

How do you plant a church? First, you need a dedicated worker to patiently plow the field by reaching out to people with Christ's love. Next, you plant the seed of God's Word. Then you water it with teaching and prayer. In His own time and miraculous way, God brings the harvest. In this newsletter, we will look at Pastor Lokesh's labor of love in planting a church in southwestern India. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" Psalm 126:6.

Church Planting Near Mysore, India

In 2014, God planted Pastor Lokesh and his family in the Madevapura district outside the city of Mysore, India. They desired to start a church, and HBC began supporting them. Pastor Lokesh is a graduate of South India Baptist Bible College.

They began their ministry by visiting families in the area. It took three months before they gained their first convert to Christ. Through that woman, they met more families. Some were backslidden believers whom they led back to faith. In October 2014, these believers began meeting as a church family.

Today the church has 21 adult believers and around 20 children. New people visit regularly. Sunday School is held after the worship service. They also have a weekly Bible study. That attendance is low because most of the people are farmers and they work. Every Friday, the Pastor and his wife visit members of the congregation and pray with them.

Evangelization remains a priority. Pastor and Mrs. Lokesh regularly visit neighboring villages, meet new families, share the gospel, and invite them to church. They are also praying for funds to acquire a church building. Pastor Lokesh writes, "Thank you sir for your great concern and support for our ministry in Mysore. Please continue to pray for us and our ministry, as well as we too have been praying for you."

Summer Ministries

Schools in India take a break in April and May, and summer ministries begin. From April 26th to 29th, 84 children attended VBS in Mathur, India, under the direction of Pastor Shaju Matthew. The children enjoyed learning songs, stories, and Bible verses. The teachers presented the gospel in easy to understand lessons. They taught about the creation,

man's disobedience, the birth of Jesus, the plan of salvation, the second coming, and heaven and hell. Eighteen children accepted Christ as their Savior. Praise the Lord!

Ministers supported by HBC are holding VBS in many other sites this month.



Children gather for VBS in Mathur, India

Praises and Prayer Requests

We raised the needed funds for a school van. Thank you to those who contributed.

Another successful year was completed at the Bible College and Christian Academy.

Pray for:

- various summer ministries (VBS and village team ministries in different states in India)
- increased student enrollment in June for the Christian Academy
- funds for the acquisition of land to bring several ministries together onto one campus. We have a matching gift of \$50,000.