

January was a busy month for HBC-supported ministries in India. The annual pastors conference in Trichy provided training and encouragement to pastors from all over the country. Also, a group of college students and faculty from the U.S. along with Dr. Phil Ninan led a soccer clinic at two schools where they shared the gospel. The group also visited Pastor Shaju Matthew's church and met some of the pastors supported by HBC. One student described the trip as "a life-changing experience. The people are so sincere," he said, "and they possess so little. We want to have Jesus and a lot of other things too, but they are happy with just Jesus."

Sharing Christ at a Soccer Clinic

The best way to witness to the people of India is through offering some free service or help. Many will listen to the gospel in a neutral setting. With this in mind, last month Dr. Phil Ninan accompanied a group of 15 college students and 4 faculty members from the U.S. to lead a soccer clinic at two schools in India. The Indian students, sixth to twelfth grade, were Hindu, Muslim, and Christian.



Some students participating in the soccer clinic

At each school, the clinic lasted 2 days. Training on soccer skills was provided 3 hours each morning, followed by 30 minutes of sharing the gospel. This schedule was repeated in the afternoon. In Trichy, 64 students attended, and at a school outside of Trichy more than 100 attended. At least 4 Hindu girls accepted Christ as their Savior. The schools invited the group to return next year.

Praises and Prayer Requests

We are thankful for safety for the students and staff who traveled to India and for their fruitful ministry.

Please pray that our local staff will have opportunities to disciple the 4 Hindu girls who were saved and others who made decisions. Also pray for the summer ministries, VBS and youth camp, which will begin soon. The school year will end this month.

Land Purchase – Matching Gift Opportunity

A generous donor has offered a matching gift of \$100K toward the purchase of land for an HBC campus if we can raise that amount. This is an exciting opportunity for you to double your gift to HBC!

Some potential properties we have explored did not turn out to be viable because the sellers could not provide proper ownership documents. We are now looking at a 20 acre fenced property located 18 miles from the Trichy airport and less than a mile from a 4-lane highway which provides public transportation access. There are villages 5 miles in both directions, making it an ideal location for future ministries, such as a Christian school. The owner appears to have the proper papers, subject to review by our attorney. The purchase price is \$480K, and we have \$180K now. Please prayerfully consider whether you can help.

Annual Pastors Conference

The annual pastors conference in Trichy drew 110 pastors from all over India. When you include the Heritage Baptist Bible College (HBBC) students, staff, and local workers, there were 180 in attendance. The pastors enjoy the fellowship of other pastors and the teaching sessions. This year, separate afternoon teaching was provided to the women who attended. We also use this opportunity to spread the word about the HBBC and Seminary.