeeva ministries and our Indian partner. On this occasion the believers were motivated to open their houses to start a house church and prayer bottles were distributed to those who promised to use it to pray for the sick and needy in their neighborhood and in their home. Nearly 1000 prayer oil bottles were distributed. We thank God for moving in the Patna mission, many souls have been won but we are in the need of pastors to shepherd these flocks. Pray that God will move in the hearts of people to go as missionaries to Bihar.



ECI Patna Mission participants

On 20th of March 108 people were baptized in Calcutta as a part of launching of ECI Kolkata Mission. We rejoice to see people coming to Christ in Calcutta which is a place where people believe in pluralistic view of faith. During this occasion 481 prayer oil bottles were distributed to the people who were willing to use it to pray for the sick and aligning in their neighborhood. Our Goal is that every ECI believer's house will become a house church and very ECI believer an evangelist.



ECI Kolkata Mission participants



Traditional welcome by Malto tribal dancers during the launching of ECI Kolkata Mission



Blessing the Prayer Oil Bottles



108 converts baptised in Kolkata at the Calcutta Bible Seminary campus by Dr V G Selvaraj, founder of Sugajeeva Ministries, Rev Isaac Mangalaraj, Area Chairman of ECI Kolkata Area and Rev Rajasingh, General Secretray of Indian Missionary Movement

GRADUATION SERVICES OF OUR BIBLE SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES

On 6th March 2010 the graduation ceremony of Gujarat Bible School and Bombay Bible School took place in Bombay. Rt Rev. Sundar Singh was the chief guest who commissioned the students to go out and win the winnable for the Lord. Three hundred people gathered to encourage the graduating students. On the whole 34 students graduated of which 27 were from BBS and 7 from GBS. We praise and thank God for these graduates, continue to uphold them as they serve the Lord in different parts of India.



After the launching of ECI Kolkata Mission on 20th March, we had the Graduation service of Calcutta Bible Seminary. During this occasion 12 Malto missionary couple were also awarded with Diploma for their successful completion of the the course from Jisupita Bible School, Jharkhand. The Principal Rev Jayakumar gave a challenging annual report. Pray for all the graduates of our Bible Schools and Seminaries that they will reflect the image of God through their words and actions.



Graduates of Gujarat Bible School and Bombay Bible School, Calcutta Bible Seminary and Jisubita Bible School

CATTLE SHED TURNED INTO A CHURCH FOR THE BELIEVERS IN CHITIVARAI IN MUNNAR DISTRICT, KERALA

ECI strategy is to start a church anywhere in any available place under trees, houses, schools, and open air where people can gather. Recently a cow shed was turned into a place of worship. After all our Lord was born in a manger. Shall we say the very first church was born in a cow shed?! Now here is the Munnar story...

Munnar is a beautiful hill station in Kerala. ECI began its ministries in Munnar in the year 1975. The ministry at Chitivarai began by the work of the MTSC students who were posted for the camp ministries at Munnar. At first, due to the lack of building the church service was conducted in a class room of the Tata Steel Company School. The Lord has moved in the heart of the owners of the company and on 21st March they have given the cattle shed of that plant to be used for construction of the church building. Now our believers worship God freely in the cattle shed. Pray that the Lord will provide a church building at this site soon.



Cattle shed being dedicated as the temporary church building by Rev Suvikaran



Believers worship the living God in the cattle shed!

MINISTRY AMONG THE IRULAR COMMUNITY (IMM Report)

Irulars are a tribal community who live in southern India, mainly in Kanchipuram, Nilgiris and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu. Ethnically they belong to the Negroid race. Their language, Irula, is a mix of Tamil and Kannada.

The name Irular means 'people of darkness' in Tamil. This could refer to either their dark complexion or the fact that their important events traditionally take place in the darkness of night.

Their main occupations were catching of snake and rats, trading in snake skin and forest products such as honey, beeswax and forest wood. The Irula economy began to decline after the laws to prevent snake skin trade and preservation of forest etc. But things have improved after the spread of education and alternative livelihood options were made available by christians. Their story is one of struggle against the invasion of modern civilisation and a reinvention of their own way of life.



