

India Day @ Calvary Everett

SERVE INDIA MINISTRIES

KRISHNIGIRI & RAMANATHAPURAM – JANUARY 20, 2019

➤ Introduction

- Good morning folks...
- As you can see from the décor around you, today we are having a day where we will be focusing on the great ministry that God has called us to in the nation of India
- We are doing this today for at least 3 Reasons:
 - FIRST, because we have now come to the end of support program for the group of 20 pastors that we have sponsored for the last 5 years; It's time for them to graduate from the program to self-sufficiency
 - SECOND, we are doing this because we have a team of pastors and leaders (from our church and Calvary Arlington) who will be travelling there in just a few days to perform the graduation ceremony for our native pastors from the program in person
 - FINALLY< we are going to be talking about what we believe the Lord has for us in Indian ministry moving fwd after the end of this program

○ LET'S READ **Matthew 28:19-20**

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[fn] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

PRAY

Krishnigiri – Tamil Nadu

- **Five years ago when our church was still meeting on the upper levels of Trinity Lutheran College, at the request of Pastor Jim from Calvary Arlington, the elders and I met with a man who had a vision for India**
 - **That man was Ebenezer Samuel from Serve India Ministries**
 - Many of you are familiar with the Gospel for Asia ministry that had a unique vision to reach the millions of India by using Native Pastors supported by American Churches
 - GFA has been heavily supported by Calvary Chapels around the country over the last 20 years
 - Ebenezer worked with GFA for more than a decade but ultimately branched off on his own and began a ministry with a slightly different focus, called **Serve India Ministries**
 - Since, then, as many of you know, GFA has come under heavy scrutiny for some unethical practices in the administration of their ministry
 - Because of that, Calvary Chapels around the country have been looking for other ways to continue supporting native pastors in India
 - SERVE INDIA MINISTRIES is a great alternative
 - Ebenezer established SIM with a different method of establishing Christian churches through the work of supported Native Pastors with some major differences:
 - The **FIRST** is an ethical accountability for the leadership and administration of the funding

- The **SECOND** is that the sponsored native pastors do not receive perpetual support from American Christians
 - They know from the beginning that the vision is to work with at least 5 villages to establish churches and fellowship groups throughout
 - They also know that they need to work towards building churches and ministries that are self-sufficient because their American support will only be available for 5 years
 - They also know that they will have a Facilitator, called a *Nehemiah*, who will help guide and train them during and after the 5 years of American support

➤ **When we met with Ebenezer 5 years ago the Elders and I really liked what we saw**

- Ebbey showed us a ministry that began 12 years ago with a vision to reach 100,000 villages through 20,000 native pastors by 2021, in a nation that is 97% non-Christian
 - He showed us the vision to develop facilitators called Nehemiah's who train districts of 20 pastors each
 - He explained how each district of 20 native pastors has a vision to reach 100 villages or more
 - He showed us that they do this by being trained, managed, disciplined and supported for life, but only 5 years financially
- Then we began to pray about supporting a district and we invited Ebenezer to come again on a Sunday Morning to share his vision

- After much prayer and consideration, we felt the Lord calling us to step out in faith and support a full district of 20 pastors for the 5 years
 - And so we stepped out in faith and signed up with SIM to support one district of 20 native pastors for a full 5 years to reach 100 villages
 - The district that we received was the **Krishnigiri District**, in the most Southeastern province of India called *Tamil Nadu*
 - And many of you have partnered with us over these 5 years

- It is absolutely remarkable that it has been almost five years already!
 - Brian, Tucker, myself, and Pastor Jim from Calvary Arlington will be heading over there this coming week
 - And we will be performing the graduation ceremony for these guys that we've been praying for and providing for over the last 5 years
 - Even more remarkable is the fruit that the Lord has wrought in this mission adventure

➤ **Let's talk about some of the fruit that God has produced with the funding and prayers that we've sent for Krishnigiri... The following are testimonies from the Krishnigiri pastors...**

- **Pastor Kamaraj** is the facilitator, or *Nehemiah*, for the Krishnagiri District who has overseen our 20 pastors these 5 years...

"SIM's vision impacted my personal life and ministry very much. As the Bible says, "*Where there is no vision the people perish*" (Proverbs 29:18). SIM's vision enlarged these pastors' vision, and it united all to serve the Lord's Kingdom. This vision very much blesses me, and it is my privilege to serve the Lord along with these 20 pastors... During the past five years, these pastors have learned to plant new churches. Through our training, they have raised second-level leaders in the church. Greatly impacted by the Pauline teaching method, our pastors learned to follow this method in order to

strengthen their own churches. Through the quality of training, our pastors' churches have grown."

