

PARTNERSHIP GUIDE

YOU CAN HELP

TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



INSIDE

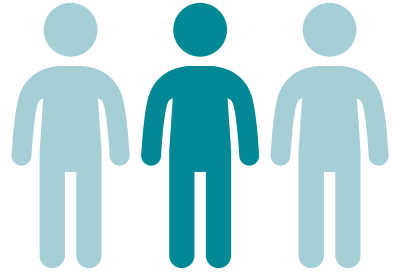
SPECIFIC PROJECT IDEAS

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIPS

GLOBAL OUTREACH OPTIONS

FOR FAMILIES, CHURCHES
AND YOU

LIFE-GIVING CHURCHES | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES



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



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



How do I move my church up to the frontlines?

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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India Gospel League is headquartered in Tamil Nadu, India. Our U.S. administrative office can be contacted at India Gospel League, 1521 Georgetown Road – Suite 305, Hudson, Ohio 44236 – info@iglworld.org, 888.352.4451.

YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

A *kairos* moment.

There are certain “opportune” moments when God works in a special way, when things we never expected start to happen.

Years ago, when my father died and entrusted the leadership of India Gospel League (IGL) to me, I would never have guessed that a *kairos* moment was upon us. Not just upon our ministry team but upon the entire region of South Asia.

For us, as a small ministry based in Tamil Nadu, we saw something changing on the field – a fresh openness to the gospel, a fresh strategy at work, a spiritual movement of historic proportions. Jesus is always building His church, of course, but this was unlike anything we'd ever seen.

For example, in our network, we've seen more than 85,000 new congregations planted in just the past 25 years. Thousands of leaders are being trained for multiplication, to reach the thousands of remaining villages still lacking a consistent, life-giving, biblical gospel witness. Children and youth ministries are exploding in size, paving the way for a new generation of Christian believers – the largest yet in the history of my culture.

Today, IGL is one among many ministries in this part of the world seeing a harvest, and sensing this *kairos* moment opportunity. But there is still more work to do, and there are many ways that partners from around the world can join.

That's what this *Partnership Guide* is all about – equipping and inspiring you and your church to think globally, to help us finish a great work of church planting that has already begun, to disciple a generation and to serve and love people in great need.

Would you like to partner with us at this “opportune time”? To extend your own global impact, for God's glory?

A great harvest awaits.

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 (\$30/mo, on page 12), and, for just \$1 per child, year-long discipleship clubs for village children (page 12).

Connect to Capital Projects

IGL also helps facilitate partnerships for constructing 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 building in South Asia costs around \$8,000 (page 9). Water wells in areas without access to clean water can cost 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 higher-capacity partners with IGL opt to adopt entire villages or regions for comprehensive ministry advancement. 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 (see page 20). Adopt-a-Village partners often see hundreds of villagers begin the transition from crushing poverty and hopelessness to a brighter future – both spiritually and materially.

HOW BIG IS YOUR VISION?

Partnership makes things possible that otherwise would have been out of reach.

For example, is it really possible for any single one of us to make an impact on the other side of 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 mission partnerships, the answers are yes, yes and yes again!

- **Partnerships 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.
- **Partnerships 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.
- **Partnerships keep us from “reinventing the wheel”** – recognizing where God is already at work among the people groups of the world and joining Him in that work.
- **Partnerships 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.
- **Partnerships 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!
- **Partnerships are biblical** – New Testament examples of kingdom advancement showcase how believers in different regions can support, affirm, send out, pray for and minister to one another.

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

*"Lift up your eyes, and see that
the fields are white for harvest."*

– Jesus, John 4:35



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 85,000 new village churches planted. (We define a church as at least twenty baptized adult 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. We believe it is unhealthy for a church to rely on external funds or external leadership, outside of the national church network (NAIC) set up by IGL. This commitment to self-sustaining, self-led models has allowed more than 85,000 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 would 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**.

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 **\$1,050**.

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



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 support a pastor attend a training conference for **\$55**.

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**.



