

Taking a public stand for Christ sometimes requires great personal sacrifice. In India, where the pro-Hindu government is persecuting minority religions in many areas of the country, the decision to become a Christian requires boldness and courage. Last month, fourteen new believers were baptized at churches supported by HBC in Trichy and Madurai. They were obedient to Jesus' call: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32).

Following the Lord in Baptism

In January, ten believers were baptized at Grace Baptist Church in Trichy, and four believers were baptized at Faith Baptist Church in Madurai. Below are some of their testimonies.



Pastor Matthew (left), guests, and baptismal candidates in Trichy

An "Urgent Need" to Accept Christ

Muthuraman is 23 years old and comes from an orthodox Hindu family. He first heard about Jesus when a friend invited him to Grace Baptist Church. Through the weekly preaching, he began to realize he needed a Savior and Jesus died to take the punishment for his sin. When Rev. Mike preached there last October, Mutharaman said, "I felt an urgent need to accept Christ because life is very short." He is thankful to those who helped him find his purpose in Jesus. Please pray for his Hindu parents and sister to be saved.

Saved from Idol Worship

Mr. Joseph Dhanapal was raised as a Catholic and followed church traditions, but he did not have a personal relationship with Christ. He worshiped idols.

One night he was in an accident, and he experienced the helping hand of God. He started thinking about Christ and realized idol worship was a sin. He began attending a Bible study led by Pastor Samy, and he accepted Christ as his personal Savior. Now he has a great enthusiasm to share the gospel with others, especially his Catholic relatives. Please pray for his wife and children to be saved.

Assurance of Salvation

Joseph, who is Pastor Samy's son, grew up learning about Jesus. Although he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior at a young age, he did not have an assurance of his salvation. In May 2018, he attended a youth camp where God spoke to him through the messages. He surrendered his life totally to the Lord and got the assurance of salvation. Please pray for him and his future studies.



A baptism in Madurai

Praises and Prayer Requests

Thank God for a great academic year and many who sacrificed their time and effort to come and teach for us. We rejoice to see our first set of students going into ministry this year. We will write more about the commencement services in the next newsletter.

Pray for protection for summer ministries as our college year will be finished the end of this month.