

India Harvest 2021 Kakinada, India

John Ricky Gootam

AREAS OF MINISTRY:

- Preachers work-shops.
- Gospel meetings.
- Children Home.
- TV/Radio ministry.
- Bible Course.
- Homeless shelter for the aged.
- Village minis-tries.
- Printing press/ Tracks.
- Homeless shelter for the aged.
- L2L-India, National convention Director .



We helped more than 1200 church members by giving them groceries. To the left in this picture is Venkata Krishna Puram Church of Christ . We gave groceries ten items which would cost \$20 and will come for a family of four for 15 days. We gave them to 60 families in this village.



Picture on the left—Bro. Yesurathnam has been associated with us from the past 30 years. He preaches for two churches on Sundays. We helped give groceries to 40 families at his church who have been struck by Covid.

Picture on the right—Satyavani TV Programs has been going on from 2001. They go to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Telangana. This is our strongest and biggest out-reach ministry. We reached out to more than 1 million people with our TV programs. In our program we only preach the gospel and we have an acapella group that sings songs so that the other churches can learn. Our program comes in five different channels at some different times, 17 half hour programs five days a week to all over India in Telugu language. On an average we get 100 responses for our Bible courses and for our out-reach. Until now we have 500,000 people with their address who finished our Bible courses and who knows the TRUTH about Christ and his purpose to this world. We have 20 people in our office staff who takes care of all our activities for the Lord.



In many villages which we work which are in the jungle area Bro. Alexander Campbell is our main preacher which we work with in the jungle area. It is hard to go in the villages. So we often go on motor bikes in these mountain villages. Sometimes when the bikes can not go, we go on horses as the churches are very deep in the jungles. A lot of time when we go preaching in these villages we see all kinds of wild animals like monkeys and peacocks. There are also tigers and elephants but they are more afraid of us. As humans kill them for various reasons. We have been working with 20 churches in these jungle villages and we established churches another 6 villages this year. Not every preacher has a motor bike as they cost \$1200.



“I have placed you as a light for the gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth”
Acts 13:47



Bro. Sudhakar and is the Bridegroom in the picture on the picture to the left. His bride Amrutha. They did not have children yet. Every Sunday they were at the church. Amrutha is an Orphan but still Sudhakar married her. The lady in the yellow saree is his mother with his older brother and sister. This family has been faithful member of Lords Church from past 30 plus years. Their mother got Covid virus and got very sick and died. They were there with the body and cremated. After two more days Sudhakar died because of Covid. He is very young and so was his wife. After two more days their older brother died. All this in the same family in less than two weeks time. This family has hit hard. In our town of Kakinada in the month of May, there were 6000 deaths in the government hospital. All this because of lack of vaccination and no oxygen in the hospitals because of all the people getting sick. The medical staff were getting sick and to add there was “black fungus”



The Virus was better. Many got better after the virus. But if a person got “black-fungus”, they have only three days to live. Situation was very bad in India during April till July.



Picture on the Left— This is Bro. Chilliaya Murthy and Sister Silaja. I married this couple in their village eight years ago. He is 38 years old and she is 32 years old. They have two small kids which are very active. Bro. Murthy worked as a security and was very active in the church. He died because of lack of oxygen in the hospital as there were no beds with oxygen when needed. There were too many people and though the government had 1000 beds, they were all full. Many young people have died during this Covid wave in the India. I have known many personally and was shocked to hear the news. Only in Visakapatnam district there were 40 preachers (many are younger) who have died because of Covid and the “black fungus”. I have know them personally and our prayers and hearts go out listening to their stories. One brother who preachers in a village near Rajahmundry asked me to come conduct a gospel meeting. It went real good. They wanted a church building to assemble as they were meeting out-side. After a month, I heard he was sick and they were taking him to the government hospital. They reached the hospital. The hospital was very full and there were no availability of beds with oxygen. He was in the ambulance for 2 hrs and after that since he could not be shifted to a bed at the hospital with oxygen, he died in the ambulance. Too many people were getting sick between April till July and too many deaths we have seen. Many young have died. The government could not supply vaccination in time because of the population. Because of lack of vaccination, there were many deaths have occurred. Many have survived but those who have taken the vaccination have died too. My own brother, Robin was in the hospital for two weeks on oxygen support. His condition was very serious. His whole family had Covid virus. By the grace of God, he is alive today.