PRAYER REQUESTS



- » For the hundreds of thousands of village communities still in need of their first church.
- » For the thousands of churches in need of meeting spaces to accommodate growth.
- » For the 500+ new churches opening every month throughout IGL’s network.
- » For our pastors facing persecution in some areas.



LOVE KIDS IN NEED

*“Let the children come to me
and don't stop them!”*

— Jesus, Luke 18:16

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 2016, more than 800,000 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 \$30 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!



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 church in Ohio designated \$100,000 to Children's Gospel Clubs – enough to eternally-impact the lives of 100,000 children!

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**.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- » For the millions of South Asian youth who are growing up without access to the gospel.
- » For every child being discipled in Children's Gospel Clubs this year.



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'S FUND

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 our Un-sponsored Children's Fund. **Any amount** is put to good use!



CARE FOR THE SICK

“Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched [the leper].”

– Mark 1:41



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, with only 150 palliative care centers across India, IGL decided to renovate its general hospital to help fill this much needed gap in medical care. In 2017, Sharon Hospital also plans to open an entire section dedicated to palliative care for children!

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

More than 14,500 patients were cared for through IGL's medical outreach in 2015, and 782 new nurses graduated from our accredited nursing school, 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 2016, our cutting edge Tamil Nadu hospital was renovated to include a palliative care center alongside the already existing general hospital. Construction is underway to open a brand new Children's Wellness Center in 2017 on the Sharon Hospital campus, aiming in particular to serve kids in the most need - those with terminal illnesses and in need of palliative care. Financial partners in this work make it possible for children who have no financial means to enjoy best-in-class Christian care during the most difficult moments of their earthly journey. Your gift of any amount to the "Sharon Hospital" fund would be greatly appreciated, and our team can provide you with updates and details.

Also, if you have medical expertise and would enjoy helping IGL on a short-term mission trip basis, check our website for details about upcoming trips. Your medical trip would begin at this primary facility and then extend out to mobile village clinics in areas where no doctors are regularly available. www.IGLWorld.org/Go



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-planted churches are often willing to serve as forward bases in the extension of medical help. 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

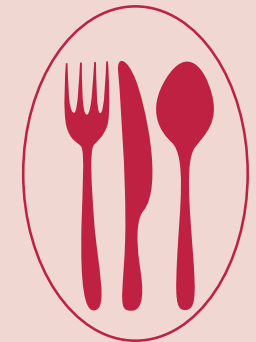
SHOES FOR LEPERS

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**.



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**.



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!



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 those with medical needs to see the love and compassion of Christ in our staff.
- » For local churches to embrace the vision of providing medical training and clinics.
- » For God to give wisdom to our doctors and nurses as they encounter many tragic circumstances.



SERVE THE POOREST OF THE POOR

"Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do."

— Paul, Galatians 2:10

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 100 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 end up sending their women on multi-kilometer treks 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 trek away for water), more capacity for farming, etc.

Water wells in South Asia average out to a cost of just \$1,250. It is also possible for us to provide pictures of the new well to sponsors 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

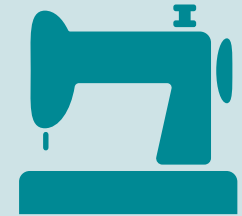
CHICKENS WITH A COOP

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



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.



MICRO-CREDIT LOANS

After job skills training, those desiring to lift themselves out 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.



ADULT LITERACY TRAINING

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

- » For God's wisdom as we determine which of near-infinite needs to meet next.
- » For village elders (often not Christians) to be welcoming of local church economic development initiatives.
- » For additional Adopt-a-Village sponsorships, and the field administrators of these programs.
- » 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.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

An interview with John Dreyer Vice-President of IGL Operations in North America, and CEO of The Shelby Group, Chicago, IL.

John, why do you think it makes sense to invest time and treasure reaching South Asia with the gospel? And why IGL in particular?

I believe India represents one of the best opportunities on earth today to both serve the poor and reach the lost. When I was introduced to IGL a few years ago, I learned that their primary work is in the rural villages (where the greatest needs are) and that this is a ministry that leads with the gospel.

