

PARTNERSHIP GUIDE

YOU CAN HELP

TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



INDIA GOSPEL
league 

INSIDE

SPECIFIC PROJECT IDEAS

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIPS

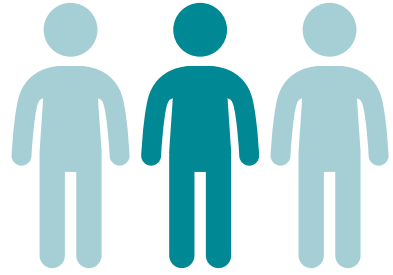
› FAMILIES

› CHURCHES

› YOU

GLOBAL OUTREACH OPTIONS

LIFE-GIVING CHURCHES | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES



How can I be a part of the Great Commission's completion?

see page 5



How can my family engage in global outreach that changes lives?

see page 22



How do I move my church up to the frontlines of gospel advancement?

see page 26

Every believer has been called, equipped and sent to be a witness for Christ, wherever we go. And yet, when it comes to our *global* mission, many people sit on the sidelines – not because of a lack of desire, but rather, a lack of opportunity.



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India Gospel League's Partnership Guide is made available freely to any with interest in completing the Great Commission task in this generation. For additional copies, for a digital edition of this resource, or to receive updates regarding our work, visit www.IGLWorld.org or call 888.352.4451.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LEADING THE WAY

In the early 2000's, India Gospel League (IGL) began receiving help requests from believers in Bihar, a state in northeast India that once was dubbed the "graveyard of missions." (In 2001, the census reported far less than one percent of the population there claimed any form of Christianity.) Of course, we wanted to encourage new work in this area, and so we began praying.

While I was traveling to Bihar to meet with a few pastors beginning ministry work there, I received a call "out of the blue" from Pastor Loyall in Texas. His church had been hosting mission classes, and as their people prayed, the unreached state of Bihar was selected as a new area to focus some of their attention. Pastor Loyall was calling me to see if IGL had any interest in the region or any connections there. He was very specific: "We want to get involved in church planting in Bihar!"

Talk about the Holy Spirit leading the way! Soon after my visit, I invited Pastor Loyall and the lead pastor of the church, Pastor Joe, to come to India to see the context of the work we were about to engage in.

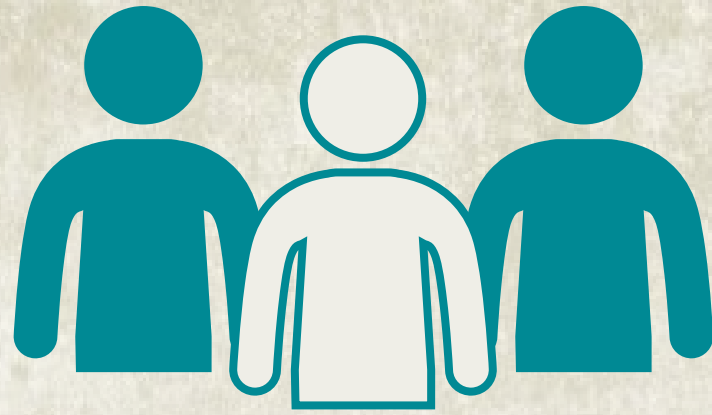
When these two arrived, I told Joe, "I want to give you a proposal to reach Bihar. It's a big one, probably bigger than what one church could do." The next day he reported that he didn't sleep a wink that night and by morning was ready to make a commitment to go for it. His church of just a few hundred people went ahead and took on a multi-hundred-thousand-dollar challenge to fund this strategic mission advance. It was unlike any step of faith this church had taken before!

In just five years, more than **three hundred and fifty new churches** had begun in Bihar. This outcome was a result of the responsive generosity of Pastor Joe and his congregation, linked together with the sacrificial commitment of scores of church planters boldly stepping into a new and difficult territory. Though we celebrate the human characters in the story, in truth, **the Holy Spirit gets the glory!** He so clearly guided the entire process.

Stories like this one are repeating all across South Asia and all across the world. The fields are "white for harvest" everywhere we look (John 4:35). **This Partnership Guide could be your connection to that harvest;** a way to be a part of the God-stories that are changing this generation. More personally, your engagement with the opportunities listed on the pages to follow could lead to the transformation of another life, another village, or perhaps even the opening of another whole region like Bihar!

Excited to see where God leads next,

Sam Stephens
President, India Gospel League



Connect to People & Projects

IGL can connect you with people and projects across the world that need the gospel and the compassion of Christ. For example, you can help one of our “barefoot pastors” reach a new village for just \$100 per month, for two years (see page 8). Along the way, both you and your sponsored pastor can pray for each other and you will receive mission updates! You can also become involved in one-time-gift projects like literacy classes, education options for women, care for orphans (\$35/mo, on page 16), and, for just \$1 per child, year-long discipleship clubs for village children (page 16).

Connect to Capital Projects

IGL also helps facilitate partnerships for providing long-term tools for ministry use in areas where affording them is out of reach for the local populations. For example, a simple village church can be built in South Asia for around \$8,000 (page 9). Water wells in areas without access to clean water can be dug for as little as \$1,250 (page 20). We help coordinate a variety of medical care and economic development initiatives that can assist villagers, and **all of these partnerships are facilitated through local churches, as an extension of their ministry to those most in need.**

Connect to Villages & Unreached Regions

Many churches and individual partners with IGL opt to adopt entire villages or regions for comprehensive ministry advancement (see page 20). Each adopted village (\$75k over five years) or adopted region (\$250k+ over five years) brings together multiple ministry projects into a unique, cohesive plan that results in long-term transformation of a given area. For example, some of our Adopt-a-Region partnerships have sponsored scores of church planters intent on saturating a new region with the gospel, resulting in hundreds of new church plants.

WE WANT YOU AS A PARTNER! WHY?

