

CIM NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am so happy to greet you all through our Newsletter. The Lord has done great things through Calvary India Mission in 2018. We had a blessed India Mission Trip last year with God's wonderful people. I am very thankful to Calvary Lutheran Church and Mount Olive Lutheran Church for their continuous support. We followed this with a wonderful Christmas Celebration in our Tailoring and Tutoring Centers. God has richly blessed the students and given them an opportunity to receive the love of Christ through Calvary India Mission. I am always thankful to God for giving us the privilege to serve Him in a better way every year.

From the Leaders of Calvary India Mission, Staff, Students and Trainees, we bring you heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year 2019! I pray and wish you all to receive blessings from Jesus the King in this year. As we start 2019, we wish this year to be a year where God is our focus and we trust Him to be our constant guide and provider. May God bless you all!!!

***In His Mission,
Pastor Udhayanesan Rajipillai***



Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

INSIDE.....

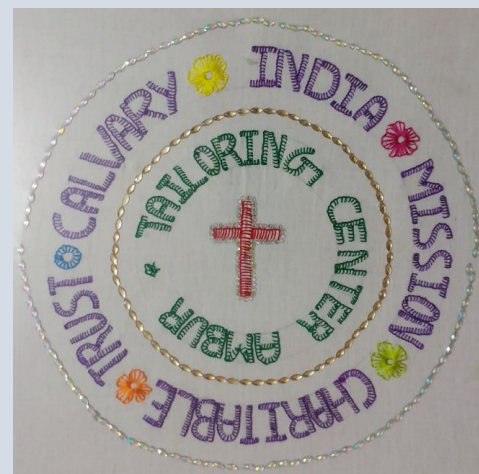
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Blessed to be a Blessing—LCMS Missionaries in Ambur, India



Pr. Raji next to a picture of Dr. Rev. M. H. Grumm, the missionary who converted Pr. Raji's family from Hinduism

The Lutheran Church has a long history of missionary work in India. The first foreign mission field for LCMS missionaries from St. Louis was India! In 1894 the first missionaries arrived

and over the following decades, the LCMS sent more than 60 missionaries to India. In 1959, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) was established as an LCMS partner church. In the 1960s, Rev. Grumm came to the Hindu village where Pr. Raji and his family were living. After some time hearing the gospel, Pr. Raji's mother was convinced, and the entire family converted to Christianity. The other Hindu families in the village were not happy, as they assumed that the god of their village would be angry and curse the entire village. The family was forced to move a neighboring village to escape this anger. After some time, the first villagers came to see if the Raji family had been cursed in some way. People expected them to be sick or to find a death in the family. When that did not happen, more people heard the Gospel message and the church in India was growing!

Pr. Raji and his entire family were blessed by God working through Rev. Grumm—what a reunion will occur when they meet again in heaven! But God's blessing does not stop there! Pr. Raji's mother dedicated him as a child to be in the Lord's service, and the Lord took that dedication and made Pr. Raji the servant of Christ he is today. After attending the Lutheran Seminary in Nagercoil, India, Pr. Raji became a pastor and served churches in India for more than 10 years. After receiving specialized training in chaplaincy work, Pr. Raji came to the US and he works fulltime as a hospital chaplain at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He also leads a Tamil language church service at Calvary Lutheran Church once per month and actively serves the Tamil community in Indy. He remains active in mission outreach to India as he has led five mission trips to Ambur. His Indian outreach was greatly expanded in 2015 with the founding of the Calvary India Mission Tailoring Center and two Tuition Centers! A Computer Center was added in 2017. All of these centers offer free training to Christian, Hindu and Muslim students in a Christ-centered environment. The love of Jesus is offered freely to those who are most in need of physical help, while also providing an opportunity for them to meet Jesus in the people around them.

What a blessing Pr. Raji has been to people in India and the US! And it all started when God sent Rev. Grumm and other LCMS missionaries to Ambur. Blessed to be a blessing ...

INDIA MISSION TRIP 2018 — Oct. 22—Nov. 1

2011 2013 2015 2017 **2018!**

What a blessing for CIM to host our 5th visit from the India Mission team! The 2018 team from Calvary included Pete Joseph, Marvin and Rhonda Hansen, and Pr. Raji. Pr. Jeff Alexander from Mt. Olive was a key member, and his church is focused on sending a large team in 2019.

We started our visit with three days of Bible study programs at different village churches. We thank Rhonda for leading the Bible study each day and for leading our group in singing some Tamil songs!



We especially thank our first time India mission team member Pete for being in charge of crafts for all of our programs. Children and adults enjoyed their flowers and several kinds of bracelets.

We again thank the quilters at Mt. Olive for their wonderful quilts! These are a favorite gift for the people in India.



***Please consider joining the October
10-20, 2019 India Mission Trip!***

INDIA MISSION TRIP 2018 — Oct. 22—Nov. 1

We featured the graduation of our 3rd batch of Tailoring students in our Nov. 2018 newsletter. Now we are highlighting the practical success of this program in placing students into job opportunities. Below are Beulah and Angel, 2017 graduates, working at the Harmain Garment company. Three past students are now employed, and the owner attended graduation to offer jobs to all new graduates. Praise the Lord!



By God's grace we are serving the poor at our two Tuition Centers - 70 students receive education and dinner after the class. **Most importantly, we teach them the**



Love of Jesus. The students were blessed to have a visit from the Mission Team - they received school book bags and made crafts.

The Mission Team visited two Lutheran high schools this year: 1) see below for Rhonda, Marv and Pete in the Pernambut Science Lab built using funds donated by Calvary in 2013, and 2) the students at Am-bur Concordia assembled for our visit:



We are blessed with the opportunity to pray with and for God's people in India!

MARVIN AND RHONDA EXTENDED MISSION TRIP

Marvin and Rhonda were able to extend their India trip through December. It is a blessing for us to spend extra time with people and deepen relationships. We work with the Bethesda Hospital Nursing students on their English skills. Below Rhonda is role playing a new mother getting instructions on how to care for her baby.



One of our favorite activities is doing 30 minute home visits where we pray with the families and get to know them better—and of course they feed us! This year we visited all of the 3rd batch of Tailoring Center graduates as well as many of the 1st and 2nd batch students (see below).



We also visited many church families in two villages, V.R. Puram and Thuthipet. V.R. Puram is our “adopted” village, where we delivered the message on Sunday morning if we did not have an invitation to another church. Pr. Raji founded the house church in this village many years ago, and now they are building a church building so they can grow the congregation. See below for the partially completed church: first decorated for Sunday service, and an outside view. We are praying for donations to help complete the building of this church!



During the week we were able to greet the Tailoring students daily, and we visited both Tuition Centers for songs and crafts.

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