I was impressed that this is a fully indigenous ministry, so even if foreign support were to dry up, there would still be robust ministry work happening. Granted, without partnership, the rate of growth might slow down, but because IGL builds everything to become self-sustaining, the bulk of the work would still move forward. To me, that's really unique, and strategic!

What was your first step of involvement?

After I heard reports from the field, I actually flew over there to do due diligence. I wanted to see it for myself, take my own pictures, and meet Sam Stephens in his own home. I also wanted to evaluate the organization on the ground – and honestly, when I saw it, when I visited IGL's headquarters in Tamil Nadu, when I saw the printing presses rolling with new children's materials, when I met the pastors and medical workers involved – I really became a believer. At that point, it was no longer “if” I should be a part of IGL, but rather, “how?”

At first, you became a financial partner and an advisor to IGL's North American Board, and today, you volunteer as the Vice President of Operations for the U.S. office. How did that come about?

Well, I am always looking for ways to serve God's purposes, and it was apparent to me that there was work I could do in North America to help the ministry in India. In my own company, I lead a staff that works all over the world with large organizations, helping them boost their efficiency and organizational clarity. I saw that the same skill sets could really help IGL here, as the North American team seeks to be as efficient and effective as possible – sharing the story, raising up new partners, processing donations, faithfully managing funds, etc.

So, serving as the VP for IGL's operations here is one of the best ways I feel I can serve Sam and the team over there. I love helping more people see and support this exciting vision! (And in this regard, there is a lot more work to do. We need all sorts of ambassadors to join our team here in the U.S. to help us tell the story!)

What excites you about the future of IGL?

There are still over a billion people who do not know Christ in South Asia, and very few organizations have the scale to really disciple them in this generation. Given IGL's track record, I think there are many reasons to be excited! I look at it this way: the Holy Spirit is working – and He will do His work with or without me. But I count it as a great honor to play just a small part in what He is doing across the world.

If you're like me, and you're looking for an effective place to invest your time, talent, and treasure for the kingdom, I'd encourage you to pray about linking arms with IGL.



John Dreyer

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, and meet barefoot pastors, see our medical ministries and more!
- ➡ More than 450 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.

"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

"It was an experience of a lifetime! The trip was an immense blessing and growing experience for me. God revealed and is continuing to reveal Himself to me in all new ways. This was a whole new step in my faith walk."

– Shannon Dean, Women-with-a-Mission trip in February 2016

"I've used words like **incredible, phenomenal, and amazing** to describe my trip. I love the heart of IGL to not only plant churches but to ensure these churches are 'life giving' churches to their villages...Everything IGL does points back to the local church. Also, IGL's vision for leadership development among pastors is spot on."

– Pastor Dale Ryals, Eyewitness trip in June 2016

"It was a huge learning experience and motivator. I got to experience how big God is, in a way I had not previously."

– Ian McCullough, Teacher Training trip in August 2015

"I did not expect for my heart to be so changed from this trip...My heart breaks knowing that there is such a high population of people in India who have not yet heard the Gospel or have very limited access to a church community."

– Joanna Winters, Veterinary trip in January 2016

To get started

on your journey to South Asia, call IGL's U.S. office to discuss planning a trip and answer your specific questions: **888.352.4451**

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.

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 almost 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 inadvisable 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.





ONE FACE AMONG THOUSANDS

The project reports from the field can sometimes be a bit overwhelming – thousands of churches being planted? Villages being transformed? Pastors training up disciples? Below we've included a testimonial from just one pastor in our network. Please keep him and the many dear servants of Christ like him in prayer!

I grew up as a troublemaker, and was known to the police in my hometown. I met Christ when my mother was severely sick. She and I had gone for help to various temples, magicians and witch doctors, but with no relief. Then we met a pastor who prayed in Jesus' name, and my mother was completely healed within a month. Of course, upon seeing this miraculous recovery, we both put our faith in Jesus Christ! I was 18 at the time.

The rest of my family was furious that we had become Christians, and my friends wanted nothing more to do with me! But I was completely transformed. The love of God filled my heart so completely that I forgave my family members and angry friends. Not long after that, the Lord called me into ministry work, and I started pastoring a village church after my theological training was complete.

