



CHURCH PLANTER

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Chief Editor: Rev S Duraiswamy

ecichurchplanter@gmail.com

More than 1500 Marginalised and Destitute Children Are Given a Bright and a Christian Future Through ECI-VTI Partnership Ministries!



*Merwin Joshua,
National Director
for ECI-VTI*

This month we are featuring Vision Trust International partnership ministries with ECI as the lead article. ECI entered into partnership ministries with VTI in the year 2004. During that time ministries started with 100 children from 3 centers. Today by God's grace we have 1500 children benefiting through this ministry from 23 centers in different parts of India. ECI-VTI takes care of these children's education, school uniforms, one meal a day and medical expenses for the deserving children. Mr Merwin Joshua, the National Director for ECI-VTI ministries says that there are hundreds of case studies which can highlight how the children are being benefited through this program. For the prayers of our partners and prayer warriors we want to present two case studies of how the Lord has brought a transformation in the lives of the children through this partnership ministry.

Soundariya – a Eight Year Old Gypsy Girl Suffering With Cancer in her Kidney Receives Treatment Through ECI-VTI Ministries

Soundariya, a eight year old girl from a Gypsy community lives in a place called Thirumullaivoyal in the outskirts of Chennai along with her father, mother, two sisters and one brother. They live in a leaky house with mud brick walls without a door. To this poor family another great shock awaited, that is when the doctors diagnosed that Soundariya had been affected with cancer in her kidney. ECI-VTI reached and offered medical help to this ailing child. In the meantime, her parents took her to the local witch doctors who branded her hand with a long iron rod (mark can be seen in the first picture). Since there was no healing, finally they came to us for help. Now, Soundariya is just back from the hospital after her surgery for cancer in her kidney with the help of ECI-VTI. She is still undergoing radiotherapy regularly. Pray that this girl would be completely healed from this disease. Now the entire family started believing in Christ. Praise God!



*Soundariya's family in
front of their "house"*



Before surgery



After surgery



*Soundariya with Dr Ernie Taylor, Founder of
VTI, after her surgery*

Sruthi – a 9th Grade Girl from Fishermen Community Received First Prize at the State Level in “Karate”

Sruthi lives in a place called Karikal, a fishermen’s village in Pondicherry, along with her father and mother. Recently in the month of January she lost her younger brother who passed away due to an unfunctioned valve in his heart. Eventhough she hailed from a poor fishermen community, she is a God fearing girl and does her works with prayer. She is very much interested in sports. She was practicing for Karate for a while and participated in a competition that was held in the last month. Before going to the contest, she prayed that she should get a prize. The ECI-VTI staff and teachers also prayed for this girl to get prize in this contest. God heard her prayer and blessed her with the first prize at the state level. She has a tremendous faith in the Lord. She even testifies that when her father goes to the sea for catching fishes after prayer, he was able to have a big catch. Praise God for this tremendous faith this Sruthi has in the Lord. Pray that this girl will lead many people to this faith in the Lord Jesus.

Continue to pray for this ECI-VTI partnership that through this ministries many more children will be benefited and grow in the knowledge of the Lord and that all of them will have a bright and a Christian future. Pray that many more hundreds of poor children may be enrolled in this program.



Sruthi with her certificate and medals received for Karate

Overseas friends who may wish to know more about VTI ministries in India, may contact Dr Ernie Taylor, the Founder of VTI (ernie@visiontrust.org)

MIRACLE CONTINUES IN RAJASTHAN – Demon Possessed Women Delivered!

The Lord of harvest is working mightily in India, specially in the Northern states. In Rajasthan, in a district called Banaswara, there is a woman called Puja who is around 25 years. She was married to a man five years before. Right from the day she was married and entered into her husband’s house she was possessed with a demonic power and she got many unknown sickness in her body. She became very lean thin and started losing her weight.



