



Gilgal Gospel Mission: Preaching Christ and Planting Churches in India since 1974.



**“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go**

**O**ur family’s 4-year sojourn to the U.S. began in 2016 to academically prepare my husband, Sunil, and me to lead GGM at my mom’s retirement. We are excited to join academic training with our combined mission field experience of almost 30 years to engage the soon-to-be largest mission field in the world. Sunil finished PhD coursework and qualifying examinations in the discipline of World Christianity and Global Missions. He plans to complete his thesis by 2023 while acting as Gilgal Gospel Mission’s President. I obtained a Master of Theological Studies degree and I am now working on a PhD in Biblical Studies.

**“Seminarions serve the entire mission as part-time missionaries.”**

A driving reason we pursued PhD programs was to equip ourselves to lead and expand the Indian Theological Seminary, one of GGM’s most vibrant and challenging ministries. Seminarions serve the entire mission as part-time missionaries, Sunday school teachers, occasionally Children’s Home caregivers and a host of other functions while pursuing full-time studies. It is a blessing to hear testimonies of the immense impact of ITS alumni as they expand the Kingdom

in India and across the world.

We were heartbroken when ITS lost the prestigious Senate of Serampore affiliation in 2019 due to infrastructure and staffing deficiencies. Fewer programs, faculty, and students significantly impacted the mission this past year with a smaller Children’s Rally, less presence in villages, and fewer outreach and evangelism programs. We have learned the seminary’s importance to the functioning and flourishing of GGM and prayed that God would reveal His plan.

In January, God encouraged us to pursue reaffiliation though the 3 year wait period was not completed. By faith, we upgraded the library through grants and donations, recruited new faculty and appointed a new Principal. Once a student of my father’s, the late Rev. Dr. Chelliah Russelliah, the Principal understands GGM’s vision and has served as Associate Dean of distance programs at the Senate of Serampore and so has personal knowledge of pursuing and maintaining affiliation. We are pleased to announce that these efforts produced fruit and the Senate of Serampore has reinstated our affiliation for the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) program. We will continue to offer the Master of Divinity program accredited by Asia Theological Association and other Seminary certificate programs.

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Missionary Anburaj and his wife Blessy.

## and I will bring you back to this land

**M**y spiritual mentor and GGM founder, Rev. Dr. Chelliah Russelliah, always encouraged me to return to GGM after I completed my education that began at the Indian Theological Seminary. Though I studied in several states in India and the U.S., God has always brought me home to GGM.

Church planting was always my passion as God called me to reach India's unreached people. While in the U.S. at school, I returned to GGM each summer to collaborate with missionaries and staff to organize children's rallies, youth retreats, missionary conferences, Sunday school programs, medical and gospel camps and much more. U.S. pastors and missionaries have inspired me to develop new mission methods relevant to the Indian context.

We are working with Missionary Anburaj and his wife Blessy, to incorporate these programs at GGM's Mahadevimariamangalaum Village Church. Anburaj joined GGM just 6 months ago, but the church was planted about 15 years ago in the small village of 36 hut houses. Though other missionaries have tried to bring nearby villages into the church, caste issues have caused division. Please pray with us that God breaks down this wall of separation so people can worship the Lord Jesus Christ together. Anburaj and his wife are doing house visits for now and most receive them. And around 20 children attend Sunday school and we are trying to establish a Youth Group. Blessy is a physical therapist



so she plans to offer low cost treatment to villagers to make friends. Still, if people will not attend church, Anburaj will go to their villages and conduct small group prayer fellowships. Our prayer is that someday they will be united in Christ.

The fruit of consistent leadership is seen at GGM's Meyyuor Church with Missionary Michael's 10 years of service. Having patiently planted good seed, this church has 30-40 attendees, 20 baptized believers, and an active Youth Group of 15 youth. However, this church has two infrastructure issues that hinders growth. With no parsonage, Michael drives 45 minutes to the village on motorbike 3 times each week. A 600 ft. parsonage costs around \$15k. And, the church roof is badly in need of repair to the extent that when it rains, people cannot be in the building. God has provided for these problems in the past; our job is to remain faithful in prayer. Please join us!