Since then, I have seen God work in some amazing ways, and, we've met with our share of resistance. Once, a local mob attacked me for sharing the gospel with the low-caste people. They beat me up and told me to stop the ministry work because they didn't believe in equality of all people, as the Bible teaches.

So, I would of course ask for prayer regarding our continued protection – for both me and my family. There is so much work to do in our area, and so many projects that need to be done. I have a goal to train up twenty young pastors who can serve alongside me and to extend branch ministries into ten villages nearby. We have been praying to have a ministry to youth in our area that are addicted to drugs, and we're planning to start a school in our village through our church.

– Pastor Nehemiah
Barefoot Pastor with IGL

Interested in more stories?

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

GOD IS DOING MARVELOUS THINGS

Mission Mobilizer Dan Jarvis writes about his experience getting to know Pastor Prag, who now serves as one of IGL's regional leaders on the island nation of Sri Lanka, off the southeastern coast of India.

I was recently traversing the beautiful island of Sri Lanka, collecting stories and updates about God's powerful work among recently-reached villages. I met a pastor who served as a translator for me, and along the way, we became friends. When our interviews were done, and knowing that Prag had a ministry story to share himself, I asked if he'd give me a few minutes of his time to tell me about it. Since the moment we spoke, his words have shaken me.

His journey with Christ began when he was a Hindu priest, searching for real truth, crying out in vain for help. God miraculously brought him to faith in Christ, and he became a pastor in the years that followed. His heart was to reach out to those who, like him, found no hope in the faith he had been brought up to believe. I asked him specifically about his ministry vision. "That each and every place on this island would have a church planted," he replied with resolute intensity.

He has already been organizing to help street beggars, orphans and those most in need, heralding a specific message for them: "You are loved—loved with an everlasting and gracious love, the personal love of Jesus." And many are responding. From jungle huts and crowded marketplaces, men, women and children are hearing the Word of God and putting their faith in Jesus Christ. My friend now pastors six different congregations, and more than one hundred children attend his village Sunday School. **In just one month's time, forty-seven new believers were baptized.**

Here's the amazing thing: there are many more pastors like my friend. Thousands, actually, who are proclaiming the gospel, planting churches in previously unreached areas, enduring poverty, risking persecution, and saying yes to the most impossible assignments—all throughout South Asia.

Even though this region is still home to most of the

world's yet-to-be-reached people, the statistics are rapidly changing! When people set their hearts on the Great Commission—when they lay everything on the altar before God—things start happening. Mighty movements are sparked to life!

I asked my pastor friend what challenge he might have for Christians across the world who would read my field report. He said,

"Tell them we don't have a fight with human beings, but with demonic forces. We have to teach people to go out with the gospel. We must stand firm—faithfully, truly, holy, with all that we are to do this work. It is a great privilege to serve God. He is doing marvelous things in the world."

He offered me encouragement from the book of Jude: "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

But Prag wasn't finished. His voice was quivering and his eyes were filled with tears.

"The Lord God is choosing us from the dust for His work, not our work. With our last breath, we are to run to Him. That is my vision; that is my hope."

I was speechless.

Can I imagine working with my whole heart for God, sharing the gospel, serving and loving the needy as Jesus did all the way up until my last breath? Then, in that final moment, turning and running toward my Lord? Can I imagine enduring persecution and scorn, taking bold leaps of faith and specific steps of obedience, spending my energy and my heart until the very end, then collapsing into the arms of Jesus to rest for eternity with Him?

The vision Jesus has set before us is so clear: everyone, everywhere needs the gospel. And is that vision not worth the best we have to offer? Of course, I want to obey that calling in my own Jerusalem, in the place where I live. But I also see the value, and the near-limitless opportunity, of partnering together with brothers and sisters across the world, equipping them to carry the gospel into places where I could never go and where no church planter has ventured before.

If your heartbeat matches ours, if you see the vision that Prag and thousands of other faithful workers are seeing, if you long for the day when our Great Commission is fully and finally complete, then by all means, stand with us, for God's glory.