- **Pastor Christudass Thimman** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"I find the vision of SIM unique. Having received training for the past five years, I have come to realize their dedication to helping pastors like me with training that not only motivates us to plant more churches but also helps us to establish the believers in their faith. I grew in my spiritual life and became an example to my family. The training has been a great encouragement for me to raise leaders from within my own church. Now, I have identified eight people who are receiving training and I have five leaders who are getting ready to be involved in the outreach to the neighboring villages. I can boldly say that the Lord did call me to get involved in as a full-time missionary. SIM has helped me to achieve more. At the end of 5 years I was able to reach 10 villages with the gospel. The Lord helped me to establish 2 churches and 4 fellowship groups in 6 places. I plan to reach 5 more villages and also to develop leaders who will potentially become church-planters and missionaries"

- Pastor **Mohanavel Moses Gopal** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"Saravanan had an accident and injured his spine. When I heard about this, I visited and shared the Gospel with him. However, he was very reluctant to put his faith in Jesus. His family members took him to many doctors and also sought the help of their gods. Medication and "pujas" didn't help him. His condition deteriorated. One night the following week, his condition worsened, and he was near death. All his relatives had come in expectation of his death. I heard about this situation and visited him again. This time I prayed and gave all of them hope that Saravanan would recover. To their amazement, his condition soon began to improve. Saravanan, who had been bedridden, regained movement in his hands and feet. Very soon, he started to walk with the help of a cane. As a result of this miracle, Saravanan and his family members gave their lives to the Lord and are growing in faith."

- Pastor **Philip Edward Mathew** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

“I was also greatly blessed by the training I received every month. It was a systematic way of learning the Bible. Learning the Bible in this way gave me an overall view of the Bible and to know exactly what the Lord wanted from me. Providing the same teaching to my believers helped them grow in the Lord. The other thing that greatly attracted me in being with SIM was the fellowship with other like-minded pastors. We prayed for each other in times of need then listening to how the Lord was using others in ministry was a constant encouragement for us to go forward in ministry. Praise the Lord. My future plans are to reach the 10 neighboring villages with the Gospel and establish churches in them. I also want to raise up 25 leaders from within my church who will go out into the villages and share the gospel.”

- Pastor **Perumal Enoch Lakshmanan** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

“We went to a village known for making illegal liquor. There we met a lady named Lakshmi who sold flowers. She had four children living in a hut. We shared the love of Jesus with her and the children. We visited her house every week and shared stories from the Bible. As time went by, she asked us to start a fellowship group in her home. Her neighbors (who were into making illicit liquor) opposed our efforts. They were scared because they thought that they would be discovered and arrested. However, the Lord removed all the obstacles that were trying to prevent us from initiating a prayer group. Now we have a fellowship group in this area. ”

- Pastor **Abraham Nadaraj Arjunan** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

“I was doing ministry in the best way I knew how. However, I did not concentrate on giving a systematic Bible study to the believers, nor to reaching new villages with the focus of establishing churches in them. Partnering with SIM helped me to understand the real need in ministry. Blessed by the training, I started giving the same training to my church believers. Since then, I was able to see significant changes in their lives.

Their faith increased, and they started showing more interest in the ministry. With their help, I was able to reach eight villages with the gospel over the past five years, establishing churches in three and fellowship groups in four others.

My future plans include raising up 20 leaders from among my church members. With their help, we can reach 20 villages and be able to share the gospel with at least 20,000."

- Pastor **Moses Wilson Chelladurai** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"Because of the SIM training my walk with the Lord became closer and I started understanding the Bible in a better way. When I started giving the same teaching to my church members, they also began to grow in the Lord. Once when I taught them about "Participating in the Missions Worldwide," the believers understood that they also have a responsibility to share the gospel with others. Ever since they are helpful in ministry and are instrumental in bringing more people into the church. Praise the Lord.'

My future plans are to develop the present churches and also to reach 20 more villages. I want to establish 20 churches and raise 20 leaders under the Timothy Team program. We want to reach 15,000 people with the gospel very soon."

- Pastor **Stalin Paul Francis** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"Before joining SIM, I was doing the ministry on my interests and understanding. But the training I got through SIM gave me a clear understanding of how to do ministry effectively. I learned how to make disciples instead of only making believers. Impacted by the vision of SIM, I decided to reach many unreached villages and churches. My vision for the lost also was expanded. By the grace of God, I have been able to reach 18 villages, planting churches in 4 and fellowship groups in another 12. Forty new believers have decided to undergo baptism.