—In His service, Rev. N. Sunil Singh



## for I will not leave you

**A** man stood with a child at the Children's Home gate asking that she be admitted immediately. Claiming to be her uncle, he said she had no parents. The staff explained the admission process, but he left thinking she was refused a home. Within minutes, the staff and children saw the 3-year-old standing outside the gate, crying and alone. Her name was Lavanya. They brought her inside and called the police, who soon after apprehended the man as he watched from a distance to ensure her safety. Ultimately, the man admitted to being the child's father and said that Lavanya's mother had left him and he remarried. His second wife was physically abusive and unkind to the child. He said

**“We welcomed Lavanya into the Children's Home where she has lived for 19 years.”**

that he wanted Lavanya to have a safe and loving home and a happy childhood. Hearing the tragic story, we welcomed Lavanya into the Children's Home where she has lived for 19 years. Her father visited periodically until his tragic death in a road accident when Lavanya was just 7 years old. We are aware of no other surviving relatives.

The staff, children and GGM community are the only family she knows. When the children went to their village for

school breaks or holidays, Lavanya stayed with the Russelliah family. Lavanya did well in school and after graduating, thanks to the loving support from her long-time sponsors, she attended college. For the first time, she moved away and stayed in a hostel close to her college campus. For the past four years, she has lived on her own with frequent visits back to the Children's Home. As of April 2020, she completed the coursework with only an internship to finish to graduate with a medical laboratory technology degree. Recently, we talked with her about her life and how far she has come. Here is what she wants to share:

*The Children's Home is where I experienced all my joys and sorrows. It is my home. It is where my family is. At the Children's Home, I have always felt very loved by God and thankful to all the sponsors who have supported me and others like me, even though they never met us. I remember entering the Children's Home. I was happy to finally have a home of my own with lots of sisters and brothers.*

*Leaving for college was one of the most challenging, scary things I ever did in my life. It was a difficult time. It was so hard to leave home, but my college years were wonderful and happy. I learned so much about being brave and independent and doing things on my own.*

until I have done what **I have promised you.**” – Genesis 28:15



**W**e are trusting God to fulfill the promises given to the **Founders** and those who have faithfully loved and served this ministry, in India and around the world, since inception. Our calling continues the work of Preaching Christ and Planting Churches in unreached, rural corners of India as we lean upon the promise that: “A little one shall become a thousand, a small one a great nation. I the LORD will do this in its time.” (Isaiah 60:22) We will prayerfully expand God’s territory.

GGM is grateful for the strong foundation built by the Reverend Chelliah and Christobel Russelliah. Christobel retired as President on July 10, 2020 and now serves as President Emeritus. In her 46 years of ministry, Christobel was never



deterred, but resolutely persevered in her faith walk to endure trials and testing too numerous to count. Yet, endurance through her afflictions only increased her confident refrain “My God will not put me to shame.”

In the near term, we are especially focused on expanding the Children & Youth Ministry, increasing seminary enrollment, starting a Women’s Fellowship at each church, and equipping church lay leaders through certificate courses and vocational training. We continue our prayers in earnest that God would provide for new churches, a women’s dorm, and church repairs. Please join us in that prayer!

It has been such a blessing to have watched the Founders grow this mission from nothing to something that impacts so many. As Founder Christobel would say, “We have watched the ministry grow from a small mustard seed to a large tree that now provides shelter to many.” By faith, God has led us thus far. We believe God will continue to use GGM to expand His Kingdom in India through the promises given to the Founders over 46 years ago. —Rev. N. Sunil Singh

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ITS now has a total student body strength of 22 and a committed team of six faculty members. We look forward to increasing these numbers in the years to come. Currently, women students reside in a dormitory within the main academic building and men students reside in a separate building using bunk beds with 2-3 students in a room. With these accommodations, our current student housing capacity is only 40-50 students. To increase our numbers, we are praying for funding to build additional rooms in the men’s hostel and a separate women’s hostel building.

Our U.S. journey has been miraculous in many ways. God told Jacob, having departed his Father’s house for Egypt with limited resources, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go (Gen 28:15a). Likewise, God has kept us; teaching and leading us ever deeper in His perfect plan for our lives and Gilgal Gospel Mission. —Thehil Russelliah Singh

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*After I graduate, I want to find a job and support myself. I want to help people. As many people as I can. I owe a debt of gratitude to the sponsors who have supported me and have helped me for so long. I want to do the same. I want to help many others to flourish in their lives as well.*

For 26 years, over 150 children have passed through the Children’s Home. All came to GGM in crisis situations. It is always our prayer that they leave knowing the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and being prepared for the future.

Only through generous sponsors like the Cranes of Indiana PA who supported Lavanya for many years and into college, is the Children’s Home able to continue.