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2005 India Operation Report

Overview

The 2005 India Operation was carried out in three phases following the mobilization of thousands of intercessors through the High Mill Global Prayer Network. First was the Pangidi Leadership Training Conference in Andrah Pradesh in partnership with D. Santhosh Babu, Bishop of Universal Church Ministries [UMC]. UMC has over 230 churches and two Bible Colleges. Second was the Deeper Spiritual Life Camp at Nehemiah Prayer Mountain in Manipur with Rev. H. Chungthang Thiek, founder and President of the Nehemiah Prayer Team [NPT] located at the city of Churachandpur. The third phase was a reconnaissance mission into one of the remotest regions of Arunachal Pradesh. These three operational phases were launched with the hope of progressively taking our partnerships and work in the primary harvest fields to new levels of effectiveness.

India is a nation of idolatry and at the same time it is a land of villages that are ripe for harvest. Literally thousands of villages remain unreached in Andrah Pradesh alone. In addition, the mountainous and frontier region of the Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh has remained 99.9% non-christian for centuries. The Twang region is situated in the eastern Himalayas at 3,500 meters [11,655 feet] above sea level and is very close to the borders with Bhutan and Tibet China. The Sela Pass , site of the Chinese aggression of 1962, provides a narrow entrance into the district. This region is home to the Monpa people who are Buddhist by faith. In fact, the second largest Buddhist monastery accommodating more than 700 monks is located at Tawang city. Although Christianity has been hindered by strict anti-conversion laws, the first and only Christian church in the entire district was erected just in the past months. The first two attempts resulted in the destruction of the building in the middle of the night. Although there are less than fifty Christians out of a population of 35,000, they remain determined and fervent in spirit to reach the Monpas and other tribes for Christ.

Highlights

April 13-18: We preached the Gospel for the first time in the village of Eruwada. About 35 of the 60 attending were from the village itself. There were 12 who received Christ including a wealthy landlord and a new church began with 12 members. The team proceeded to Pangidi where we conducted a 3-day conference for 375 leaders at UMC's new Mount Zion Center. This was a barren piece of land when an international team prayed over it in 2000. Now it is a miracle complex with regional impact for Christ. Participants received biblical presentations on the leaders calling, mission, development of moral character, and the fruit of the Spirit. The Lord also revealed His plan to reach 120 villages in four days with the utilization of 300 young leaders. The Holy Spirit burned the vision for the operation into the hearts of Santhosh and Michael as they traveled and ministered together. It is scheduled to take place Jan. 22-29, 2007. On the final evening, we went to the nearby village of Pedagantyada to dedicate a new church building with over 2,000 people in attendance. This was a very moving experience for Santhosh and Michael for it was here that the late Bob Swanger, Michael's spiritual father, had preached and prophesied in January 1994.

April 19-20: Santhosh and Michael joined Chungthang in Imphal, the capital of Manipur and proceeded to NPT Prayer Mountain where we preached in the two largest churches of the Independent Churches of India [ICI]. These churches are becoming increasingly open to the Holy Spirit as we spoke messages calling them to new life. Around 120 people came for the Deeper Spiritual Camp. This was far above what we expected. Santhosh brought forth a very anointed message in the afternoon from Exodus 14:15 calling the church to "Go Forward!" God also led him to plant a seed of 5,000 rubies to purchase fans for the Peniel Prayer Hall. This act of love was most pleasing to God and greatly encouraged the saints.

April 21-26: The team traveled to Guwahati, the capital of Assam, where Santhosh departed for Andhra Pradesh while Chungthang and Michael went on to Tezpur. Here we joined Ama, his wife, and Zorim. Ama [executive secretary] and Zorim [missions secretary] are two young executive officials of the 254 church Nishi Baptist Christian Council of Arunachal Pradesh. These churches are mostly smaller with some house churches and have been established only since 1972 due to persecution and anti-conversion laws. They faithfully escorted us through dense jungle and mountainous rain forests to the frontier region of the Tawang District and to the only church in the region. We preached twice in the church. Chungthang delivered a strong message on the strength of God's love in us and Michael was the first white foreigner to preach in the church. We were impressed to find around 12 young people in the church and four of them were waiting for sponsors to enter Bible College with the goal of returning and reaching the various tribes for Christ. Immediately we began planning by the leading of the Holy Spirit for a mission's training center and the establishment of an international school of ministry [ISOM]. In addition, the brethren were very enthusiastic about a comprehensive teaching strategy for making disciples. Although weather and security concerns prevented us from visiting places outside the city, we went to some sites and prayed together over the region. A Christian doctor [veterinarian] invited us to his home for a meal on our final night. There, we prayed for a young man with severe pain in both shoulders. Jesus instantly healed him and the brothers took him to another room where he received Christ. This was all witnessed by a Buddhist policeman who was present and is unaware that his daughter has recently converted to Christianity and taken water baptism. This confirmed again to all that house gatherings would be God's primary means for the spread of the gospel throughout the region.

Lessons learned

- Jesus is calling us to go to the villages without delay
- The various ways leaders conduct church services and programs often hinder and sometimes quench the Spirit
- House churches where people gather in homes like the early church is also a primary means of spreading the gospel in the 21st century
- Maximum resources must be targeted for those international leaders on whom the Lord has placed His hand and who are dedicated to working together in obedience to the Lord's command to "Go Forward!"
- The teaching ministry of the church must measure up to the demand of the hour to make disciples of all nations.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit used this operation to confirm several things. One is that apostolic leaders must unite together to focus on the training of village pastors and evangelists. These faithful men and women have been neglected for too long. Now, God has revealed that they are the key to "making disciples of all nations." We need to go beyond Pastor's Conferences and place in the hands of these village leaders basic teaching materials for making disciples. This includes the young leaders in the remote Tawang District. For this purpose, we are preparing an international version of our basic discipleship training materials used in the 3-R School of the Bible at High Mill Church of the Resurrection and releasing it to our international partners under a new title, "What Every Disciple Ought to Know." We believe God has spoken clearly for us to do this in order that village pastors will be "thoroughly furnished" (II Timothy 3:17). Another thing that God confirmed was a dynamic and fresh vision to accelerate reaching the villages of Andhra Pradesh for Jesus utilizing 300 young leaders of the next generation. This History Maker III Conference will include 3 days of training followed by 4 days of field operations where 30 vans will take teams of ten each to bring the gospel to 120 targeted villages, plant 120 new churches, and install 120 new pastors/evangelists who will each be responsible under God to reach an additional 10 villages surrounding the new church. God also confirmed that we will gather 1,000 young people for special anointing in Northeast India during 2006. D. Santhosh Babu and H. Chungthang Thiek have been raised up by God for this critical hour of harvest. They are united together in partnership with the High Mill Global Church Network to advance God's kingdom around the world. We are all bursting with God's new and fresh vision for India and the nations because of all the faithful intercessors of the High Mill Global Prayer Network.



Pastors return to their villages after the Pangidi Conference.



Chungthang, Santhosh and Michael pose with participants at NPT Prayer Mountain.



Loma (right), a missionary, stands beside one of the first converts in Tawang District.

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