My future plans include starting 10 churches. I've already begun. During one visit to a new village, I met a woman who was very sick due to dengue fever. As a result of continuous prayer, the Lord healed her completely. Then she gave her life to Jesus. From then on, prayer meetings have been conducted regularly in her house. I want to

fulfill the vision of reaching the neighboring villages with the gospel, and I hope that God would help me to reach my goals.”

- **Those are just SOME of the testimonies of what God has done in the district that we have been supporting over these last 5 years**
 - You can see how the spiritual support and training guides and blesses them
 - You can also see how God has produced a great vision and burden to reach more and more villages with the gospel message
 - Yet, you can certainly feel the importance placed upon each and every individual story of rescue and salvation
 - So in the last 5 years Calvary Everett has sent about \$42,000 to the 20 native pastors who have reached 257 villages, established 125 fellowship groups, planted 60 churches and reached 1,502 Indian believers in Jesus Christ in a place that is 97% non-Christian
 - Also, we sent about \$9,000 to the Egg Projects [the after-school discipleship programs] that reached 253 children!
 - Praise the Lord. Amen.
- **Here is a video that Ebenezer and his team made just for this occasion...**

[VIDEO] 6 minutes

New District

- **In the 12 years of SIM, 2,216 native pastors have graduated from the 5-year program; 7,142 native pastors are CURRENTLY in the 5-year program in 418 districts across 25 provinces in India; they are serving 39,381 villages**

- IN 2019, SIM's goal is to reach 8,000 new villages
 - For 2019, 1,826 new native pastors have entered the program
 - What makes this growth so remarkable is that in some areas Indian Christians are experiencing severe persecution.

- Just last recently, police arrested two elders who were leading a worship service at one of the village churches.
 - Currently 118 churches in this particular area have been forced underground because of demands to either shut down, or face the arrest of their leaders.
 - Five months ago, one of the pastors was brutally beaten when he boarded a train, and after he was unconscious, his attackers pushed his body off the moving train. Thankfully, he survived the severe attack, but he is still receiving treatment for his injuries.”
 - I'm certain you can see by now the great work that is being done in and through Serve India Ministries

➤ **This is why the Elder Board, after much prayer and consideration, has decided to step out in faith and sponsor a **NEW DISTRICT** for the next 5 years**

- As I said 2 weeks ago, we have a VERY strong burden to invest time, talent and treasure resources into OUR CITY

- But when you consider that you can reach hundreds of villages and plant dozens of churches and reach hundreds of believers in India for \$40 per pastor per month?
 - That is a very wise and efficient use of our financial resources

- We want to continue this support with a new district for a new 5-year period with a new group of folks at Calvary Everett
- And also, just because the 5 years is up for Krishnagiri doesn't mean it's over
 - We will be ADDING rather than REPLACING
 - We will be doubling our efforts because these 20 pastors and their future plans will still be in our prayers and under **Pastor Kamaraj's** spiritual support
- And so the new district that has been selected for us through much prayer and consideration by SIM personnel is **RAMANATHAPURAM** which is another district within the same province of Tamil Nadu.
 - As we go on our trip this week we will be visiting Krishnagiri
 - But we will also be introduced to the 20 native pastors from Ramanathapuram
 - And, like Krishnagiri, we'd like to give everyone the opportunity to be a part of this missionary endeavor over the next 5 years
- With Krishnagiri we were only able to visit them at the end of the program, but with the new district, we will be meeting them at the beginning
 - We will also hopefully be able to take a trip in 2 ½ years and in 5 years for their graduation... and YOU can participate!
 - WE are also working on a correspondence program where you can communicate back and forth with the pastors and their families

➤ **So here's what you can do as a member of Calvary Everett**

- **FIRST**, everyone can **Pray**.

- Pray regularly for both districts
 - For **Krishnagiri** as they go **BEYOND** the program
 - For **Ramanathapuram** as they develop **WITHIN** the program
- If you sponsor a specific native pastor, your family can adopt his family in praying regularly and specifically for them
- That leads to the **SECOND** manner in which you can participate and that is by **ADOPTING a native pastor** and his family
 - Please pray about adopting one of our pastors personally or as a family or even for you business [TAX DEDUCTIBLE]
 - This would mean that you **commit to pray** for him and his family specifically and regularly
 - This would also mean that you would commit to financially supporting that pastor for **\$40 per month**
 - That would give you **spiritual responsibility** AND reward for all of the *villages* that he reaches, the *fellowship groups* that he establishes, the *churches* that he plants and the *hundreds of believers* that he reaches. WOW.
 - **Thank You Illustration** – Ray Boltz song that says Thank You, for giving to the Lord in Heaven
- **Thirdly**, as you take your prayer card with the pastor's picture on it home, you can use it to **CORRESPOND** with him and his family personally
 - You can send letters, care packages etc
 - You will ultimately also RECEIVE letters in return!
 - You can do this whether you sponsor or not
 - info@calvaryeverett.com

