

Grace Bible College Jamshedpur

October, 2016

Dear Friends,

Ps 46:1-3 says:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

May you be encouraged by reading how these verses are true in our lives and of those that we serve here through this ministry. We are very grateful for your partnership in this task.

College: With every passing year, the challenge to reach out to our young apprentices is humbling. While, the hindrances and obstacles seemingly are unsurmountable, the uniqueness of the program and its vision to preach and teach students who are generally underprivileged yet burdened with the gospel, gives us the impetus to keep plodding on. This year 17 students, all from unbelieving families are from the states of Bihar, Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. It is our firm hope, that in the course of training, they will become able bond servants of our Lord.



Last summer, our students spent a month in the villages of Jharkhand and Bengal. Although some of them did fall sick (chicken pox, malaria) and severely sun burnt, it was a learning experience for them. They interacted with believers and reached out to local unbelieving friends. Some of them were bold in responding to the questions of the community leaders. Our students will be going back to the field during their Christmas holidays. We estimate an expense of rupees 20,000.

In a bid to reduce our expenses, our students are currently involved in backyard gardening. Last season, they were able to have home grown vegetables for their kitchen. Although this is a tiny effort in terms of cost cutting enterprises, but we are delighted to see that our future leaders have not abandoned their practical skills.



Currently, the college is under-staffed. We are in desperate need for a qualified teacher. Please pray that the Lord brings to us a suitable candidate.

Church Ministry: In the last couple of months, much work has happened in our churches. Our Churches in Bengal have grown in membership (specific names and location have been withheld on purpose). Our newly constructed building is unable to accommodate everyone. Members are contemplating assembling in a nearby village. Some of our families did face opposition from their neighbors initially, but with prayer and constructive dialogue, issues have been resolved.

While members are being strengthened through various church activities, they were greatly blessed through a three day marriage seminar. Nearly 60 couples attended the meeting. Anil and myself were speakers. In a move to become self-sustaining, our churches are actively pursuing activities that will provide financial stability. The church was able to host this seminar independently.

In Bihar, with the recent floods, many of our believers were adversely affected. Life is getting back to normal slowly, although water borne diseases are prevalent. Recently, members in this area gathered for a leadership seminar. A few of our mature believers are being prepared for local leadership.



VBS : This year VBS was held in various mission posts and in Jamshedpur as well. At the college, we had a total of 135 children, which was beyond our capacity to accommodate! In fact the hall was very stuffy. With the expectation of more children next year, it is our prayer that a tin top extension be made. An estimated expenditure of 4 lac rupees is expected. In our churches, children gathered for five days of learning bible lessons, songs and other activities. Local believers and church members were actively involved.



Children's Ministry: Currently, our centres are going through numerous challenges. Our centre at Baniakunder is on the verge of closing. Children were supported through an international agency. But in the recent months, due to government policies, transfer of funds is being hindered. This is affecting 270 children and their caregivers directly. We need your prayers for future direction.

Our centres in Don and Jamshedpur are not doing well either. We are in urgent need of new sponsors for our children. Apart from the financial crisis, we are constantly faced with challenges that are more spiritual in nature. Some children, due to their family backgrounds, come with very twisted mindsets. Please pray as we counsel them in accordance to the Bible.

In the midst of these challenges, we praise God for a few of our children who cleared their district selections in football. They are currently preparing for their state selections.

Prayer Requests:

1. For our Students: as they prepare for their semester exams. Some are weak in the Hindi language.
2. For a new faculty member. He will help us in shouldering the added responsibilities of the college.
3. For areas in Jharkhand where church members are facing opposition.
4. For our field workers who are physically sick (John Besra) and spiritually discouraged.
5. For the children of our workers – who need financial support for their education.
6. For our children's centres – for finances and breakthrough in policies.
7. For our children who are currently being counseled.

Many Blessings,
Cecil