Prayer & Newsletter

May 2022

National update

The last few weeks leading up to Easter have been bustling with activity across all Good Shepherd Community centers, fellowships, and groups. Amidst many challenges and difficulties, passion week and Easter was celebrated with the reassurance of the resurrection of our risen Lord. It was a great joy to see growth in membership and attendance during services during this period.

Wholesale inflation reported in March at nearly 15% combined with unprecedented unemployment is having a widespread effect on weaker sections of the community. Much prayer is needed for the nation and practical support for the communities, schools, and ongoing projects of Good Shepherd Church of India. Most of the country is also experiencing severe heatwave conditions. There is a growing need for borewells and drinking water facilities across the country as reported by several of our community workers.

Disturbing new trends of organized attacks, including the latest reported challenge on schools to prevent students from being introduced to the Bible as part of religious studies in the southern state of Karnataka is a cause for much concern.

Dedication of the Good Shepherd Center, Hyderabad

We are grateful to God for being able to formally dedicate the Good Shepherd Center this Easter Sunday, following several years of development and recent delays due to the pandemic. In attendance were seven hundred people from nearby congregations and fellowship groups.



It is our hope and prayer that the multi-functional center will continue to be a great blessing in the days and years ahead. A community breakfast was also served to mark this special celebration.



Community Development

Each year we receive many requests for basic community centers in towns and villages across the country. These centers provide a safe meeting for locals to congregate, conduct training, and other events and celebrations.

The fellowship at Batala, in Punjab, has been gathering in an open space for a long time. Having the gathering in an open space is causing many difficulties during the summer and rainy seasons. The community members have been praying for a community center building. Please pray for them as they meet every Sunday in the open space and they may find God's provision to have a building for their community.



The community center in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh completed the construction of the hall early this month and it is inaugurated for the purpose of community development in and around the

area. The community has been waiting for the completion of the building for a long time. The community members used to struggle to have their fellowship during the summer and rainy seasons. Now they will be able to have their gathering at the center during the rainy season without hindrances.



Schools

As Good Shepherd schools have resumed normal operations and classes after the long pandemic disruption, a lot of revision exercises, training for teachers, and mock tests and exams are being held. With most schools ending the academic year in April, please pray for the 700 students who will be appearing for their school-leaving exams at the end of May. Good Shepherd School in Rakshi, Karnataka has completed the first phase of its new building. We praise God for his faithfulness and hope to see this school grow and serve the community.



Community Engagement

Making God's word available to the communities in the midst of persecution and attacks continues to be a growing activity for our literature engagement team. The demand for Bibles and scripture portions continues to grow in vernacular languages.

As a growing number of states bring in new or enforced legislation to curb religious freedom, medical and legal aid including legal services is also required as part of our community engagement. Please pray for the seminars and workshops being planned and for safety whilst conducting these activities.

Healthcare Activities

The community health workers had been working among the communities during this Covid-19 pandemic. They educate people about healthcare, specifically about the Coronavirus. The telehealth centers are set up across India. Doctors from the Hyderabad clinic consult the patients over the phone and virtual online and write the prescription for them. This enables the villagers to consult doctors free of cost and received medical help and medicines are provided locally. These centers become a great medical help for the people in the communities across India, where they do not have access to medical facilities. These healthcare centers need more trained nurses and healthcare workers.



Prayer requests

Bishop Reginald Howell from Firozpur, Punjab has been unwell for last the few months and is presently in the hospital recuperating from surgery following multiple health complications. Please uphold him in prayer for his recovery

Michael Masih works in Hanumangarh, in Rajasthan, and is battling mouth cancer, needing urgent treatment. **Ashapurna Nayak** works at Tudubijugu Community Center in Odisha. He met with an accident a few years back and sustained a leg injury that has not healed completely and is causing constant pain. Doctors are now recommending surgery. Please pray for the necessary support and healing for both workers.