Because partnership makes things possible that otherwise would have been out of reach. For example, is it really possible for any single person to fulfill the Great Commission around the world? Or to share the love of Jesus with thousands of people in remote villages? Or to help jumpstart a new church in an area where no one speaks English and where the name Jesus has never been uttered?

Through partnership, together we can be a part of extending God’s Kingdom to the remote parts of South Asia. Our partnership will:

- **Extend our outreach** – allowing us to take part in important gospel work in places we might never physically be able to go or places where we would have no real context for effectiveness.
- **Expand our capabilities** – enabling us to take part in everything from church planting to children’s discipleship, the digging of clean water wells to the establishment of new medical clinics and schools.
- **Move us to the frontlines** – deploying our prayers, resources and focus to the places most in need, even if they are far away from our home culture.
- **Establish friendships** – linking arms with brothers and sisters across the planet in pursuit of God’s glory, forging relationships that will last a lifetime (and on into eternity!). This is among the highest joys of a mission-focused life!

To express our gratitude for your partnership with us, for gift orders totaling \$75 or more, we’ll send you a special thank you gift!



YOUR INVITATION

On the pages that follow, we’ll explore and showcase a handful of the ways that partnering with IGL can connect you, your family, business or foundation or even your whole church family to “ends of the earth” ministry.

SHARE JESUS WITH UNREACHED VILLAGES

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

- Romans 10:14



We believe the most effective way to reach unreached villages is through indigenous pastors, planting life-giving, multiplying churches among their own cultural group. As such, one of our core goals is to see a church in every village, which can then lead its people in discipleship, compassion and even community development.



SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Since 1992, when IGL began encouraging pastors to become church planters, resourcing and training them to be both intentional and Spirit led, we've seen more than 90,000 new village churches planted. (We define a church as at least 20 adult baptized believers meeting weekly.)

KEY VALUES

>> We lead with the gospel.

We begin by sharing Jesus in a village, and then, through the newly established church, we extend locally-led holistic care to the community, like orphan care, medical help and education. More than anything else, we believe the gospel is what changes lives for the better – both on earth and in eternity!

>> We support indigenous leadership.

We work through the people God raises up in a given region – empowering them, encouraging them, equipping them – to lead new churches forward. A team of regional leaders helps provide training to pastors on the field in their own cultural and linguistic groups.

>> We help churches become self-sustaining.

All of our efforts to assist church planters are temporary in nature – designed to help “jumpstart” new work in new villages and among new people groups. In most situations, after the two-year startup period, the pastor is able to be supported by his newly planted church, and the work becomes self-sustaining. This commitment to self-sustaining, self-led models has allowed more than 90,000 churches to be planted, while only directly supporting a few hundred church planters at a time.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Has God given you a vision to see churches planted in unreached regions? Or to help equip pastors for the work of the ministry? IGL can connect you to the frontlines of the Asian gospel advance:



ADOPT A BAREFOOT PASTOR

Our church planters (a.k.a. barefoot pastors) go into the unreached, rural regions of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal with a vision to establish one new church a year. For \$100 per month for two years (or \$2,400 total), IGL can give a barefoot pastor a two-year “jumpstart” in ministry work – offering needed support while the groundwork is laid for long-term ministry. During that two-year period, partners receive quarterly updates and prayer requests from their adopted pastor.

Church/Group Idea: \$500 per month provides startup resources for five barefoot pastors. This will likely result in 5-10 new churches being started over two years!



ADOPT-A-REGION

It could be that God will lead you or your church/group to adopt an entire region that needs an intentional gospel advance. Our Adopt-a-Region (AAR) program connects together the work of scores of pastors at the same time and facilitates a dramatic infusion of the gospel into a specific zone. AAR partnerships usually last five years and involve \$250-750k in total, resulting in hundreds of new churches, the establishment of a pastors’ training network and sometimes even the beginning of church-based education and medical care in the region. Each AAR proposal is unique, so if you are interested in a larger-scale project, please call our U.S. office for more details (888.352.4451).

IMPACT PROJECTS

BIBLES



Our team estimates that only 3% of believers in rural churches have their own copy of God’s Word. You can help provide Bibles for new believers with a study guide and notes for just **\$5 each**.

DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL



Many village churches have no additional books or media tools for training their people – discipleship material is a very helpful blessing for newly-established congregations. **\$5 per kit**

LIFE CENTERS



We call church facilities “Life Centers” because they are used for much more than just worship – they become hubs of outreach and blessing! Life Centers host a variety of activities aside from the church and prayer services, including medical camps, literacy training, child care and skills training for the local community. You can help build a Life Center for just **\$8,000**.

BICYCLES & MOTORCYCLES



Means of transportation can greatly extend the range of a pastor’s ministry, allowing a church planter to work in multiple villages at once. Bicycles are **\$100** each and motorcycles can be provided for **\$1,250**.

TRAINING CONFERENCES



A key element of our strategy is to train and encourage pastors in their work, particularly those who have never had access to seminary training. You can sponsor a pastor’s attendance at a training conference for **\$55**.

PRAYER REQUESTS



- >> For the dozens of barefoot pastors preparing to launch new churches.
- >> For the rapidly increasing persecution all across South Asia.
- >> For the hundreds of thousands of village communities still in need of their first church.
- >> For the ongoing training of all the pastors and leaders.

CARE FOR THE SICK

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

- Matthew 25:34-36



South Asia is home to a substantial portion of earth's population (1.3 billion in India alone!), and many of these individuals lack access to affordable medical care. Particularly in rural, remote or tribal regions, nursing care, doctors, medicine or even basic first aid equipment is severely lacking. At IGL, we believe the church can be on the frontlines of caring not only for spiritual needs, but for these very real physical needs as well.

KEY VALUES

>> We care for the whole person.

Since IGL's birth in 1948, we have sought to follow the example of Jesus, caring for the "whole person" – and doing all we can to extend hope and healing in His name. While we see spiritual needs as the area of greatest concern for a person's overall welfare, we also seek to be a blessing in regard to their emotional, physical and economic needs.

