

India

Update covers activities over the past six months

4 August 2022

The growth of Gospel preaching continues to flourish in India. The local brothers and sisters have continued to undertake preaching and pastoral activities during the ongoing COVID pandemic. COVID had severely restricted international travel, but this has not affected preaching efforts. With borders opening and international travel now possible, we hope to once again support our brothers and sisters in India with pastoral visits.

Bible Truth Camps were held by over 20 ecclesias in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, some with support from a group of brothers from Hyderabad and a visiting brother from Australia. Contacts from the North India Bible Truth Camp continue to stay in touch using WhatsApp. A Bible Truth Camp was also held in Chennai and one in Agra UP.

There have been over 30 baptisms in the north east and south of India where most of the brothers and sisters live and are able to preach. Many Vacational Bible Schools (VBS) have been held for school age children during the school holidays and are for all children (Christadelphian and others) in an area to attend. Bible activities, songs and games are undertaken with small meals provided for the children. They are often so popular that the number attending exceeds expectations. VBS have been held in Argatala, Madurai and Coimbatore (four VBS totaling 200 children), Hyderabad (260 children), Kadium (85 children) and Chennai (100 children).

Most ecclesias have returned to their meeting places after COVID restrictions limited face to face meetings. Where this is not possible, Zoom and telephone contact links them to ecclesial activities. Some weekend gatherings have recommenced for Bible study and fraternal activities.

Bible weeks are being planned for the coming year after a break of two years due to COVID. A Bible week in the North was recently held with Bible studies led by a brother from south India and by an Australian speaker able to travel. Another Bible weekend was held in the north east with a visiting speaker.

Early in the six month period, there was a high need for COVID related welfare and this has been provided. Food, rent (due to loss of employment), hospital and medical costs were given in many locations. While the COVID impact is slowly easing, some welfare payments are needed due to COVID and other medical needs. Many brothers and sisters are also facing difficulty in getting employment following the COVID economic impact.

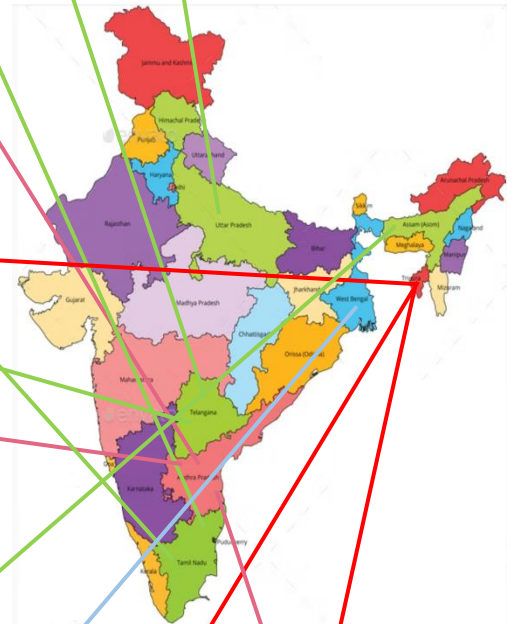
To show we have a worldwide fellowship and love for one another, Sarenga and Agartala ecclesias in north east India made donations to Lismore and Casino ecclesias (NSW) to assist with the flood damage.

"For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.'" 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

A cyclone on 18 May in Tripura and Assam badly damaged three houses of Christadelphians at Longthorai. Brothers travelled to help with repairs, and funding for material was provided. Following recent bad weather in coastal Andhra help is also being provided.

Bro David Caudery fell asleep in the Lord on 15 July 2022. He made a huge contribution to ACBM work in India over three decades. Bro David's enthusiasm for preaching was infectious and he inspired others to preach the gospel in Australia and many areas overseas.

Please keep all our overseas brothers and sisters and their families in your prayers and continue your support for the work of the ACBM. For further details contact Bro Graham Reeve.



Gagrachera Ecclesia, Dhalai, Tripura