Picture to the right—This is Sunitha. She was 28 years old and not married and was a beautician. She wanted to start another food business. She has been coming to our church from past four years. Her father is a faithful preacher of the Lords church in Amalapuram area. He still preaches. Her mother and her went to a wedding and she got sick and with the virus. After few days she died. She was a very active young lady in our church.



Out-reach during Pandemic



Picture to the left— These are 25 “Oxygen Concentrators” which we have been using and will continue to use.

Each concentrator will help 10 villages. We have one preacher who would be in-charge of 10 villages. Any members of our Lord’s church who are not well will contact him and they would see they get the “oxygen concentrator”. We have given one concentrator for one of the clinic. These are heavy duty machines which are medical grade and will be great help with people who are struggling to breathe. These will also help those who are weak. In many villages they don’t have hospitals so these will be very helpful. The picture on the right is Bro. Sudhakar going and helping those who have had the virus and still are weak and needed more oxygen. He is one of the local preachers but also does an extraordinary work in helping those whose



This to the left is Bro. Babu Rao and Bro. Sathi Babu who will be using this machine in 20 different villages to those who needed help and are weak after the virus attack. We do not charge money but give first preference to our church members and our church families in the villages.

Bro. Santha Rao works in 12 different villages and he will be using these to help those in those villages who are struggling. Brother. N.J. Raju and his father work in five different village churches and they will be using these machines’ in those area. Every machine will be located at the local church of Christ. This is a good way to reach out during these times of pandemic. Even if this phase is over, these will be very helpful as usually in the villages which we work, hospitals are far away. Many faithful brethren and sisters have provided these and we are putting them to the best of use to help those who are in need and also trying to reach them so that the name of Jesus Christ is glorified above all.



“Tell of His glory among the nations, his wonderful deeds among all the people”

1 Chronicles 16:24





Picture to the Left—This is Brother Babu Rao. He has been working with us for many years. He was very ill because of Covid. We thought he was going to die. Their family was very worried. By the grace of God, he is alive. He works in two different villages called Venkatapuram and Tuni. He is one of the very active preachers in those area. Each congregation he minister have an average of 70+ every Sunday in their worship. He also travels to the jungle villages and preaches. He has been a great asset to all the things we do in our ministry. He goes to many villages and see and report to us if they needed to come to our children home in Kakinada. He has send more then 100 in past 10 years we have known him, We recently helped him with a motor bike. A bike like this costs \$1200. These are very much needed in the villages for the preachers. Brother Babu Rao and Sathi Babu help us with our Lads-to-Leaders convention in B.K. Pallie every year.



Picture on the Left — We work in the Leper colony here India. These are the brethren who live there. All these are baptized believers and members of the Lords Church. We have a small clinic where a doctor takes care of their disease and a helper who helps him minister them. We give them groceries every month as they go begging in the streets. They are one of the finest people you will ever meet. They do not have much but they are grateful that they are alive and thankful to God.

Picture to the Right - These are the preacher we get to work in Samalkota area in India. There are 33 preachers we work in this area. We have fellowship regularly. I try to encourage them in various ways with their work. We provide them with a lots of materials for their churches to be used. Many of the preachers have been affected by the virus. We gave them groceries. There are 10 items in the bags which they are holding. Each bag is worth \$20. This is not a lot but this is small thing which we can do for their service to the Lord. Many have died during this pandemic this year. When the church members dies, these are the ones which go and burry them. Most of the times even the family members do not come. But these are the men who are brave and finish the burial. When the church members are sick, these are the ones which go, way and beyond. I know personally 50 or more preachers who have died this past year because of the Virus. Their service is not noticed. But these preachers are the ones who keep the faith in God going in these villages. They keep the hope of God so that others can be strong. If anyone is sick, these are the first one church members call asking “what should we do?”. Wish we could do more for the preachers we work with in India. We do work with 600 preachers in different areas in India.



Ricky Gootam
 P.O. Box 80
 Kakinada, AP—533001
 India
 E-mail: rickygootam@yahoo.com
 Web—http://
 www.satyavanicoc.com/

