



GGMessenger

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



Students First Visited 13 Years Ago

Having been persuaded of this very thing: that the One beginning a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

A precious harvest came this January when nine people from the Thollai Village openly confessed Jesus as their Savior and God in baptism. Christobel said "We can truly testify to how valuable each soul is; more valuable than heaven and earth."

This remote village had not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ when Indian Theological Seminary students first visited 13 years ago. Faithfully, students made the 120-mile round trip journey ministering to the "weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 8:36). GGM's patient endurance led to house prayer meetings and, by God's grace, the cornerstone was laid on July 5, 2004. The International Co-Operative Ministry donated funds for the building and GGM purchased the land. Because of land cost, the property

is 1.25 miles from the village center so villagers were hesitant to visit on weekends, having walked long distances each day to find work.

Naturally, GGM thought this church, in the middle of a rice field and always flooding, would be the last to grow. For over a decade, missionaries were appointed but there was no fruit until 4 years ago when a young bachelor applied. GGM doesn't generally send unmarried men to the field for reasons of propriety, but Christobel felt led to appoint Missionary Santhosh. As villagers passed, they stopped to greet the missionary and conversations began. He befriended the young men in the village and people began staying overnight if needed on their journey. One by one, the young men attended church and with them came their mothers. The Spirit of God began to work!

One couple, Kannadasan and Malini, began to attend church. Once self-proclaimed idol worshippers, they were

continued on page 4

Who is Prominent?

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:46-52

Dear Partners and Friends,

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a blessing to address you once again through this year's GGMessenger!

I've been meditating about what it means to be 'prominent' in God's sight. A prominent person is one who is "well known, leading, notable, well thought of, influential, honoured, respected, great..." and so on. In the world, individuals become prominent by their own talents, abilities, discoveries, education etc. The question I've been asking myself is, how do I become a prominent person in God's sight?

Let us pay close attention to the blind man Bartimaeus. In those days, blind people could not pursue education or find employment. His only option was to beg for his food on the side of the road. As he sat there, he heard that Jesus was coming and so he shouted: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people rebuked him to be quiet but the more they tried to stop him, the louder he shouted. The hindrance of the people around him did not stop his pursuit of Jesus. When Jesus heard Bartimaeus' voice he asked the people to call him forward. As soon as they called him, Bartimaeus jumped up, threw off his cloak and came to Jesus. Jesus asked him, "What do you want? And he promptly responded, "I want to see." Jesus' concluding

words: "Your faith has healed you" shows us the greatness of Bartimaeus' faith.

Have you ever seen faith like this? His healing occurred in a matter of seconds. He no longer had to sit by the road side and beg for food. Instead, Bartimaeus could walk alongside Jesus and become a witness throughout the region and to us over 2000 years later. I have a testimony to share about how God answered a long-standing plea in the ministries of GGM. Our seminary accrediting authority required that we construct a separate staff quarters to house faculty / staff closer to campus. After eight years of crying out to the Lord, He answered our prayers by sending two families to stand with us. As Paul says in Philippians 1:6, "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." The 1st of two buildings comprising the staff quarters is nearing completion. Praise the Lord for fulfilling the need in the appointed time, just like He answered Bartimaeus' cry.

To this day, we remember Bartimaeus' as a notable, prominent person who called after the Lord without wavering. The work that Jesus started in him bore fruit and continues to do so today. May we strive for prominence in God's sight just like Bartimaeus.

In Christ's Vineyard,
Christobel



Healed & Called: Testimony by Ingrait Sudha, Seminary Student

GGM's Indian Theological Seminary, founded with the vision of training God's called people to serve mission fields, the Church, society and the world, receives students each with a unique background and call towards ministry. This is Ingrait Sudha's testimony:

My name is Ingrait Sudha; I'm in year two of the M.Div. program. My family are Christians and I was raised in a Christian home. Unfortunately, in February 2016, I was in a major accident. Admitted to the hospital in critical condition, my spinal cord disc collapsed, and several other body parts were seriously injured. Doctors said it may take at least three months of medication and treatment to walk again. My parents prayed for my healing, asking God that I be healed so that I may serve Him. I believe their fearful prayer enabled my healing process and I began to walk in two months. This miraculous recovery reminded

me of God's love for me and I committed myself to ministry. I recommitted my life to Jesus and spent time in prayer and reading of the Word. When my health improved, I heard of GGM's seminary through a friend and decided to enroll to be trained for the future work that God planned for me.