Demon possessed woman brought to the pastor for prayer

Sometimes she used to scream with pain and cry to people for help to relieve her from pain. By seeing the condition of Puja, her family people took her to many witchcraft magicians and the local doctors. In spite of spending much money, no one was able to help her to come out of the clutches of satanic power. Finally she was brought to our IMM missionary Pastor Kowji Chauhan in Banaswara district in Porkodi church. When the pastor and the believers prayed in one accord for Puja, the Lord miraculously delivered her from her pain and relieved her from the demonic bondage. Praise God for the marvelous works and wonder He does

among the tribals in India. By seeing this miracle, now the entire family of Puja regularly attend our church in Porkodi in Banaswara district in Rajasthan.

**329 Graduated from our Bible Schools and Seminaries this April -
Will be Entering into Fulltime Ministry to Preach the Gospel
and to Shepherd the Congregations!**

We had the graduation service of Madras Theological Seminary and College on 17th of April in which 59 students graduated. 17 students received their B.Th degree, 31 M.Div degree, 2 received their B.Min and 9 lay people received their Diploma in Ministry degree. During this graduation service Honorary Doctorate were awarded to two of the outstanding servants of God for their contribution to the church and missions through many years of their service. Bishop Christdoss, the present Bishop of CSI Tirunelveli Diocese, who is also an alumni of MTSC, received Honorary Doctorate for his outstanding contribution to the growth of the church and his involvement in mission activities. Bishop Christdoss shared God's word and encouraged the graduates to have a burden for the unreached. Rev Chunilal Pema, the Executive Director of OMS, New Zealand was also awarded Honorary Doctorate for his partnership ministry and contribution for the church at large. Bishop Ezra Sargunam exhorted the graduates and the gathering to seek for the lost souls in the world. Praise God for this successful graduation service we had at the MTSC campus.



MTSC Graduates along with faculty and staff

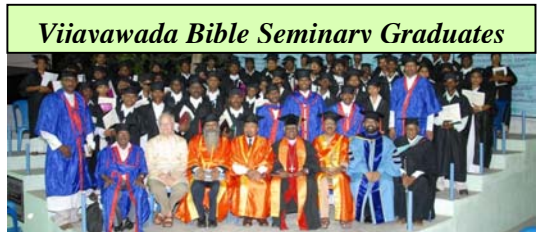


Bishop Christdoss and Rev Chunilal Pema after receiving Honorary Doctorates



MTSC student receiving his M.Div degree from Bishop Sundar Singh

On 12th of April we also had the graduation ceremony of Vijayawada Bible Seminary. 59 graduates received their certificate in Theology of which 5 were from the residential seminary and other 54 were from the satellite centers. During this occasion one of the Satellite center woman Chinnamai received tricycle from the hands of Bishop Ezra Sargunam. Important dignitaries who witnessed this graduation service includes Bishop Ezra Sargunam, Dr Lal Rosem, I.A.S Officer, Dr Suddhakar, Doordarshan Director Hyderabad, Dr J A Oliver, Secretary for Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches and Pro-Chancellor of Allahabad Agricultural University.



Vijayawada Bible Seminary Graduates



A Seminary student receives his certificate



Tricycle provided to one of the graduates

MY MINISTERIAL TRIP TO THE LAND OF MY FOREFATHERS – Rev Dr Chunillal Pema, Executive Director, OMS New Zealand – Reports

From the very first moments of my four weeks in India, I was made to feel at home and welcomed **‘to the land of my forefathers’**. Those words will forever be in my heart. My father was born in Surat, in the Gujarat district and as a young man he immigrated to New Zealand where he married. My three other siblings and I were soon born and we all lived happily in the city of our birth. Sadly my father passed away, but about a year before his death, I had the joy of leading him to Christ. I had been converted to Christ at the age of sixteen, in a little Open Brethren Chapel in South Auckland. That day was the beginning of an amazing journey which has brought me to my present role as the Executive Director of the missionary sending agency, One Mission Society in New Zealand.



