

India Harvest 2021

Kakinada, India

John Ricky Gootam

AREAS OF MINISTRY:

- ◆ Preachers workshops.
- ◆ Gospel meetings.
- ◆ Children Home.
- ◆ TV/Radio ministry.
- ◆ Bible Courses.
- ◆ Village ministries.
- ◆ Printing press/literature.
- ◆ Homeless shelter for the aged and Leper Colony.
- ◆ Lads-to-Leader, India, Executive Director.



Sarsawathi Devi has been coming to our church from past few months. After the Sunday sermon, she came and wanted to be baptized. She is a widow and has two children. She sees me as one of her sons and always have good comments about the sermons.



Picture on the left— These are some of the kids from our Children Home in Kakinada. Education has hit hard this past two years and so did our Children home. It was a challenge during this Covid times. But we have keep everything going. To the right is our TV programs which comes in five different Channels all over India to those who speak Telugu language. During the week, our programs right now come 17 times.



To the left is the picture of baptisms in B.K. Palli Village of four young people.



The picture in the tents are our gospel meetings in our Leper colony in Peddapuram on October 4th till October 6th. All those who attended are the resident who are in our leper colony. We have a clinic at the colony where we have doctors who come and clean the wounds and check their health. We have a church building where they gather and worship on Sunday afternoon from



“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witness bot in Jerusa-lem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”- Acts 1:8



This is Santhoshi Amma (her name means - happy mother). She is leper older lady and begs every day. Some of her fingers are gone because of the disease. She begs at railway station. She lives in our leper colony. She got baptised last year. Few months ago a Hindu guru who makes a lots of anti-Christian videos wanted to show his viewers how Christians bribe others with money and things to get converted to Christianity. He was in the railway station and went to our Santhosh Amma and said I will give you Rs. 100 (little over a dollar) and asked “are you a Christian”. She looked up to him and said “yes I am a Christian and follow Jesus Christ”. He said, “I will give you Rs. 100, will you leave Christ and take this money?”. She said “no I will not”. He said, “I will give you Rs. 200 and more if you leave Christ and come to our god”. She can’t read, she is a leper, she is an old lady who has faith in Christ. She said “no, I will not leave Christ even when you give me lots of money. Jesus Christ is my God”. He tried

to persuade her but he could not. In the end he said “well, you are old, a leper and a beggar. I will give you this Rs. 100 anyways. What will you do with this money?”. She replied, “this Sunday when I go to church, I will put this in the offering and will pray for you”.

Picture to the left— This is a gospel meeting in a village called Kotha pallie. In India there is a lot of discussion going on about “deity of Christ”. I got to speak for two hours about “Jesus being God”. There were

few preachers present in this gospel meeting that on October 6th. The church in this village is very active. They have grown and also we helped them to build another floor above their church building. Brother Sathi Babu is the local preacher and we have been working with him from past 8 years.

Pictures to left— Many years ago in the city of Hyderabad, few of the Baptists have invited my Dad for a gospel meeting. The Baptist church had 200 members. It was a three day gospel meetings. After the meetings were over, half of the congregation wanted to come out and start a church of Christ in Yaprul. Brother Lemuel is instrumental in doing this and pictures here are from me going in the month of August and speaking to them. We love this church and they recently have build a three storied Church building in Yaprul in Secunderabad in Telangana State.





Picture to the left— We try to help older women/widows by teaching them to stitch and make clothes. We have six training centers for women to come and learn and also to study bible with the local preachers wife. Here in this picture we are giving a stitching machine to Sister Ratnam. She is a widow and lives by herself. She is like Lydia in the bible.



**“But if I say,
“I will not
remember
Him Or
speak
anymore in
His name,”
Then in my
heart it
becomes
like a
burning fire
Shut up in
my bones;
And I am
weary of
holding it in,
And I
cannot
endure it.”**

Jeremiah 20:9

Picture to the right—These are the preachers in the jungles of Chintapali. Brother Campbell is the preacher in these Jungles who organizes different meetings and keeps the fellowship between Churches of Christ in the remote jungle areas. We are now work with 22 Churches of Christ in those villages. These preachers are trained in our School of Preaching and are very solid in the word of God.



One of the churches has requested for sound boxes for their churches. To the left are those being brought



for their churches. These would be used for gospel meetings. Their church is located on a mountain in the jungle, so everyone will be hearing the word of God.

Picture to the right—This is P. Ramesh, he was in our Children Home for almost 5 years. We enjoyed having him. He was a good kid. He finished his Bachelors in Engineering. He going after a girl and committed suicide. His uncle brought him



shocked. It was very sad hearing about his death in August. He was born in 1996.



Above is baptism of Amrutha. Her husband died of Covid recently. They were just married over an year and Covid struck him down. She finished our Bible course and wanted to be baptized.





Picture to the Left —The books in this picture are “Voice of Truth International” in Telugu Language. These books go out to many places from our office. We also have a bible course where we get over 200 request per day. We right now have twelve in our office staff who takes care of this. Once someone finishes our Bible course we give them a free Telugu or Oriya Bible via post. This year we are running \$1200 short per month for our bibles because of Covid and various other reasons few churches have dropped out.



Picture on the Left — Many have been affected with Corona virus. Some of the brethren are gracious to send help to give it to those who need help. We try to help those who are in need with groceries. Every month we help 75 of the older women who needed help with the groceries. Not everyone is in this picture. This month, one church from US contacted and wanted to give “sanitary pads” to our women of the church, and distributed 100 of them to young Christians ladies. This have had a good response.



Picture to the Right - I am also authorized to do wedding in India. We need to have a license from the government to do weddings. I was privileged to officiate a wedding of Arun Raj and Venkatalakshmi. Arun was one of our Children Home kids. He was with us for more then 5 years. Later he finished his engineering. He also is a body builder and won many of the competitions. He used to work in the local gym but now is a personal trainer.

Missions Request

- ⇒ Because of Covid, few of our supporting churches has stopped and reduced their budget. Please do consider in helping us little more in your missions budget for the next year. Each Bible is now \$3 in Telugu and Oriya language. We get hundreds of requests for our Bible courses and for our Bibles. This coming year we are **short of \$1200 per month for Bibles**. Every little dollar is a great help for our Bibles.
- ⇒ We need \$2500 for a water well in one of the villages we work with.
- ⇒ We need \$6000 to help construct a church building near Narisipatnam village.



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