I have learned so many things and have gained many experiences. I visit villages every weekend to proclaim the gospel to those who never heard the name of Jesus Christ and conduct Sunday school with village children. I lead worship in our daily chapel services and monthly Fasting Prayers help to hone my preaching. I look forward to more experiences that will shape me into an effective minister of God. I am thankful to God for saving my life and calling me to His work. My desire is to use my seminary training to be an effective witness of Christ in this world.





Children are waiting for sponsors.
Contact Leslie at 724-689-9843 for sponsorship information.

Radhika: Commitment & Perseverance

For over 25 years, GGM Children's Home has cared for orphaned and destitute children some with no parents, others with one parent unable to provide for them, and some who have experienced abuse, neglect or extreme poverty. Radhika came to GGM after a horrific experience of her parents' dying in a fire due to a domestic fight. Radhika, her older brother, and younger sister were left orphaned and homeless. Their uncle initially cared for them, but three extra children became too challenging and so he sought out a Children's Home where they could stay together.

Radhika and her brother Nagaraj joined the Home, and their younger sister Manju joined them when she was old enough. Nagaraj and Manju returned to their uncle's home when they completed basic schooling and now work manual labor jobs. However, Radhika longed to pursue higher education. When she passed her High School Board exams, she revealed her desire to go to college and study nursing.

Her devoted sponsor agreed to pay tuition and personal needs during the four-year program. In addition to a full course load and commuting to school, Radhika spent her time serving the younger children and helped when the kids were sick. For many years, Radhika articulated a desire to serve people with limited access to healthcare. In her final year, she began an internship at a local hospital. Impressed by her efficacy and commitment, the hospital offered her a job when she graduated!

We're so proud of Radhika and all that she has accomplished.

We're thankful to her sponsor who made it all possible. Radhika's perseverance and desire to serve others has lifted her up. She is a believer and testifies of God's grace since her parent's passing, acknowledging her life would have been very different had she not joined GGM's Children's Home. Most importantly, she would never have come to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Many of our children dream of pursuing higher education. Sponsorships make these dreams a reality. Radhika's life is a testimony to sowing a seed in a child's life. We are blessed to watch that seed bear fruit.



For 8 years we prayed...

Praise God for the provision of the long-awaited **seminary staff quarters!** For 8 years, we prayed for funds to begin construction and the Lord miraculously intervened in His perfect time through two families who each donated \$50,000. With this initial \$100K, we started Phase I of the building to accommodate 4 families in 2-bedroom apartments and replace the need to furnish housing allowances to 4 members of staff. We hope that the wall plastering, electricity, and carpentry work will be completed in the coming months, followed by plumbing, flooring and painting, and lastly electricity connection for each apartment. We are so excited to finish construction of Phase I by the end of 2018, Lord willing. Thank you to our wonderfully committed sponsors who answered God's call and sewed into this construction effort!



We pray for an additional \$50,000 to commence Phase II. Contact us at: info@gilgalgospel.org, if God puts it on your heart to give toward this build!

Young Entrepreneur raises funds for school

Entrepreneur Addy Henninger and her family have been part of GGM's family for many years.



They've especially helped to ensure that all GGM's children attend school. Three years ago, Addy wanted to share her love of science with other kids, so she started a summer science camp called Exploding Braniacs. The camp has grown and she wanted to share her income with India's less fortunate children. She especially wants GGM kids to learn to love science too, so her website takes donations to purchase experiment supplies. Addy already raised \$750 toward school fees! Praise God for her giving heart. Read more about Addy's business and how she's helping GGM at www.dailyherald.com/amp-article/20180713/news/180719795.

Thank you to the Henninger family and especially Addy... you inspire us toward good works for our brethren!



Students First Visited continued from page 1

baptized in January. At Malini's baptism, she told of her participation in witchcraft and the family's torture by unrest and lack of peace. Today, they are fellow heirs of the grace of life through Jesus Christ. Praise God for His miraculous intervention into this family's life!

During one of Christobel's visits, a young man asked about the caste system. She explained all humans descended from Adam and Eve and God does not view one person higher than another. From that time, people from various castes began fellowship and now co-mingle in church. What a great joy to see this change. Pray these new believers will be strengthened with power through God's Spirit and that they will be a testimony to other villagers.

Join us for the
GGM Banquet
Saturday, OCT. 20 at 6 P.M.

Parkview Community Church, Glen Ellyn, IL
764 St Charles Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

RSVP to info@gilgalgospel.org or 724-689-9843