Rev Dr Chunillal Pema with Bishop Ezra Sargunam and Bishop Sundar Singh



Baptising the recent converts

My time in India involved meeting many wonderful men and women of God, enjoying some new tastes and experiencing the power and anointing of God in fresh new ways. From helping to baptize 54 people in the river in Gujarat one day and another 14 the next, to praying over oil filled bottles that were to be used to anoint the sick in the villages, each day brought a new exciting challenge to see God move in amazing ways.

The opportunities to present the Gospel or to teach the Word were numerous and I found myself waking in the early hours of the morning inspired with a Word from heaven. What really stood out to me was the courage and depth of the congregations I spoke to, whether in the noisy cities bustling with activity, or in the quiet villages often without constant electricity or light. There was a great Christ-likeness that was wonderful to see, a determination in the heart of Indian Christians to follow Jesus with enthusiasm. This was something that I could not have read in a book or heard from a preacher, it was something I had to experience first hand.



Praying for the people in need

I saw the hot dry season as a picture of much of India as a nation. The earth and the trees seemed to be crying out for water, for the monsoon season. Trees had been stripped bare by the heat, land had cracked with no water – but all of India knows that when the monsoon comes, everything changes – completely changes. So it is with India – as a nation India is crying out for life, for hope, for something that will bring life – only Jesus can bring to India what it really needs. My India trip filled me with pride and joy, I was proud of my heritage, proud that I had so many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ, thankful to have been blessed and to have been a blessing.

**88 Baptised in Gujarat and Orissa – the Most Persecuted States in India!
Pray for these Precious Converts who Came Forward Courageously to be
Baptised, Ignoring the Laws Existing in These States Against Conversions!**

We praise and thank God for the 54 people baptised in Chakli village in Gujarat and another 14 converts who were baptised in Kathaal village in Gujarat. These new converts were baptised by Rev Chunilal Pema, Rev Caleb Rajan and other local pastros from ECI Mumbai Diocese.

20 recent converts were baptised in Orissa in a village called Binjali. After the baptism, the local anti Christian elements published a news in the local newspapers alledging that our missionary Pastor Koreshen Nag had forcefully converted the people to Christianity. Because of this issue created by the Hindu fanatics, the recently baptised converts are living in fear. Pray that the Lord will help them to take roots in their faith, so that they can openly testify that they accepted Christ because of their personal conviction and not because of external compulsions, coercions or inducements of any kind.



14 people baptised in Kathal in Gujarat by Rev Chunilal Pema and Rev Caleb Rajan



20 people baptised in Binjali in Orissa by Rev Rajasingh, General Secretary of IMM



54 people were baptised in Chakli village in Gujarat by Rev Chunilal Pema and other ECI Pastors

ECI BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTORS WORKSHOP

The second annual training event for the senior leadership of the smaller seminaries of the ECI was held from May 28-30, at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Bangalore. Eight out of the ten ECI Bible schools were represented. Rev. Dr. Sam Yesudhas, Director of the seminaries, was present and led the two sessions where the Director of each school shared of the school’s program, strengths, and weaknesses. He also led the session on budgeting, which was quite helpful. The session on rethinking the purpose of the schools went well as we once again revisited the meaning of practical training and how that is the distinctive of these smaller schools. Ways to teach character and leadership skills were discussed at length. It was agreed that chapel time was the ideal time for teaching character and that faculty should preach or teach at a minimum of two chapel services each week. The session on healthy, Christlike leadership was received especially well, as we discussed how this applied to the Director in relationship to the faculty and students. For the last session, Bishop Sundar Singh blessed the group with a message on the power of God in ministry and officiated the Lord’s Supper.



ECI Bible School Directors with Bishop Sundar Singh, Pastor Thomas Curry and his wife Rhonda

Praise and Prayer concerns



1. Pray for Rev Navaraj Moses, one of the senior pastors of ECI who has been admitted in the hospital due to 75% failure of his kidneys and also with some other serious complications. Pray that the Lord will restore his health so that he can continue his ministries.