>> We invest in people.

We train hundreds of nursing students to take basic medical services into areas that would otherwise have no access to care, and we provide villagers with needed training in areas like first-aid, nutritious food, effective gardening, safe animal husbandry and more. By investing in people, we hope to not only extend temporary medical relief in moments of great need but also to help people enjoy an overall healthier life.

>> We change our methods to strategically meet needs.

South Asia is developing at a very fast pace, meaning that some of the pressing needs in one generation might be different in the next. For example, throughout India there are only 150 palliative care centers. To fill the gap, IGL renovated part of its general hospital to include its very own palliative care center. In November, IGL will also be opening the doors to a brand new Children's Wellness Center to care for children with disabilities, provide general medical care and more!

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

More than 25,025 patients were cared for through IGL's medical outreach in 2016, and 837 new nurses graduated from our accredited nursing school since the beginning of the program, ready to share the love of Jesus and their medical expertise throughout India for years to come!



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If caring for the sick is on your heart, and you'd like to participate in specific initiatives to see lives transformed holistically through gospel-centered medical care, we'd love to partner with you!



CHILDREN'S WELLNESS CENTER

In an attempt to reach more children with medical care, construction is underway for a special children's wellness facility that will include therapy rooms, consultation rooms and a pediatric ward. This will be a one-of-a-kind facility in Salem, Tamil Nadu, where children with special needs can receive all of the care and therapy necessary to help them have a healthy and successful life.

We are grateful to God for this special opportunity to serve and be a part of these children's lives – children he has far from forgotten about. The open doors and resources God has provided are miraculous and we praise him for his continuous provision. These children and their families are supported through the child sponsorship program and it presents us with an opportunity to 'Love One More.'



TELE-MEDICINE CENTERS

Many villages in rural areas are just now receiving access to electricity, and, for the first time, it is possible to extend medical care into these least-reached regions. IGL's Life Centers while primarily providing a church meeting space, also often serve as an extension of IGL's medical care. Tele-medicine centers are an exciting innovation that allows for a nurse to operate a small clinic with the help of a computer connection to a doctor at an approved hospital. This represents an amazing connection between mobile diagnostic equipment, video chat technology and the love and prayers of a local church!

Through tele-medicine, many villagers are experiencing their first-ever personal communication with a medical professional. You can sponsor the launch of a new Tele-Medicine Center for \$6,200, and our team will then provide you with pictures and progress updates!

IMPACT PROJECTS

SHOES FOR LEPERS



Leprosy, while eradicated in most of the world, is still a problem in the rural areas of South Asia. Many lepers, just like in ancient times, are ostracized from society and have little opportunity to improve their situation. You can provide special shoes required for lepers for just **\$25**.

SPONSOR A NURSING STUDENT



Many village girls grow up without access to education and, thus, have no opportunities for upward mobility. IGL's School of Nursing is a seventeen-year, government-accredited program into which we invite young women from nearby villages, many of whom become the first in their family tree to pursue higher education! You can sponsor a nursing student for just **\$50 per month** for two years (\$1,200 total), and you will receive a picture and profile of the young lady you are empowering!

MEALS FOR LEPERS



Leprosy feedings are an important extension of Christ's love to people in such dire need. You can help sponsor a meal for a community of lepers for just **\$400**.

LIFE-SAVING SURGERIES

While every medical need is somewhat unique, we average the cost of providing life-saving surgery for a villager through IGL's network at just **\$250**.



PRAYER REQUESTS



- » For the effectiveness of our new Children's Wellness Center.
- » For the ability to provide dozens of free surgeries to those in need.
- » For those receiving medical care to be struck by the love and compassion of Jesus.
- » For God to guide the hands of our doctors as they provide much needed help.



LOVE ONE MORE

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

- Matthew 18:10

The next generation of children and youth are responding to the gospel in unprecedented ways. God is raising up tens of thousands of young leaders and hundreds of thousands of young disciples to carry the kingdom work forward into the future. We aim to provide discipleship, love and assistance to kids in need of God’s love and, in some cases, the love of a family as well.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

In 2017, more than 870,000 children participated in Children’s Gospel Clubs, our year-long personal discipleship program that walks through key areas of theology and Christian living. Even better – more than 80,000 teenagers were trained and equipped to lead these clubs, all across South Asia!



KEY VALUES

>> We love one more.

There is always room for one more in God’s household, and we strive to represent that value in our own households as well. In South Asia, there are literally millions of children in great need – spiritually and physically. Our heart is to always say “yes” to one more!

>> We emphasize personal discipleship.

In both our children’s discipleship programs (through local churches) and in child sponsorship and care programs (through IGL children’s homes), we ensure a gospel-centered, Bible-focused approach to teaching and lifestyle. We want kids to grow up to follow Jesus!

>> We help young people become leaders.

India has more than 400,000,000 children, and other South Asian nations have younger demographics as well. We provide opportunities for youth to grow up as leaders – becoming teachers of Bible clubs for smaller kids, being trained for future pastoral ministry and, particularly for impoverished village youth, having access to quality education (and even higher education in some cases).



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to help us love one more? We're excited to facilitate partnerships with those around the world who believe, as we do, that every child was created by God for a special purpose.



SPONSOR A CHILD

For just \$35 per month, you can love one more child – providing him or her with quality Christian education, nutritious food, needed medical care and the opportunity to practically experience the love of Jesus through caring, IGL-trained children's ministry leaders. Some of our sponsored children are orphans, discovered through our church network. Others come from families much too poor to provide any opportunities for their children to reach their potential or from single-parent households.

Sponsors can communicate with their children via letters and cards, special gifts and, if possible, even visits. They also receive regular updates and occasional pictures!



www.IGLWorld.org/Kids



CHILDREN'S GOSPEL CLUBS

Would you like to help disciple one more child, affording him or her the opportunity to learn about Jesus, and to grow in biblical faith? For just \$1, one more child can be discipled through our Children's Gospel Club program for one year. Just \$1! That provides for the materials and leadership training necessary to make their "club" possible – both during the introductory club experience in the summer, followed by the weekly lessons kids experience throughout the year. These funds also allow older children to be trained as club leaders.

