

Fall 2011

Ministry Report North Bengal Outreach Mission (NBOM)

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Greetings and love from all of us North Bengal. Because of our joint partnership and your encouragement, we are seeing many blessings in the ministry. Many lives have been touched, healed spiritually, mentally and physically.

Joint Ministry Results

Children Home/Sishu Ashram

This year 100 children are with us. Some are new and very young. The youngest child is about 4 years old, there are about 50 between the ages of 5 to 10 and the rest are 11 to 16 years old. Most children have sponsors and we are thankful to PI Canada for helping us with the Sponsor-A-Child (SAC) Program. Sixty-two children attend our Cornerstone School which is in the same compound as the Sishu Ashram and they are doing well in their studies.



Children greeting you from the Children's Home



Children participating in the Silver Jubilee Celebrations

In August we celebrated a Silver Jubilee and approximately 1,000 people came to celebrate with us. Rev. Dr. John Thomas from Kolkata was the main speaker.

The children are great blessing to us as we continue to live with them here on the compound. Recently one of our cooks fell and broke her arm and another fell ill, so my wife Puspa has been helping out cooking the 300+ meals daily. The weather is so hot at times and they have to cook all meals by wooden fire. Puspa is 61 years old, but because she loves the children so much, she has not complained and

serves in this way. She also looks after the vegetable garden and rice plantation etc. Many of our faithful workers are moving to the big cities such as, Kerala, Delhi and Bombay for better job opportunities.

Livelihood Support

Many families have been helped this year again with this program. One family at Cheng Jhora, sold ten piglets and they bought some goats to expand their business. Unfortunately, they lost two goats to tigers so they plan to build a strong shed to store them in. Because this family is prospering with God's blessing, other Hindus in the area are coming to know about Jesus. First they send their children to Sunday school and slowly the parents also join the church. Another family we helped with one cow now have several cows. Because of God's blessing, the family has been able to educate their daughter and send her to nursing school.

Cornerstone School

The ground floor and second floor are almost complete. Only the wall plastering and installation of the doors and windows remain to be done. There will be toilets on both floors and we hope to be finished in three months. Classes go up to grade seven and there are 320 students. While most of the parents are non-Christians, they have told us they are very happy that their children are not only getting an education but also getting spiritual guidance and good morals. Every morning we have prayers and Bible readings. The children also memorize Bible verses and sing worship songs.



Cornerstone Bible week

Disaster and Relief Work

We thank God that we did not have a major flood this year but Panch Kanya (near the Bangladesh border) was affected by a cyclone and we helped nine families rebuild their homes. On one of the homes we built a veranda where 20 children gather to hear about the good news of Jesus Christ in Sunday school and their parents come for a Bible study once a week. All nine families have accepted the Lord already.



Bengali Community Hall

Evangelism and Church Planting

In the last six months a total of 16 churches have been planted, 77 house churches started and 178 people baptized. We have 42 workers who are sponsored through Partners International.

The most unreached people group of North Bengal are Bengalis. There are very few Christians in the Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts. It is a similar situation in the Darjeeling, Dinajpur and Malda districts. After a lot of hard work we are beginning to see a breakthrough. For some reason, people are being more receptive. However, in Josowa Danga and Cooch Behar district some Bengalis who

accepted the Lord are being pressured to cut their ties to Christianity. Jhajangi/Maynaguri is the only place where most of the people are continuing to grow spiritually and economically; we are trying to develop this ministry. A partner church in Canada has helped us build a community centre there. We had to carry the materials (sand, stone, bricks, doors, etc) for 70-80 kilometres. Twelve families from this new church accepted the Lord and were baptized.

More families have started coming to us. One man, a Bangladesh refugee, came to collect some leftover building material scraps. Our worker had many long discussions with him and now he is a child of God, but his wife who has threatened that she may leave him if he becomes a Christian. so he is delaying his baptism. Very soon four new fellowships will start in Ranirhat, Dhupguri, Haldibari and Jalpaiguri where there are many people ready to accept Christ.

I visited Jalpaiguri town where Mr. Etoa Munda works. He has started a fellowship in his own home. We visited a Hindi family that has become good believers. Next to their house live three sisters who have no parents. They have seen how this man's life has changed since he came to know Christ. He no longer drinks or gambles. They too wanted to know about Christ, so Etoa told them the good news of Jesus Christ and all of them accepted the Lord. Now they are ready for baptism.