2. Pray for the ongoing parsonage construction works in ECI Batala church in Punjab. With the initial amount borrowed from the ECI headquarters the pastor has started the construction works of the parsonage. Pray that the Lord will meet all the financial needs so that the construction works for parsonage will be completed soon and will be used by the pastor of the church.



3. Praise God for the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a church at Sodmal in Gujarat. Mr Gopal's family from ECI Kamaraj Nagar Church in Mumbai Diocese have come forward to support financially towards the construction of this church.



4. Praise God for the Lord has provided a computer for the ECI IMM Gujarat ministries. Pray that this equipment will serve the purpose for which it was bought.



5. Praise God for the believers of the church at Devanifalio in Gujarat. The poor believers have collected almost Rs.20,000/- and started the initial stages for construction of a church in their village. Pray that the Lord will open doors for these people to complete the church construction works and dedicate the building for the glory of God.

6. Praise God that 10 bicycles were distributed to the evangelists in Orissa field. These bicycles were sponsored by the ECI Villiwakkam church. Pray that the Lord will bless the people who are giving generously for the mission works.



7. Praise God for the grand church dedication service we had at Binjali in Orissa. ECI Matthur church had helped us in constructing a church for these believers. Pray that this church will show progressive growth in all aspects.



8. Praise God for the successful Vacation Bible School ministries which we had in our Churches during the first two weeks of May under the theme "Blessed Life". Pray that the children who participated in this year Vacation Bible School will be able to move towards achieving this blessed life.

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 make it known to the Editor, or if you would like your partner friends to receive this newsletter kindly send their email ID's to us.

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

Evangelical Church of India

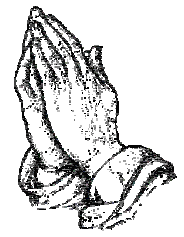
No 1, Second Street, Ormes Road,

Kilpauk, Chennai, India 600010, ecindia@vsnl.com



EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF INDIA

ECI PRAYER AND REVIVAL DEPARTMENT



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING – I THESS 5:17

ECI NATION WIDE CHAIN OF PRAYER – 24 X 7

Choose ½ Hour Time Slot!

Join This 24 hour – 7 days Prayer Movement!

Hundreds Have Already Signed up! Write Today!

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land” II Corinthians 7:14

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in the sweet Name of our Lord, the Prayer Warrior – Par Excellence, who in the days of His flesh had offered up prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears.

ECI Prayer and Revival Department has come into existence because of our Visionary Bishop President Rt Rev Dr M Ezra Sargunam who desires the revival of yester years like the Welsh Revival to sweep across our nation in general and ECI churches in particular with the greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Regular pointed prayers are offered at every Sunday in almost all ECI Chennai Diocese churches with the Prayer points being circulated every month of this department.

It is my God given burden that all our ECI Churches / Seminaries / Special ministries should be linked by 24 hour – 7 days round the clock chain of prayer. Then we can see greater advancement of the gospel, more churches being established and ultimately the goal and vision and ECI be reached, all by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this context, I solicit your cooperation and involvement.

Each person can choose ½ hour time slot on any day of the week (midnight 12 till noon 12; noon 12 to midnight 12). Prayer points mentioned in Church Planter / IMM Newsletter / Diocesan Prayer Letter, as well as other specific requests to be circulated to all prayer warriors may be used during this ½ hour period.

Kindly indicate your name, contact number, email ID, choice of day and time to me (kingsleyvidi@yahoo.co.in) or to (ecichurchplanter@gmail.com).

Format

Name	Country / Place	Day	Time	Phone No	Email ID

May the Lord of the Revival pour out His Holy Spirit of Prayer and Intercession among us; Let us march towards the goal which the Lord has given to our Bishop President.

Pray For India! Prayer is Power!! Prayer Brings Victory!!!

In His Prayerful Mission

S J Kingsley

Director, ECI Prayer and Revival Dept