Church/Group Idea: Combining resources, how many kids could you help disciple this year, at just \$1 each? 1,000 kids? 10,000? For example, one Sunday school asked their kids to raise funds for a Children's Gospel Club in India. They raised enough money to send almost 2,300 children to a club!

IMPACT PROJECTS

NUTRITIOUS MEALS


Many village children grow up in extreme poverty, and many families are unable to provide adequate food, particularly during periods of economic instability. One month of food for a child in South Asia only costs an average of **\$10**.

HOLIDAY MEALS

In our children's homes and Christian schools, we work to provide special holiday experiences for the kids, particularly at Easter and Christmas. You can sponsor a holiday meal for a kid for **\$15**.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES


 Kids who attend IGL schools, or, in areas where accessible, government schools, still need the basics to succeed – school supplies! You can help local churches provide school supplies to nearby students for just **\$15-25**.

GIFTS FOR YOUR SPONSORED CHILD



Child sponsors with IGL are able to purchase special gifts to express love to their child (at birthdays, holidays or just for fun!). Options range from Bibles to soccer balls, board games to new outfits. (Sponsors should visit www.IGLWorld.org/kids to see specific gift-giving options, or call our U.S. office at 888.352.4451.)

UNSPONSORED CHILDREN

 Due to our commitment to "love one more" whenever possible, we almost always have many more children in our schools and homes than we have sponsors. We trust God to provide for these extra needs as they arise! If he prompts you to help with the children, but you'd rather not directly sponsor, you can give one-time gifts to support unsponsored children. **Any amount** is put to good use!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- » For the millions of South Asia youth who are growing up without the gospel.
- » For every child being discipled in Children's Gospel Clubs this year.
- » For our team to navigate what seems to be increasing government restrictions on children's homes and schools.
- » For the new Children's Wellness Center opening in November 2017, that the Lord would enable us to care for even more children.





SERVE THE POOREST OF THE POOR

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

- Romans 15:1

A large portion of the populations of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal live in extreme poverty, subsisting on the equivalent of just a few dollars per week. Church leaders throughout IGL’s network are encouraged to set ministry goals to serve their surrounding villages and to train their own people to be on the frontlines of providing education, disaster relief and economic development in their communities.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

In partnership with the generosity of believers across the world, IGL has been able to help install 147 clean water wells in villages since 2000. Many of the wells are established right in front of the village church!



KEY VALUES

>> We emphasize development, not relief.

IGL does provide opportunities to give toward significant disaster relief (as in the case of the 2004 Tsunami or the 2015 earthquake in Nepal). However, we believe that the best form of long-term help for impoverished areas comes not in the form of handouts, but through long-term, sustainable economic development.

>> We let the churches lead.

Rather than imposing a particular strategy on churches from the outside, we empower pastors and believers to set their own course for serving their community, then we help with equipping and training. Many of our churches have opened job-skill centers, daycares and schools, adult literacy programs, and have even partnered with local governments to secure infrastructure upgrades to their neighborhoods.

>> We want the “ownership” to be local, not external.

We see it as systemically unhealthy (and unsustainable) for outsiders to fund and lead local development efforts. So, even as we engage partners from across the world to help village churches serve the poor around them, we are careful to ensure this outside help is only temporary in nature, and that the local community contributes whatever it feasibly can to the projects (for example, a percentage of the cost, or a percentage of the labor, etc.).



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to be a part of lifting impoverished communities, educating and empowering families for a better future, and serving the very poorest of the world's poor? Join us in partnership with local churches across South Asia, to share the love and compassion of Jesus!



CLEAN WATER WELLS

Even in the 21st century, women carrying water in jugs above their heads is still a familiar sight in South Asia. Some villages lack access to clean, safe water and rely on women to trek many kilometers to ponds or valleys to scoop up water for survival. Many of these areas do have underground water supplies, but they are simply not accessible without expensive drilling equipment.

IGL helps local churches identify areas of need in terms of water access, then unites those churches in partnership with friends across the world to facilitate the digging and drilling of wells. Water access in a village can mean reduced rates of disease, a better quality of life, more options for women (who are no longer required to fetch water), more capacity for farming, etc.

Water wells in South Asia cost on average just \$1,250. Sponsors will receive pictures of the new well following installation.



ADOPT-A-VILLAGE

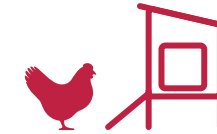
Throughout the pages of this Partnership Guide, you can see how many needs may be experienced in a single village. Our pastors and regional leaders often have to decide when and where to allocate very limited resources. Our Adopt-a-Village (AAV) program ties together many IGL-initiatives into a single package that provides blessing to a selected village over five years. Partners in this program are provided with a five-year outline of both spiritual and economic development activities, along with location and demographic data regarding the selected village.

For a cost of \$75,000 (spread over five years), AAV sponsors can be a part of the holistic transformation of an entire community, impacting hundreds of people with evangelistic efforts, educational initiatives, skills-training centers, children's discipleship and more. If you or your church/group is interested in adopting a village, contact our U.S. office for a brochure and to request a specific village proposal. (888.352.4451)

IMPACT PROJECTS

CHICKENS WITH A COOP

You can help an entrepreneurial family start a new farm by giving their first chickens! Chickens and a coop together cost just **\$100**.



MICRO-CREDIT LOANS



After job skills training, those desiring to leave the cycle of poverty often need a simple startup fund to begin their business (procuring equipment, animals, materials, etc.) Micro-credit extended through IGL's network comes with strong accountability and has a 98% rate of repayment and successful business startup. A gift of **any amount** will help us extend this program, but the average loan to help a villager involves the equivalent of about \$150. As loans are repaid, the funds are reinvested into more loans, helping even more villagers. This is truly a gift that never stops giving.

