



## CNH District moves forward with lay mission trip to Chennai, India

**Dear Friends,**

Did you know that Christians represent **less than 3 percent** of the Indian population? India is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world, and it is a land as diverse as it is vast. Its population is expected to exceed the population of China by 2010. With an annual per capita income of \$300, most Indian families are unable to afford a decent home. As a result of the mission opportunities in India, the CNH District has adopted India as our foreign mission country; partnering with Mission India and Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)—India.

LHM—India undertakes the challenge of spreading the Good News to hundreds of thousands of Indian people who have never had the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ. Recognizing the cultural influences of music, song, and drama, LHM—India brings the Gospel to listeners through devotional songs, short dramas, and dialogues. Youth groups of LHM—India perform public music programs, stage plays, dance, and dramas. These local groups also conduct Gospel rallies for large audiences in big cities and remote villages. As a result of this Christian ministry, thousands of converts as well as non-baptized believers in Christ are identified and located for follow-up by the staff; most of whom are volunteers, and all of whom are nationals.

The LHM—India staff reaches out to those interested in the Word of God through cassette ministry, printed literature, and Bible Correspondence Courses. The LHM—India ministry center, known locally as the Christian Media Centre, is in the city of Chennai, in the province of Tamil Nadu on the southeast coast of India. This area was among the most affected by the tsunami of December 26, 2004. LHM—India quickly responded specifically to the need by providing food, clothing, Bibles, spiritual help, radio sets, and kerosene stoves. That assistance continues today with LHM—India currently building homes for 16 families in the region. This past summer, the CNH District undertook to provide funding for LHM—India to purchase Bibles in two major languages: Tamil and the national language, Hindi. Together, our donations raised over \$18,500 to put the Word of God into the hands of people clamoring for the message of hope in the Gospel. For this response I thank you and say "Praise God!"

This good work has been accomplished from the LHM—India Christian Media Centre. Founded in 1951, the Christian Media Centre is in great need of renovation and repairs in order to continue to provide their effective ministry. Lutheran Hour Ministries is sponsoring a **Global Work & Witness short-term mission trip** to help in this effort. The CNH District is supporting this mission trip by raising up a team from our District to go to India. Our hope is to have twenty members for the India team, as well as involve our congregations and individuals in prayer support, volunteer assistance, and financial support.

**This mission trip is planned for the second and third weeks of June, 2008.** There is much work to be done in preparation for such an endeavor. First, we ask for your prayers; prayers that God will bless this effort to make disciples, that volunteers will be lead to step forward, that financial support will come. We ask for your help in

publicizing this mission trip to your congregations. We also ask you to speak to leaders in your congregation about ways to be a part of this district-wide mission effort of sharing a message of hope in India.

The team will have 10–11 full days in country, plus travel. The cost per team member is estimated at \$850; this includes food, lodging, in-country transportation, sightseeing, translators, visa, and travel/health insurance. This does not include flights. The project costs are estimated at \$7,000; this includes material for all projects and also includes some local labor costs. Work includes painting, plumbing, tiling, drywall, and general cleanup. The studio will have upgraded audio/visual equipment installed. There is free time for sightseeing and local cultural experiences for the team. If we reach our goal of twenty team members, additional VBS or work with the tsunami orphanage may be added.

These are some of the ways individuals and congregations can be involved in this ministry:

- **Team Members.** Pray for and encourage those who indicate that they would like participate in the mission team, either to go to India, or be support here. It will revitalize your ministry to have members involved in a mission trip.
- **Prayer Support.** This is a very important part of the trip. It needs to be intentionally raised. During planning, while traveling, and when the team is in India, we need to know that people have committed to praying for the team.
- **Volunteer Assistance.** Volunteer support is the acts of service toward the team going by others who stay here. There are others needed to help pack, serve at events, collect donations, build the website, handle communications, etc... These are support roles and are very important participants in the mission team.
- **Financial Support.** Volunteer trips require funding, and often individuals do not have enough on their own to cover trip expenses. Although many people are hesitant about raising funds, it is important to remember that some cannot go, and will enjoy giving to others to enable them to go.

You will **learn** about India through authentic cross-cultural experiences and having fellowship with local Lutherans, and attending worship. You will **serve** by carrying out some much needed renovations but most importantly, you will have the opportunity to **share** the love of Jesus through words and action in a cross-cultural context. Here, you will witness scenes of poverty that will break your heart and cause you to cry out to God for the people of India. You and your team will have a chance to bring life and hope to a nation that desperately needs it. If you are interested in touching lives in India, while changing your own please call Chuck Weygandt at (805) 610-4540 or e-mail [chuck@the-weygandts.net](mailto:chuck@the-weygandts.net).



<http://www.christianmedia.in/cmci/index.php> for the LHM-India Christian Media Centre website.

<http://www.cnh-lhm.org/special.htm> to learn more or make a donation to help fund this mission trip.