- The more pastors that are personally adopted by our church members, the more *the church can invest the Missions Budget* in other opportunities
 - ... like the **Facilitators** and the **Egg Projects** in India the after-school discipleship programs [LAST TIME YOU WE WERE ABLE TO SPONSOR 5 EGG PROJECTS REACHING 253 KIDS]
 - ... and our other mission bases in **Swaziland**, **Japan** and **HUB Missions**
 - ... and certainly, and most importantly, investing right here **in the city of EVERETT**

- WE are hoping that 20 families of CE will be called to support the 20 native pastors from our new district of Ramanathapuram
 - We are asking you to pray and ponder this opportunity and ask the Lord if this is something he has for you
 - There is no PRESSURE at all... This should be a conviction from God and NOT from us
 - IT should be a joyous gift and NOT an obligation as God loves a cheerful giver!
 - WE already have 7 or 8 adopted! Praise God!

- That being said, *the support of the new district begins in February*
 - Thus we'd like to get these 20 pastors sponsored within these three Sundays...
 - ... between today, next Sunday and when our team returns from India and reports back 2 Sundays from now
 - Other churches that are larger than us are in awe that we sponsored an entire district on our own
 - My response is that God is good and our people are generous

➤ **So let's be praying about Ramanathapuram and what God wants to do**

- Pray for the 20 pastors and many villages
- Pray for the Egg Projects and the fellowship groups
- Pray for the churches to be planted and the new believers to be made
- Pray for what part God would have for YOU to take in it
- Let's pray that the Lord working through these 20 pastors in **Ramanathapuram** will reach more villages, establish more fellowship groups, plant more churches, and reach new believers!

And Now let's get to our Bible Study in Ephesians 4...

- Pastor **Amalan Peter Perumal** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"I started an Egg Project, [which is an after-school discipleship program for school-age children in our district] and by God's grace it went well. Through this project, a student named Dilip came to know the Lord Jesus. Through him, his family members (five people) decided to receive Jesus Christ. They are attending the church now. Days went by. Presently, there are more than 20 people are coming to the worship service. Thanks to SIM for providing the project."

- ● Pastor Anandhan Madhiyan is one of our Krishnigiri Native Pastors

"The vision of SIM impacted my life... I was doing ministry in a particular village with a goal to plant a church. With much prayer we consistently visited this village for one year and distributed gospel tracts. There I met a couple named Anburaj and his wife Renuka. I distributed gospel tracts to them. We also shared the gospel with them. Anburaj has been suffering from a heart problem for the past five years. As we continued to visit and pray with him, his faith in Jesus increased. One day to his amazement, he found out from the doctors that his heart was completely functional! Surprised and overjoyed, he realized that it was Jesus who had healed him. We now have a church in this village with 15 adults and 30 children. Praise the Lord

- Pastor **Peter Duraiswamy** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*

"Before becoming part of SIM, I lacked motivation. I was pastoring a church and would evangelize the nearby villages. But never did I evangelize with the desire to plant a church. For a long time, I had not allowed God to use me because of my doubts and insecurities. Planting 5 churches in 5 years was the goal placed before me. That made me realize that it was men like me who stood on the front lines, and it would be very

wrong if I didn't make use of the opportunity the Lord was giving me. Since then, I have sought every opportunity to establish contacts, pray for those I met every day, and began to ask God for the nearby villages."

○ Pastor **Daniel Durai Annamalai** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*
"After joining with SIM, I was invited by a believer to a village. It was a Hindu festival where there were many people gathered. I went to a home where I saw a man named Perumal who was demon-possessed and tied with chains. For two years, he had been suffering so there was no peace in his family. Only after seeing this person did I realize that I was called to pray for this man's deliverance. The villagers also told Perumal that he would not be allowed to leave unless the demon-possessed man was freed. It was God's plan that I pray earnestly for this man's deliverance and for the Lord's name to be glorified in this place. The Lord heard our prayers and delivered him completely. As a result, a fellowship group started. Now 30 believers are coming to attend the worship."

○ Pastor **Selvaraj Manivelu** is one of our *Krishnigiri Native Pastors*
"I was doing my ministry with an expectation of establishing a megachurch. Starting churches in villages, giving importance to educating the believers, and making them disciples did not have importance in my past ministry endeavors. It was only after partnering with SIM did I understand God's plan for my life. Learning about the ministry of Paul, how he visited new villages, how he established churches and strengthened the believers in the Word of God opened my eyes to the real needs. Ever since, I started working in new villages with the expectation of starting churches in them"