



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our headline area this month is **India**

India is regarded as not one nation but a nation of nations. The ACBM support model is divided into many areas for this South Asian sub-continent. This is not just because of the vast number of its people and the spread of ecclesias but more particularly because there are different language groups throughout. It is helpful for the Area Teams to prepare and present Bible studies and helps for teaching, in the one particular language of the Area they work within. For example in the state of Kerela they speak Malayalam, in the east central states they speak Telugu, in the north east it is Bengali and so on. In most of the northern areas the common language is Hindi, which is generally considered the national language, although this would be contested by some. In many respects because of British rule, English became a dominant language and was considered until recent days to be the language of higher education.

Nationalism has become a big issue in the current world, as we find the need to separate countries and states to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This separation was first brought into effect when God introduced language as a way of limiting man's combined efforts to replace Him with their own religion. So today the "Globalists" who were working toward one world government have been defeated once again by the hand of God in this pandemic and other events such as Brexit.

Though our efforts are small in this world's vast population, we have been able by the grace of God to preach the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth and to reach across the barriers that language creates, so that those who have ears to hear will accept the way of salvation. The small communities that we support around the world are a testament to the ongoing work of Jesus with the Apostles in the first century and now with us in the last days, that there might be a spiritual nation revealed from among all people and nations and tongues.

Sincerely, your brother in the One Hope

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Preaching the Word - Caring for the Brotherhood

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India ACBM preaching work began in India in earnest from 1979. By 1981 there were seven brothers and sisters in 3 different locations; trebling to twenty-one by 1984, and sixty three brothers and sisters by 1988. For the first ten years the work was primarily done in English, giving these first brothers and sisters access to a wide range of Bible truth resources.

With this base representing seven different language groups, the work was able to spread more easily through the Indian languages, and the work of the local brothers and sisters. Today we have over eighty ecclesias with more than 2000 members, with only three ecclesias using any English in their services – the languages being primarily Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, and some tribal languages such as Kokborok

The four southern states of India are home to well over ninety percent of Christadelphians in India. These states do not use Hindi as a primary language and more readily accepted English rule, language and also Christianity, with Christians comprising an estimated 10% of the population in the South, compared to a national average of 2.5%.

Local initiatives by the ecclesias and active brothers and sisters, have lead to a variety of preaching activities, and outreach through more than a dozen Homes and community welfare projects which have all been a valuable adjunct to the preaching work.

Covid-19 has provided challenges and given rise to an upsurge of activity from our local brethren in pastoral care and preaching through other means, with regular YouTube recorded meetings and studies, daily contact tutoring on Zoom, and virtual Prophecy Days, CYCs, P2P, Sisters' classes, and regional language TV Bible Studies. As India reels under an ever-increasing Covid-19 case load, her "holy ones" await the glorious removal of the sin pandemic from the world with the coming of their Lord.

Brother Tim Galbraith

North East India

Five baptised in Sunderbans Area Despite the difficulty, brethren from Kolkata have been able, with special permission from the authorities, to make monthly trips to the Sunderbans area to continue



Bible teaching and taking ACBM funded relief. In late June they interviewed and baptised 2 men and 3 women who had been learning the Gospel over the last year or so. All are attending meetings in Sister Namita's house. Brother Bapa says: "The brethren and contacts

are ever strong in faith and hope during this time".



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Making the best of time when there is no school

In most of India there has been no school attendance since mid March but some children have had access to on-line lessons of various sorts. Pandemic lockdown has been an opportunity for children to, where possible, maintain and improve their literacy skills with the help of their parents based around daily Bible readings. In the photo: Samuel and Priti with sister Dipa reading 2 Samuel 8 & 9 in English and Bengali.

Sarenga – Caring for Brothers & Sisters' families



Sarenga Ecclesia is in rural West Bengal, a town about 200 Km from Kolkata. There are about 20 members, plus children. During Covid-19 lockdown people are only allowed outside at specified times for essential purposes, so work is not possible and government support very meager or non-existent due to endemic corruption.

ACBM is providing for essential rations for the families. These are purchased by the brothers and distributed to families by bro Tuphan and bro Biren using his electric "toto" vehicle.