SEWING MACHINE

There is still a large gap in South Asian societies in terms of the earning potential of women. IGL provides sewing machines and associated training (**\$120**) to help women start their own micro-business.



ADULT LITERACY TRAINING



\$5 will provide the materials and administration necessary to help a villager learn how to read.

PRAYER REQUESTS



- >> For the women receiving skills training as they work hard to break the generational poverty by opening small businesses.
- >> For village elders (often not Christians) to be welcoming of local church economic development initiatives.
- >> For those now enjoying clean water to understand the "living water" of the gospel.

Great for
small groups!

INFUSE YOUR CHURCH WITH MISSION

IGL offers resources designed not only to communicate Great Commission vision, but to invite people from all walks of life to participate! IGL published books can help your Sunday School classes, small groups or even your entire congregation catch a fresh vision for what God is doing across the world today and to challenge them to be bold witnesses in their own “Jerusalem” as well.



COMMISSIONED: *How God is Changing Lives, Transforming Villages, and Involving You* helps people move from the sidelines to the front lines of gospel work. Through the eyes of one of our Mission Mobilizers, Dan Jarvis, you’ll have a “book of Acts”-style adventure that includes miraculous testimonies, powerful principles and personal challenge.

THE KAIROS MOMENT: *Is Now the Opportune Time?* dives deep into the heart and meaning of God’s work across the world to help you discover the principles of kingdom-multiplication through the eyes of IGL’s President, Sam Stephens. And even more, you’ll be challenged to take advantage of the unique, divine moments God brings into your own life.



TO GET STARTED

Books are available for a suggested donation of **\$8 each**. We can provide bulk pricing for orders of **10 or more** at just **\$3 each** (shipping included). Get a copy for yourself, or order copies for your entire church family at 888.352.4451 or www.IGLWorld.org/Books.



www.IGLWorld.org/Books

ONE SEED, OR MANY?

An interview with “Pastor Benny,” the Director for Training and Leadership Development for India Gospel League. Benny has become known as a coach and friend to thousands of pastors throughout South Asia.

In South Asia, many believers become pastors out of necessity, without any formal theological training, because the need is so great. These faithful servants simply share what they know and learn as they go. A key strategic objective for the church in this region of the world is to provide *depth* that corresponds with its rapidly expanding *breadth*. Pastor Benny has devoted a good portion of his life to this aspect of the IGL mission.

How did God change your desire from pastoring a church of your own to becoming a trainer and encourager of pastors, Benny?

In the 1980s, when I was first being trained for ministry, we were always told we should “tell the gospel to someone!” Direct evangelism was the highest value. We formed teams and showed up in villages to share Christ. We’d preach open-air, sing songs, show the JESUS Film, and hand out literature. Then the people would go home, and so would we.

The gospel was being proclaimed, but the people weren’t being *discipled*. And how could they be? There was no church in their village! Then, in the early 90s, Sam Stephens asked an important question: “We are only doing the first part of the Great Commission; why we aren’t fulfilling it? The gospel is going out, but disciples aren’t being made.”

So it was that desire for long-term fruit that shifted your vision toward church planting in particular?

Absolutely – but it wasn’t only my vision that was changing. That’s actually when Vision 2000* started to form, which has since become India Gospel League’s whole church planting vision. I remember when Sam Stephens was describing needed changes, “We will ask our traveling evangelists to stay in a village for at least twelve months, to train the believers, and establish a permanent church. We will ask them to select a village where there is no church, and to start one. And not only this year, but every year.”

This was the first time I believe we really started teaching the rest of the Great Commission – not only sharing the gospel, but also *teaching people to obey all that Jesus commanded* (Matthew 28:19-20). We had

determined that only by planting a permanent church could God’s Kingdom really be established in a given village.

How do these church planting “barefoot pastors” actually go about starting a new church every year?

Some of our workers will seed-plant in multiple villages at the same time. Very often God miraculously answers a prayer for someone who is sick, addicted, or demon-possessed in order to show His power over the spirits the people have been worshipping. As men, women and children begin putting their faith in Jesus, small group Bible studies and Children’s Gospel Clubs are formed.

Once there are twenty or more baptized adult believers meeting together weekly, the group is considered to be a “church.” In most situations, after the two-year startup period, the pastor is able to be supported by his newly planted church, and the work becomes self-sustaining. On average, a Vision 2000 pastor will continue his commitment to plant one new church every year for several years, and this also compels them to train additional leaders to carry the work forward. The whole orientation of village churches is toward multiplying the gospel work, serving the needy and training up biblical leaders.

In the West when we think of church planting we usually wait until our base church is healthy and established. Why don’t you allow village churches time to grow some roots before you suggest they multiply?

Should a farmer only plant one seed and then wait for it to grow?



Pastor Benny

Learn more about sponsoring one of IGL’s Barefoot Pastors for their two-year startup period on [page 8](#).

* Vision 2000: Vision 2000 is a church planting movement initiated by India Gospel League in 1992 with 200 pastors who planned to reach every unreached village in India with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today, thousands of pastors have joined this vision, meet regularly for fellowship and training, and together have planted more than 90,000 churches.

COME & SEE

Reading a Partnership Guide about missions in South Asia can only take you so far, so we'd love to extend an invitation to you to go the rest of the way – come and see the work firsthand! Opportunities abound for the gospel in some of the least-reached regions of the world, and whether you are a pastor, teacher, doctor or just someone interested in broadening your vision of the world, we'd love to include you in an upcoming IGL trip!

FAST FACTS

- ⇒ Our U.S. based office team will help you with all the necessary paperwork and planning for your trip.
- ⇒ IGL's office in India takes care of ALL the details of your stay – hotels, safe-to-eat meals, translators and IGL guides, drivers, etc.
- ⇒ You'll get to see a variety of IGL-affiliated ministry work, venture into rural villages, meet barefoot pastors, see our medical ministries and more!
- ⇒ Nearly 600 people from North America have visited IGL in the last ten years.