Cooch Behar District Ministry: We now have three workers in this most unreached district. *Amit Thakur* works in the main town where he leads a house fellowship of eight families. He also has four preaching points. *Apu Roy* (Pradip Roy) currently has the most effective ministry and his wife is great help. Whenever she gets opportunity she is shares the Gospel. One day while I was visiting Apu, some Hindu friends and a Muslim friend (political leader) came to visit him. They shared the Gospel with them as they have done on several occasions in the past. Currently, he is following-up with at least 20 people. Recently three people were baptized and two more Santal families and one Muslim are ready for baptism. *Manayem Sarkar*, our newest worker in this area, has completed his training. Even through his own Muslim family are very much against him, he is standing strong in this faith. Manayem is making some good contacts with Muslims. He is also leading a newly converted group of eight families at Panch Kanya and is expanding his efforts to Sahebganj near the Bangladesh Border.

Darjeeling District Ministry: The main leaders in Darjeeling are Philip Ekka, Sam Induar and Sudesh Lakra. They cover the area in Bagdogra which is by the Nepal and Bihar borders. They have led many souls to Christ in the past years, but they could not keep them all. They have six churches and five house churches which we hope will grow and be established as a church. During the past six months, two families in the village of Prem Nagar have accepted the Lord, 44 were baptized and another 44 are ready for baptism. Construction of the church building in Mandanjot is complete. We give thanks to friends in Canada for making this possible. One of the new threats we are facing is that there are some new organizations that want to purchase readymade churches. This includes their buildings, congregations and sometimes their staff.

Jalpaiguri District Ministry: This is our largest ministry by area. It serves an area approximately 200 kilometres east to west, and 60 kilometres north to south. Most tribal Tea Plantations are in the north side and the Muslims, Bengalis and Rajbanshi are in the southern area. It is in the south where most of the un-reached people groups live and there are hardly any churches in this area. We are now in the process of planning some strategies to make inroads into this remote area. The district has been divided up with workers in each area who are starting preaching points, house churches, effective children's ministry, Sunday schools, pastoring churches, leading Bible studies etc. I've shared some of their ministries below:

- **Kumaragram:** Janabal Narjinary started a children's ministry in his own house and one by one he is leading them to Christ. In addition some of their parents are finding our Lord and Saviour. Currently, 20 people are attending his worship service each Sunday and six believers were baptized in June, 2011; three more are ready to be baptized.
- **Kalchini (II)** Ananta Narjinary is responsible for the Mendabari church. This church started with only two families and now they have outgrown their church building. There are 24 children (mostly non-Christian) attending the Sunday school. They are in the process of planting another church about 4 kilometres away.
- **Oodlabari:** Birsai Oraon has four growing churches and five house churches. He also has four preaching points where we hope to plant churches in the future. In June, 30 people came down for a water baptism at Kailaspur. He has started a children's ministry at Sologharia where 20 Hindu children attend every week. Matilal Kerketta is a truck driver that has become a fulltime evangelist and church planter. His whole family help him in his ministry. His main church is Manabari, but he has started reaching out to five other places. He has a nice compound where he wishes to build a church and activity centre. His ministry has a strong youth group that his son has taken over. His son has his M. Div. And my son Joshua may use him more and more for the greater vision of NBOM.
- **Nagrakata:** Timothy Oraon works in the Sukhani Basti Church where the majority of the members are Santals. The men are tempted to drink, so constant follow-up is needed. Timothy was disappointed many times, but recently he was able to lead a few more souls to Christ and was able to baptize six people during the past six months
- **Madari Circle:** Prakash Munda works in the Madari area, but lives 30 kilometres away. To get there, he has travels once or twice a week by cycle and he also visits other places to preach the Gospel. He has also planted a house fellowship and one NGO is running a primary school in his church where all the teachers are Christians.
- **Alipurduar** is one of the most important areas and where we have the strongest churches. Jiten Basumata leads the church in Alipurduar sub-division town and his church is growing fast with people from a mix of backgrounds. A good number of people from Bihar are coming to know the Lord. Jiten is also responsible for six churches and five house churches. Eighteen people, all from a Hindu background, were baptized. Chera Raju is a gifted youth Pastor. A good number of Biharies and other college students gather each Sunday evening where Chera and his new wife Tinku lead the group in a Bible study. Other workers have planted many churches and house churches throughout the area including the Tea Plantations. In one area their biggest challenge is with the men because they are tempted to drink and they do not attend church. The women are the opposite and are growing in the Lord.



A baptism with the Sandals in Assam

Assam State Ministry: *Assam (I)* Due to political uprising the work has suffered in this area. The division among tribes creates many problems and we are always under suspicion when visiting homes. Open preaching is also very much restricted now. Barnabas and Biswamitra arranged a seminar in April and trained other church leaders. Two families joined them from a Hindu background during the past six months. In another area five people have been saved and one baptized. Rwisumwi has

planted three house churches during the past six months with a total of nine new families hearing the Gospel on a regular basis. At one church in his area there is very strong opposition to Christianity.