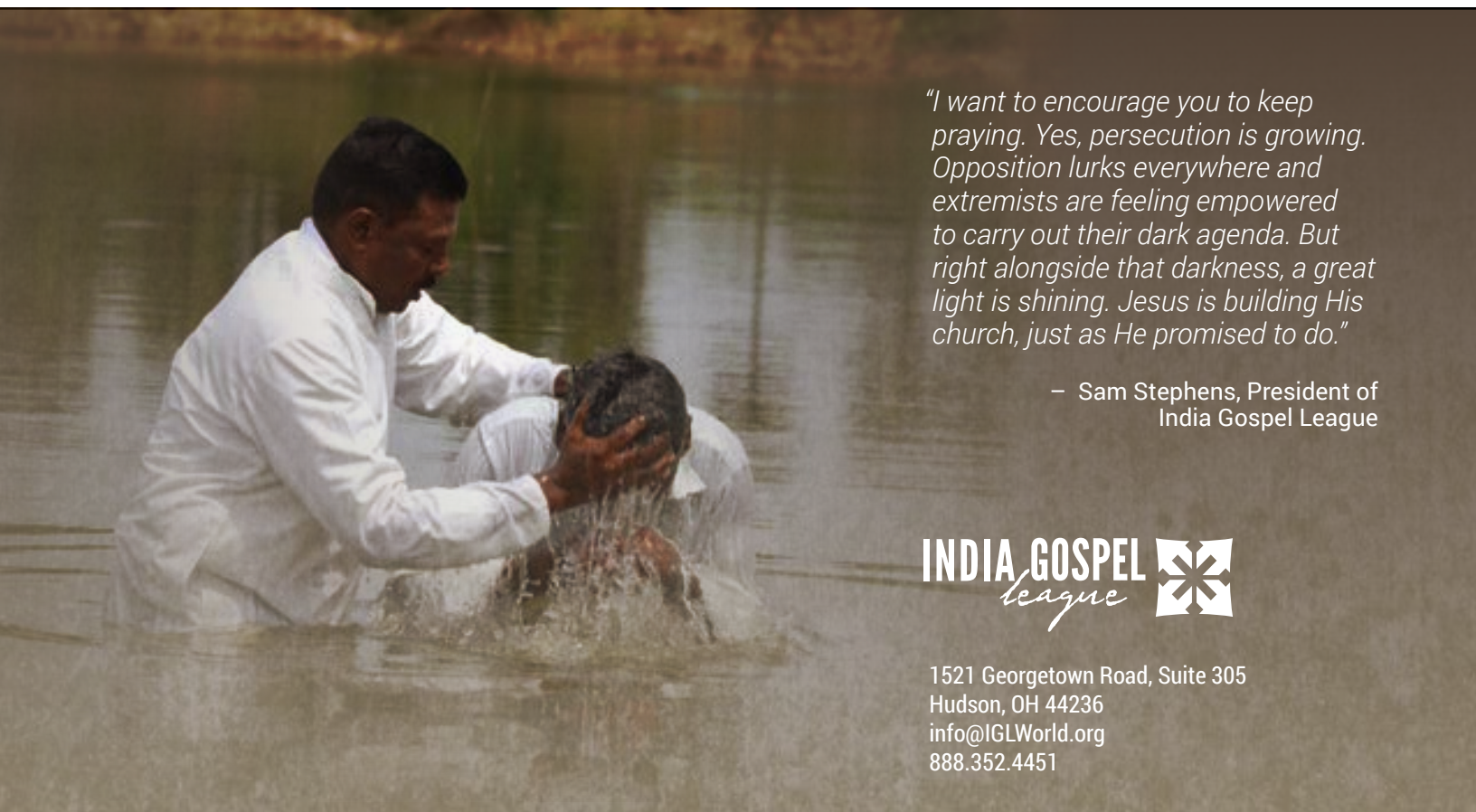


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"I want to encourage you to keep praying. Yes, persecution is growing. Opposition lurks everywhere and extremists are feeling empowered to carry out their dark agenda. But right alongside that darkness, a great light is shining. Jesus is building His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

— Sam Stephens, President of
India Gospel League



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