TRIP OPTIONS

Eyewitness Trips – best for people considering partnership with IGL who wish to get a taste of what God is doing in and through the South Asian church.

Medical/Veterinary Trips – best for people with medical expertise who wish to share their skills and training with people in great need by assisting in IGL's medical and veterinary outreaches.

Teacher Training Trips – best for pastors, teachers and women's ministry leaders who would enjoy teaching opportunities on the field, sharing experiences, Bible teaching and leadership coaching with pastors, women's Bible study leaders and youth.



www.IGLWorld.org/Go

"Many people marvel at the amazing work the Holy Spirit is doing in this generation – the churches planted, the youth reached, the community transformation occurring – and I'll say to you what I've said to hundreds of other partners over the past three decades: 'come and see!' God is doing an unprecedented work in this history of my culture, a 'kairos moment' as we like to call it, and I'd be delighted for you to be our guest on the field!"

– Sam Stephens, President of India Gospel League

"I want to tell others about my experience! The Lord is just beginning to show me his heart for his people and the world"

– Alexa Kinney, Eyewitness trip in May 2017

"My experience in India was like nothing I've ever experienced before. I love the rich culture of the Indian people so much and the way that everyone at Sharon was just so inviting and accepting of us. I believe that God is all over this organization and is going to continue to bless it. This trip was a 10/10 experience and I would love to come back and lead a trip one day."

– Jenna Laucirca, Eyewitness trip in August 2017

"For not really knowing what to expect on my first short-term missions trip, I was happy to be able to take part in the IGL ministry. I want to be able to take the lessons I have learned in ministering through veterinary medicine back home with me."

– Melanie Thompson, Veterinary trip in April 2017

"I've had a heart for India, but now I have faces and names in my heart as well. I'm excited to join IGL in expanding God's Kingdom."

– Jon Sullivan, Teacher training trip in May 2017

TO GET STARTED

on your journey to South Asia, call IGL's U.S. office to discuss planning a trip and get answers to your specific questions: **888.352.4451** or email travel@iglworld.org

FIVE WAYS TO GET YOUR CHURCH EXCITED

SHARE
INVITE
ENGAGE
SEND
ORDER

- 1** **Share this Partnership Guide with your church's leadership team.**
Request additional free copies or download a PDF version to forward at www.IGLWorld.org/Guide.
- 2** **Invite an IGL speaker to cast vision at your church.**
Expose your whole congregation to a Great-Commission-centered vision!
- 3** **Engage in a specific project, like Children's Gospel Clubs or Barefoot Pastors.**
Select a first step project and get involved. Then, share the updates you receive!
- 4** **Send a church representative to India to come and see.**
A whole new perspective awaits – give us a call for more information! (888.352.4451)
- 5** **Order IGL books to share among your church family.**
See page 22 for ordering details for our two small-group friendly mission books.

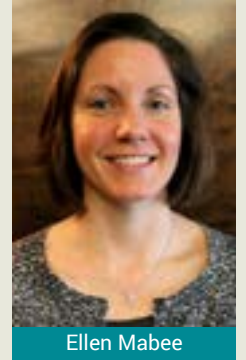


www.IGLWorld.org/Videos



STRIVING FOR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

An interview with Ellen Mabee, U.S. Office and Finance Manager



Ellen Mabee

Ellen, you've served at IGL's North American office for ten years now. How did you first get involved?

My husband Scott was the first in our family to visit the ministry as part of a short-term medical team. When he saw firsthand the good work being done, the passion of the indigenous leadership and the burden they had for their people, he fell in love with IGL. At that point, we decided as a couple to support the ministry financially.

A few years later (2007) a position opened up at the Hudson, Ohio, office. From there, I was able to see what happened "behind the scenes." I was impressed by the dedication to accurate record-keeping, financial integrity, and the strict following of all ECFA guidelines, as well as the ministry's transparency with financial documents.

A year later, I traveled to India as part of a women's teaching team and experienced the same love for the Indian people that Scott did. I held their hands, prayed with them, shared meals, worshipped and praised God alongside women who were sold out for Jesus. It was a life-changing experience to say the least, and it cemented my commitment to serving the organization to the best of my ability.

What is the difference between IGL's North American office and the "main office" in India?

Well, our headquarters are in Tamil Nadu, India, and that's where our direct ministry efforts are led and coordinated. Our North American organization simply exists to raise awareness, funding and partnership for our India-side organization.

Of course, our U.S. office has a Board of Directors, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, annual auditing and is a member of the ECFA. Once funds are received and accounted for by our office in the U.S., we transfer them to their designated projects in South Asia. All financial information is carefully audited on both sides of the ocean.

What values are important to you personally as you think of your job at the office?

Transparency is one my highest values, and I hope anyone looking can see the evidence of that. We post financial reports online and we are very forthcoming with any requests we get for specifics regarding our use of funds. You are welcome to call or email us anytime (888.352.4451, info@iglworld.org).

Another value I maintain is integrity – I really want to be sure that every dollar donated to IGL is used for what the donor intended and that our partners are promptly receipted. We also strive to provide specific updates to our partners for many of our project categories, including personalized updates and even pictures (when feasible) that pertain to barefoot pastors, sponsored children, water wells being completed, Life Centers under construction, adopted villages, adopted regions and other special projects.

Anything else a potential partner should know, Ellen?

I suppose I could add this, in regard to ministry accountability: in addition to our reporting, if you'd like to go to the field and see the work for yourself, we are happy to arrange this. In certain areas of South Asia, security concerns may make it unadvisable for a North American to visit, but in the majority of cases, it is possible. Refer to page 24 of this guide for more information on travel opportunities.

We strive to exercise good stewardship at all times by using your gifts wisely and effectively to further the kingdom of Jesus Christ in rural India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. In fact, we are committed to investing at least 85% of every dollar in kingdom work with only 15% of designated contributions used to cover overhead expenses.





