



## October 2015 - News from LHM - India

Rev. C. David

On October 28, LHM - India went to the Nashik for distribution of Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) certificates at Mahatma Gandhi Primary School. Pastors Pawar and Sathe arranged the program for us. The pastors have been working in the area a few years and distributed over 100 BCC and sent back to us 92. 67 of these participants successfully completed the course. 70 students participated in the event along with 6 teachers and guests. In addition to the certificates, Pastor Sathe gave some Children Bible story books to the students. Since July over 100 certificates have been distributed to students who have completed the BCC.



Rev. Vijayakumar, General Treasurer of IELC, requested a Youth Convention for the youth of his pastorate and nearby pastorates in the Trivandrum Synod. It was held on October 10 with nearly 125 young men and women attending. Out of these, 46 came forward to be volunteers for our ministry programs. It was a wonderful day at the feet of the Lord praising and learning the Word of God. In September, pastors of the Church of South India held a youth conference with 200 youth in attendance.

Prayer Requests: praise to God for transforming and changing hearts like Mr. Sugumaran as he grows in Christian knowledge and confidence and for the young people of India as they learn of Jesus through the Youth Clubs and Bible Correspondence Courses; for the many opportunities the You place before us to share Your Word as we *Bring Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church.*"

This is a story about Mr. Sugumaran, a 50 year old Hindu Brahmin considered from the highest caste in Indian society. Mr. Sugumaran has one daughter in her college studies. His wife passed away unexpectedly, and since that time has had a difficult time and is very sad.

One day he was walking on the road, and saw a bit of paper. Out of curiosity, he bowed down and picked it up. It was an LHM - India Gospel tract "Father, Where Are You?" The title itself created an interest to the lonely and longing heart.

Mr. Sugumaran visited our Chennai office as he found the address and contact information on the tract. He told us of his distress and nobody was there to comfort him while he mourned the loss of his wife and the safety of his daughter at school. This message about Jesus Christ gave him solace, a comfort and confidence plus unknown joy that Christ loves him. Mr. Sugumaran fears the opposition from his community with his worship and prayers to God. In his visit we encouraged him in his new found faith, as well as provided more resources for his family. He vows that his daughter will learn of Jesus and states he will come visit for more counseling.

Across the globe, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is **proclaiming** the Gospel of Jesus Christ using a variety of culturally appropriate venues and media. Through innovative workshops, LHM is **equipping** individuals to share Christ's message of hope in their communities and **engaging** volunteers and congregations, where they will continue to be cared for and nurtured in their faith.

In August, LHM - India devoted some time for preparing and shooting our television programs for Tamil and Hindi language broadcast through television. On August 10 and 11 in Mumbai, eight Lutheran pastors from IELC, came forward and helped us record 25 television messages for the coming months. On August 7 and 27<sup>th</sup>, more messages were shot at the studio in Chennai. The young pastors from the Hindi Lutheran Churches who are attending Gurukul Lutheran Theological college helped us with the Hindi Gospel messages.

In July, the LHM - India Mumbai satellite ministry center received invitations to meet with new pastors in the area. Pastor Jaiswar invited us to their pastor meeting on July 7 at Goregaon East. These pastors meet the first Tuesday of the month to discuss issues, challenges, exchange ideas and encourage each other in their ministry. We introduced our materials and programs. Many of these pastors shepherd home church congregations and are in need of Christian materials, Bibles and Bible studies. We gave them samples of our resources and will work closely with the pastors.

On July 27 we joined 50 pastors at the Western Suburb Pastors Meeting. We have partnered with many of the pastors in the past, and after the speakers shared their messages from 1 John 5:4-5 on Faith and Zechariah 3 on Encouragement, we had the opportunity to meet new pastors to share our resources.

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