

## **PREACHER TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Entrusting the Gospel to Generations to Come**



By the early part of 2015, the number of contacts that are being generated through various avenues of our work reached to a point where it was beyond the purview of just a handful of us. We just could not keep up with the increasing demands of follow up on the number of contacts. Our Free Medical Clinics generated 7,341 contacts; TV program generated 5,760, various forms of disaster relief generated 30,351 contacts, and other avenues like Academy, clean water projects brought in few hundreds of contacts. Through all these avenues of outreach, God placed 44,215 souls into our hands and we just did not have the manpower to take care of that.

That was when the decision has been made to start a custom made, uniquely designed Preacher Training Program in order to meet the ongoing and increasing demands of evangelistic follow up. After much prayer, contemplation and counsel, our three-year rigorous Preacher Training Program has been launched in the Fall of 2015.

### **Three Major Outcomes for Each Student**

1. First, to help train an evangelist and leader for the work of the Kingdom.
2. Provide experience with everyday hands-on evangelism by following up on the thousands of contacts that have already been made through various outreach avenues.
3. Plant at least one congregation at some point during the student's three-year time.

### **Current Group of Students**

1. 47 students in total
2. 27 are married with 69 children among them.
3. It is a total of 143 individuals

### **Success Thus Far**

Our program is uniquely designed so that each student gets to spend one half of the day in class room gathering basic tools to be a preacher and an evangelist. The other half of the day, students are out in the villages and communities around us. They are simply following up on already

made contacts through our TV Program, Clean Water Projects, Free Medical Clinics etc. In the weekends, many of them go back to their villages to preach and be with their families while others travel hundreds of miles to study the Bible with various groups of villagers.

During the calendar year of 2015, God through the dedication of our students and this intense Preacher Training Program brought in a bountiful harvest of **2010 souls who were baptized** to wash their sins away. And since the inception of the Preacher Training Program, **43 new congregations have been planted** in various states of India. These congregations are primarily in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Currently, in 11 states of India, numerous Bible studies are going on whether personally, or through our TV Program or through the Bible correspondence courses.

Through the efforts of our students **this year 2017, 1667 souls have been converted** and committed their lives to Christ. The salvation of these 1667 souls would not have been possible without our students' daily pursuit of relentless evangelistic efforts. There are Hindu temple priests and Muslim Imams among the converts!

### **Persecution and Tragedies**

With the current radical Hindu government ruling India along with already existing animosity toward Christianity as a “western” religion, preaching the Gospel is not a bed of roses in India. Not every area in India is radical though. A dear sister in Christ named Savithri was brutally murdered by her own husband for being a Christian. An article that I wrote about this event appeared in December 2014 issue of the Christian Chronicle (<http://www.christianchronicle.org/article/faithful-even-to-the-point-of-death>).

Then in March 2016, one of our students, brother Sangeeta Rao was brutally killed by radical Hindus for preaching the Gospel. They waited on him as he was coming back late in the night from preaching at a village. He was beaten and stabbed to death in a remote place and was later found by farm workers in the morning.



Brother Sangeeta Rao with one of the many congregations he planted.

This group was converted after he followed up with them for months as they would watch our TV Program and he would answer their questions and concerns.

Then another student, brother Samson was badly beaten by radical Hindus during one of the follow up periods. Another student was manhandled by radical Hindus and only left him thinking that he was dead. When he came home and knocked on the door, his wife could even recognize him with all the blood, injuries and torn clothes, she thought he was a beggar.