Village women coming back from gathering water at the well.

TANANKI'S STORY

"I disliked Christianity but God turned me upside down." – Tananki

For most of her life, Tananki was a devout Hindu, observing all of the religious holidays and rituals. But her faith was not leading her to peace, and her home life was anything but tranquil.

Her husband was a raging alcoholic whose temper was unpredictable, to say the least. The children would often hide in fear as their father threw things or overturned tables. Over time, the constant fear and stress Tananki was living with finally compelled her to tell her Christian neighbors she needed help. Even though she disliked Christianity, she felt like she could trust these neighbors. They encouraged her and invited Tananki to meet their pastor, and to come to church with them.

It wasn't long before Tananki accepted Jesus as her Savior. In the beginning, her husband hated that she had become a Christian. But as he saw the positive transformation in his wife, he even started to encourage her to attend church!

Six years later, while her husband is not yet a believer, he no longer drinks alcohol and much forward progress has been made. Tananki has also become a *Women with a Mission* (WWM) organizer with IGL, that is to say, a woman leader working alongside the local church to preach the gospel, strengthen her local church and disciple younger women. In the last year, she has begun a small Bible study of six women who meet in her home.

INTERESTED IN MORE STORIES?

Signing up for IGL's quarterly newsletters and weekly emails will connect you to our latest testimonials from South Asia. Sign up and learn more at www.IGLWorld.org/Subscribe.

MY ANSWER MUST BE YES

Dan Jarvis, Mission Mobilizer

My life changed for the better, forever, in November 2009.

I thought I was heading out on a brief mission trip.

I thought I was visiting India to “verify” what I had read in reports, so that I would know if my church should really be supporting a group I was just becoming acquainted with, *India Gospel League*.

I thought I was going to teach, to encourage, and to make a difference as a pastor teaching other pastors.

It turns out, I was actually beginning a journey that would recalibrate my Christian life in a massive way, that would redirect my ministry and fill me with a vision I’d never before seen.

On the long flight home, my heart was bursting with excitement and my mind was swimming in details and new experiences. Since I’m a writer by trade, I couldn’t wait to record my impressions, so I pulled out my laptop and started pounding away in the skies high above Europe.

Here are a few of my notes:

From the tropics of Bangalore to the arid hills outside Nasik, and on to the bustling crowds of Delhi, my experience in South Asia was both rewarding and surprising. Merely showing up in India was eye-opening, as I suppose any visit to a developing nation is for an American. But I found far more than a refreshed gratefulness for the material blessings of the West, or a renewed desire to share with those in need.

*Through the kind staff at **India Gospel League**, and the many unique people I met in their network, I encountered God’s kingdom in ways I’d never anticipated – and, in ways I’d hoped were true, but had never experienced personally. While the moments I shared with believers half a world away can’t possibly be captured in print, I’ll do my best to report what I saw and felt.*

I remember thinking I had somehow stepped into the book of Acts – to a place with bold faith, deep darkness, ugly idols, passionate prayer, rural villages, desperate needs, and even miracles to behold. I remember wondering if I even wanted to return to “life as usual” back home. I knew my church was going to have questions, and so I started my report:

Everything I hoped was true about the ministry work in Asia was proven true, in fact, it was better than I hoped. Like you, I’ve seen pictures of smiling orphans in Christian care and pictures of little cement church buildings in remote villages with crowds of new believers out front – and like you, I’ve wondered if the fantastic accounts of growth that accompany such images are really representative of the work. Are these exceptions, or the rule? I’m thrilled to report that I now have my own pictures, my own memories, and my own countless handshakes and “praise the Lord” greetings from Indian believers to prove that God is working. At least as far as IGL is concerned, it is as real on the ground as it appears to be in the newsletters. (By the way, “praise the Lord” is some of the only English the village believers know – if you go yourself, you’ll hear it often!)

I met one pastor who has planted seven churches in the last three years over a fifty kilometer radius – and he only has three volunteer assistants to help in the work. He told me has begun evangelism in an eighth village. The work of a lifetime? Not for this man – he is praying that he can be a part of one thousand church plants before he dies. I’d say this Indian version of the Apostle Paul is off to a strong start! And I met so many other dear Christian workers just like him.

The quality of the faith commitment I witnessed captivated me. Did these people believe the New Testament more literally than me? I’ve always believed the Bible, but somehow, they actually believe it. I saw children rising at 5 a.m. for an hour of prayer and song. I met people who were taking great personal risks to get the gospel into hostile areas. I met pastors who

were actively training up scores of young men for future ministry. I wasn’t hearing about retirement plans or vacation condos; I was hearing about all-night prayer meetings and intensive evangelism efforts.

My report continued:

I and my traveling companions, accompanied by IGL leaders, were given the privilege of speaking to groups of church planters in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Delhi. Never before have I felt so humbled, so inadequate, and so blessed beyond what I have earned or deserved. What does someone like me have to say to men and women like these? When the question was asked at one conference of over two hundred leaders, “How many of you face persecution and opposition?” and nearly everyone raised their hands while giving an audible shout in reply – I tearfully wondered what on earth I was doing on the platform preparing to teach. Should not these faithful servants be teaching me? And when we were given the honor of participating in the ordination of eighteen men who had each planted churches already – well, who was I to lay hands upon them to confirm their calling?

I grew up in a church that really valued missions, and I’m eternally grateful for that. All of those mission presentations set the stage for what God wanted to do in my life. But even with all that background knowledge, it wasn’t until I took up Sam Stephen’s offer in 2009 to “come and see” that I really saw. I saw what God was doing, I saw where He was working in a special way. Venturing throughout India with Sam, Pastor Benny, and many others from the IGL team verified and solidified my own hearts’ cry: I want to be a part of the Great Commission!