Assam (II) This ministry works mostly among the Santal Tribe. There are two main leaders with 16 others working with them. Both main leaders have a motorcycle so they are able to visit all 30 field villages. Their target is to cover 500 villages by 2012 and plant many churches. In the last six months they have planted eight house churches. There are 40 families in these house churches. They have to be very careful because twice now gangs were ready to attack them, but each time the Lord saved them.

Nepal Ministry: Thank God for the freedom of religion in Nepal now. As you know, there was a time when Christians were put in jail when they were caught preaching. We have appointed Rustam Iswarary to provide leadership to the Nepal Ministry. Manoj Rajbanshi is the main leader and works with a team of seven other men.

Manoj's team goes to the villages on Fridays and perform dramas and skits to attract a crowd. Then they preach the Gospel in a simple way so the villagers can understand. At the end a number of people come forward for prayers, sometimes for themselves and sometimes for the sick. Even though there may not be immediate results, they are building relationships with many people.

Two boys named William and Sanjit were sent from NBOM to help the Nepal ministry. Because they were from the Santal tribe, they could not speak Nepali, so they ventured out to find Santal villages in Nepal. Soon they found one and were received warmly by the villagers. They started teaching the children and youth some Santali songs and a crowd soon gathered. Since it was almost Good Friday, they preached about Jesus and His crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, they arranged a special get-together and it was nice to hear the testimonies from the Santals. William and Sanjit said there will soon be Santal churches in Nepal. They also visited Takuwa and noticed that the church has 28 members and 12 of them are ready to be baptized. Soon we will be having a baptism for these people.

Bhutan Ministry: Bhutan is still ruled by a King and while it is against the law to preach the Gospel, they do not seem to be enforcing that law as strictly as they have in the past. The Bhutan ministry leader is Ruben Pradhan and he also works with the Bhutan Christian Fellowship (BCF). He is still driving taxi cab to expand His kingdom. He has 22 families of believers and because of Bhutan law, Christian churches are not permitted so it is difficult to hold worship services. Ruben's wife, Jyoit, runs a stationery shop that also provides Bibles to people who request them.

Personal Ministry Engagement

Generally, we are finding that it is becoming more difficult for new believers to remain faithful because they are often forced to go back to Hinduism by either their families or village elders. Besides visiting some of the fields, I have been busy directing our other ministry activities here at NBOM Headquarters. These include the Orphanage, Community Development, Relief-Disaster, Compassion



Nicholas, Puspa, Meni (daughter-in-law, Joshua (son) and Nuel (grandson)

project for child development and now the English Medium School. We are extremely thankful to Partners International and all the partnering churches to accomplish this great ministry.

Joint Ministry Goals for Next Six Months

- Conduct VBS camps in at least three places.
- Have a Youth Camp at Dinhata.
- Have a study seminar this Fall for all our staff and key church leaders.
- Hold a two-day gathering of all Santals in Assam.
- Start five tutorial centres for poor children so we can teach lessons to the children as well as Bible stories and songs.
- Cooch Behar district remains mostly unreached. So we are forming five mobile teams to cover five sub-divisions in Cooch Behar district. In the areas where we are well received, the team will conduct special follow-up.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support towards the great work of God here in North Bengal India.

Yours in Christ,

Nicholas Narjinary

Dear friends and supporters of Nicholas and the NBOM ministry,

It is our privilege to commend Nicholas and the team to you once again. We are thrilled with the work of God taking place as a Canadians partner in North Bengal. Over the last few months we have had various Partners International representatives on site to participate in programs, and conduct training and visit fields of ministry. Nicholas and Puspa continue to carry a heavy administrative burden so please pray for their health and an ample provision of wisdom and leadership through the Holy Spirit. Here are some other areas where you can continue to intercede on behalf of the ministry:

- Uphold the new believers undergoing persecution;
- Pray for the workers who face opposition and threats of physical violence;
- Pray for the children in being cared for at the NBOM campus schools and through village programs;
- Pray for the continued development of the Cornerstone school and for qualified and committed Christian teachers to join the team;
- Ask the Lord to help us achieve the joint ministry goals for youth work, training and church planting;
- Intercede for churches which are at risk of being carried away by other organizations promising better pay for workers and construction of church buildings. These foreign ministries tempt faithful servants to serve God for material benefit, and they bring division within the Kingdom; and,
- Pray for the outreach into Nepal and Bhutan.

On behalf of the NBOM ministry,
Partners International