ECI ministries started among the Irular community through Indian Missionary Movement, a missionary arm of ECI



One of the Irular community woman, Kala being baptised

ECI ministries started among the Irular community who are oppressed and suppressed in the society so that they can be uplifted through the knowledge and the love of God. Pastor Alexander works among this community in a place called *Melnedungal* near *Thiruthani* in Tamilnadu. God is working wonders among them. Day by day many souls are added into the kingdom of God. Please do uphold us as we work to uplift these downtrodden people group.



Kala, from Irular community who was recently baptised testifies the Lord about her recovery from Cancer through prayer

151 BELIEVERS ACCEPTED CHRIST THROUGH CHENNAI HOPE FESTIVAL AND WERE BAPTISED ON 3RD APRIL AT THE MTSC CAMPUS

It was a joy to see 151 new believers from different parts of Chennai come forward to be baptized on 3rd of April at Madras Theological Seminary and College campus. Most of these believers accepted the Lord during the Chennai Hope Festival which was held from 21-24 January 2010. We thank God for Rev Franklin Graham and his team who brought the word of God to the multitudes who had gathered at St George School ground. We hope the revival will continue to spread across India and the name of the Lord magnified.



Mass prayers offered for the new converts



Bishop Ezra Sargunam and Bishop Sundar Singh pray for the converts



Rev Appadurai, Bishop's Commissary of ECI Chennai Diocese and Rev Dhanaseelan, one of the senior pastors of ECI Chennai Diocese, baptise the 151 new converts on 3rd April 2010 drawn from churches from mostly central areas

Praise and Prayer Items



1. Praise God for the 9 people who were baptised at ECI St Paul's church at Kanchipuram by the Area Chariman Rev Arthur John Benny. Pray that the believers will take root below and bear fruit above.



2. Praise God for the ECI 1000th Church at Chennai, Saidapet celebrated their church anniversary in the month of March. Pray that this church will be a missionary sending church.



3. To the Glory of God a church at Tadivarapalli was dedicated on 23rd of March by Rev. Steven Lee and his team from Korea. We praise and thank God for helping us to build churches and to expand the kingdom of God.

4. The goal of ECI is to make each ECI believers house a House Church. We had a training for the leaders of the house churches in Vellore. Bishop Sundar Singh and Rev. Chellappa were the speaker of this meeting. They shared from the word of God how the lord in the early days of the church used common people to plant churches. They encouraged the 350 house church leaders who had gathered on this occasion. Pray that the vision of ECI to plant 10,000 churches and 100,000 house churches will be reached soon.



5. Praise God for the ETTC – BILD Special Consultation held on 9th April 2010 to review and plan the further programs of ETTC 30,000. We besiege your prayers for the successful implementation of this program which aims at training 30,000 type 1 and 2 Church Planters.



6. Praise God for the Lord enabled the senior pastors from ECI Chennai Diocese to participate at the Levites Camp organised by Yishun Evangelical Church at Singapore.



7. Pray for the Vacation Bible School which will be conducted in all the ECI churches during the summer vacation. Pray that the Lord will give us spirit filled teachers who will be a example to the students.



8. ECI Kanchipuram Collectorate church extension works started by Bishop Sundar Singh. Pray that the Lord will meet the needs to complete the works on time.

Note: Readers are free to circulate this newsletter in full or in part to their friends and well-wishers. If you need high resolution pictures used in this newsletter, please contact the Editor. If you no longer wish to receive this e-magazine kindly inform the same to the Editor, or if you would like your partner friends to receive this newsletter kindly send their email IDs to the Editor

Evangelical Church of India has more than 3400 churches and 13 Bible Schools in different parts of India. We move forward with a goal of planting 10,000 churches and 100,000 house churches. Hundreds of people are turning to Christ every day and Churches planted. If you want to know more about the overall ministries of ECI, please write to:

Bishop Dr M Ezra Sargunam

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