

Vivek & Angela Lall

Mid India Christian Mission

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Dear Faithful Friends,

Greetings from India! How thankful Angela and I are to all of you, our precious partners in ministry. It has been a fairly long time since our last update letter. They say, "No news is good news," and you can pretty much count on that from us. It means a lot is going on with the work and ministry and we have been hard pressed to find time to sit down and write.

The church under fire As in many other areas of the world, Christians continue to suffer harassment and physical threat and injury in India. That's the bad news. The good news is that this affords the church an opportunity to witness and to grow. Our team evangelists tell, with visible and genuine excitement, how personal encounters have only served to strengthen their faith and their resolve. Indeed, the very threats and attacks meant to silence the church seem to be having the opposite effect. Non-believers do take notice.

It is not the average Indian who participates in or condones the atrocities against Christians. Rather, with persecution being politically motivated, a relatively small group of extremists incite and spread untruths about "forced conversions." If they truly understood, they would know that one can not be forced to become a real Christian.

We need to remain in prayer for our brothers and sisters in India who face very real danger just because they follow our Lord. We must pray for those who face not just threats but have experienced actual physical harm so they might be strengthened to be "faithful unto death." In the US, a country of religious freedom often taken for granted, it is the very least we can do.

Your prayers for our personal safety have recently been answered. One Tuesday this late winter, the Investigation Bureau contacted our mission and alerted us to be prepared that Sunday morning at church, for an attack by local extremists. My younger brother and I resolved that we would be the two to take the pulpit and lead the services that day. By phone I requested special prayers from some folks in the States. In the end, since the attack was exposed the plan was abandoned. We believe it is a matter of when, not if, there will be another attack scheduled - most likely when we are least expecting it. Please, continue to keep our family in your prayers.

Ashram The mission was blessed once again to be visited by teams from the US this year. The first of these was from Christ's Church Mandarin from Jacksonville, Florida. This team was again led by Dr. Dennis Bratton, Sr. Minister. Through his yearly visits (save last year due to health issues) and continued devotion to the Ashram and other causes in India Dr. Bratton has gained a special place in the hearts of many Indian Christians.

The Mandarin team was pleased to see the completion of the basic infrastructure at Ashram. Over the past two years this relatively barren piece of land has really been transformed. Now, with a full water reservoir to supply the needs of farming and aquaculture, 4,000 fruit and medicinal trees growing, fencing, road and bridge and dam work finished, Ashram is poised to enter its next phase – housing! We've looked forward to this next step for a long time. It means that many disabled people in India are that much closer to having the home we've envisioned for them.

Mandla Clinic The second team to visit us was actually an entire family. This was a first for us, hosting a family, and with children. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of Dr. Randy LaDuc (M.D.) his wife Cathy, along with their three children, Rachael, Rebecca and Elizabeth. Dr.

LaDuc made some big commitments to assist with the very important Mandla Clinic project. Abortion, especially of female babies is a huge problem in India. This clinic will offer Christian alternatives to the mother and the child. Construction continues on the clinic. We hope it will be able to open its doors next year.



Mandla Clinic Construction



The LaDuc Family (with our Anna to the far left, in a white T-shirt)

School and Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children (SRCD) We are happy to report that our precious disabled children are doing better than ever. While we do have many expenses in their care, the costs of health care are down significantly now that they are becoming healthier and better fed. We still need to find ways to provide a more nutritious diet and regular medical/dental attention.

Last year Angela was praying specifically that a special teacher for the deaf children would be found. This prayer has been answered with a young lady who herself is deaf and was educated at an institute for the deaf. She is doing a wonderful job with the children. Even some of the other teachers have become proficient with sign language. As is usual, the small Deaf community at SRCD is quite close-knit.

We are more than pleased to announce that a bus for the disabled children has been provided by Connection Point Christian Church of Brownsburg, IN. This is such a blessing! Earlier, the children had to walk or crawl, even through the muddy monsoon-flooded streets, to get to school. They would often get sick as a result of the cold and the dirtiness of the water, which is contaminated with overflow from open sewers. It will now be much easier to take these children on small outings, such as to Ashram, also.



A much appreciated gift!

Our last team to visit came specifically to minister to the disabled children. A group of seven from Discovery Christian Church, Dublin, OH was lead by Steven and Theresa Murphy, former missionaries to Venezuela. Theresa oversees the SRCDC children's stateside sponsorship program, HIS Kids. About half of the sponsors come from her church. Two medical workers were also among the members of the team. Their goal was to begin medical charts for each child. They conducted some simple examinations and made recommendations for treatment or further testing.



About to Perform an Examination

The team members also brought suitcases of warm clothes, candy, toys, crayons (which the children had never seen before), and many other items to share with the kids. They also played games, sang songs, and interacted in a variety of meaningful ways with them. The Discovery team also sponsored the children's very first experience visiting a circus! The folks from Discovery, the children, and our family all enjoyed a very special evening together.

Evangelism The evangelistic efforts are ongoing and fruitful, even in the face of increasing persecution. Several of our evangelists had opportunities to share with our US guests their personal stories. The most touching ones involved their facing persecution. I had the opportunity to visit two converts who now have given their lives to full-time evangelism. They were very emotional during the time that I and two other seasoned evangelists prayed for them while laying on hands. These new evangelists are suffering not only humiliation from outsiders, but the members of their own families have rejected them. They need our prayers.

On two separate occasions I had the privilege of immersing into the Lord five young adults. During one of the immersions, while I was talking to one of the candidates, a family member of theirs collapsed. (I never knew my message could have such an impact!) Actually, we learned that this lady had been fasting and praying and perhaps the heat was too much for her. She revived shortly after and we gave her something to eat. It made for a memorable ceremony!

Once again we would like to ask you to pray for many who are being persecuted because of their faith. Also, please pray that we might be able to "make ends meet" in this time of rapidly rising living costs. I want to thank you churches who have continued to give and maintain the support. Without your giving we would not be able to reach the lost, or feed the needy such as our disabled children. Please know how much your support means to us. We praise God for your partnership and patience as we strive together to achieve the common goal - to serve and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

Serving our Savior
Vivek and Angela Lall