Prayerfully and tearfully, as the plane touched down in New York, I finished writing my first-ever IGL report. It wouldn’t be my last. Since then I’ve been able to join the team as a vision caster and mission mobilizer, to share the amazing story of what God is doing with others! My last entry that day was like a challenge to my future self, I guess – and I hope it can be a challenge for you as well:

I’ve heard it said that we should find out where God is moving and join him in his work. What will this mean, to me? Do I return to the life I’ve lived, content with the possible and predictable? Will I sag back into my lazy, uneventful Christianity? I hope not.

Can I import what I learned to my own culture, to my own church? Can I give more, or dream more, or attempt more? Or even return someday? As I recount the faces of the believers who greeted me, knowing these dear brothers and sisters are sacrificing so much for the gospel – and knowing that the job is not yet done – in their nation or in mine – my answer must be YES.

FILL OUT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

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- I would like to receive email updates from IGL.
 Please send me additional information about IGL in the mail.
 I would like to give with my credit/debit card.
(IGL accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.)

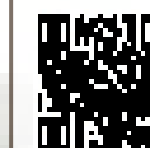
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Authorized Signature _____

Make checks payable to India Gospel League.

We strive to exercise good stewardship at all times by using your gifts wisely and effectively to further the kingdom of Jesus Christ in rural India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. In fact, we are committed to investing at least 85% of every dollar in kingdom work with only 15% of designated contributions used to cover overhead expenses.



If you’d rather give online, scan the QR code or go to www.IGLWorld.org/Give.

SHARE EVANGELISM & CHURCH PLANTING

Gift item	Qty	Cost	Total
barefoot pastor sponsorship	_____	\$100/mo	\$ _____
bicycle for pastor	_____	\$100	\$ _____
motorcycle for pastor	_____	\$1,250	\$ _____
wmm organizer sponsorship	_____	\$50/mo	\$ _____
tools for worship			
bible w/study guide and notes	_____	\$5	\$ _____
discipleship training material	_____	\$5	\$ _____
leadership training material	_____	\$15	\$ _____
gospel tracts (1,000 pcs.)	_____	\$8	\$ _____
worship/prayer mat	_____	\$10	\$ _____
gas lantern	_____	\$60	\$ _____
musical instrument	_____	\$75	\$ _____
p.a. system	_____	\$460	\$ _____
bible student sponsorship	_____	\$50/mo	\$ _____
children's gospel clubs	_____	\$1	\$ _____
prayer shed	_____	\$2,650	\$ _____
life center	_____	\$8,000	\$ _____
training conference costs	_____	\$55	\$ _____

LOVE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Gift item	Qty	Cost	Total
child sponsorship	_____	\$35/mo	\$ _____
gifts for sponsored children			
my child's code is: _____			
bible	_____	\$5	\$ _____
water bottle	_____	\$5	\$ _____
stationery	_____	\$5	\$ _____
lunch box	_____	\$5	\$ _____
board game	_____	\$15	\$ _____
new outfit	_____	\$20	\$ _____
birthday party	_____	\$50	\$ _____
soccer ball	_____	\$5	\$ _____
cricket set	_____	\$10	\$ _____
necklace	_____	\$5	\$ _____
hair accessory	_____	\$5	\$ _____
jump rope	_____	\$5	\$ _____
craft kit	_____	\$10	\$ _____
doll	_____	\$15	\$ _____
holiday dinner for child/home	_____	\$15/\$275	\$ _____
house parent chooses gift	_____	\$20	\$ _____
education			
school supplies	_____	\$15-25	\$ _____
community college fund	_____	\$100	\$ _____
day care center facility	_____	\$1,200	\$ _____
benches and desks	_____	\$2,500	\$ _____
clothes for one child	_____	\$20	\$ _____

home for children or families in need

family home	_____	\$4,200	\$ _____
children's cottage	_____	\$45,000	\$ _____
children's home	_____	\$350,000	\$ _____
un-sponsored children	_____	any amt	\$ _____

CARE MEDICAL OUTREACH

Gift item	Qty	Cost	Total
nursing student sponsorship	_____	\$50/mo	\$ _____
nursing school textbooks	_____	\$55	\$ _____
wheelchair	_____	\$85	\$ _____
Sharon Hospital fund	_____	any amt	\$ _____
Children's Wellness Center	_____	any amt	\$ _____
Palliative Care Center	_____	any amt	\$ _____
medical camp	_____	\$550	\$ _____
surgery	_____	\$250	\$ _____
telemedicine center	_____	\$6,200	\$ _____
leprosy care			
shoes for leprosy victim	_____	\$25	\$ _____
meal for leper colony	_____	\$400	\$ _____
housing for leprosy victim	_____	\$4,200	\$ _____

SERVE RURAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gift item	Qty	Cost	Total
sewing machine	_____	\$120	\$ _____
adult literacy training	_____	\$5	\$ _____
micro-credit loan	_____	\$150	\$ _____
livestock			
goat	_____	\$85	\$ _____
25 chickens & coop	_____	\$100	\$ _____
cow	_____	\$600	\$ _____
nutritious meals for a month	_____	\$10	\$ _____
clean water well without overhead tank	_____	\$1,250	\$ _____
clean water well with overhead tank	_____	\$2,500	\$ _____
skills center training	_____	\$3,500/yr	\$ _____
share of skills center training	_____	\$25/mo	\$ _____
adopt-a-village (5 yr. commitment)	_____	\$1,250/mo	\$ _____

give this gift where it's most needed on the ground in India. \$ _____

give this gift for general use in the ministry \$ _____

I'd like to give a monthly recurring gift. \$ _____

*designate an area of ministry or specific item (optional): _____

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"I want to encourage you to keep praying. Yes, persecution is growing. Opposition lurks everywhere and extremists are feeling empowered to carry out their dark agenda. But right alongside that darkness, a great light is shining. Jesus is building His church, just as He promised to do."

— Sam Stephens, President of India Gospel League

To express our gratitude for your partnership with us, for gift orders totaling \$75 or more, we'll send you a special thank you gift!



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