



ICGM MISSION UPDATE

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VISION & MISSION

VISION

Every people group in all the states of our country has a witnessing church run by its own people.

MISSION

We as disciples of Jesus Christ are committed to go to any unreached people group, wherever our Lord leads us to make indigenous churches.

VALUES

Love God, faithfulness to God and man, and concern for the lost souls are the core values of India Church Growth Mission.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. *Rev 7:9*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are delighted to have you read this newsletter.

Greetings in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been a pleasure to share with you each month the wonderful works that the Lord has done.

I was invited by Rev Kulothungan to share the Word during the all-night prayer at St Peter's Church in Nagpur. I shared the Word and also shed light on the mission of ICGM. The following day, I had the privilege of attending the graduation ceremony of Yavatmal College for Leadership Training in Yavatmal. During the event, I challenged the graduating class to embrace missions and serve with passion.

The next day, during the morning commissioning service, I presented the ICGM deck to the YCLT students and staff. It was a valuable opportunity to inspire and challenge the young people to actively engage in missions and embrace the call to serve.

The Gondi New Testament and the Audio New Testament were dedicated in the Immanuel CSI church in Bhilai on 21st April. Rev. Martin organized the entire Sunday service, which was followed by a good lunch. The VBS leadership team visited our campsite and encouraged us with their songs and skits.

The Gondi disciples have been facing significant challenges for the past 20 months. We decided to meet in Raipur from the 20th to the 23rd of April. God enabled us to meet as planned despite the scorching heat. 144 people attended the meetings. A majority were young, and at the end of the meetings, forty committed themselves to serving God. We praise God for His faithfulness! Mr. Thongkhopao, our North India regional head, efficiently coordinated the program

We look forward to having more programs to encourage young people, train them in discipleship and prepare them for secular employment opportunities. Your fervent prayers for the local leadership are greatly appreciated. We are grateful to God that the VBS programs have commenced in Tamil Nadu churches. These efforts are coordinated by Rev Immanuel Pandi, South regional head.

With love and prayers,

Your brother in the Lord
Rev. A. Leslie Nagarajan

Letter
from the
General Servant



Pictures

3 days Gondi Retreat at Raipur Chhattisgarh



Gondi New Testament Dedication at Bhilai Chhattisgarh



Undergoing Perungamanalur Church Parsonage Madurai



Message



What is directing my life?

Lessons from the life of King Joash (2 Chronicles 24)

Who does not love a movie or a novel with a gripping story? The life of King Joash is one such story which unfolds in the face of treason, betrayal, a blood thirsty villain, massacre of royalty, assassination, and power play. Baby Joash is rescued and protected by his aunt Jehosheba and her husband Jehoiada. Some lessons to learn from King Joash's life:

His advisors directed his life

Joash was quite dependent on his mentor, advisor, regent, priest, and father-figure, Jehoiada for guidance and direction (2 Chron 24: 2,3,14). Jehoiada became his moral and spiritual compass. After Jehoiada's death, Joash listened to other officials and followed their gods. He clearly lacked personal conviction and devotion.

Growing up in the temple and having a godly mentor did not really help. He failed to read God's Law everyday as expected of a King (Deut. 17:18,19). This made him dependent on other people and look to them for approval and acceptance. His life teaches us not to become dependent on others but act from a personal conviction and relationship with God. And to make His word, our moral compass.

Past circumstances influenced his self-esteem and self-worth.

Joash had had a difficult and traumatic childhood. He was rescued from the jaws of death, grew up without parents and relatives and was confined to a safe room in the temple. He had his share of insecurities and self-doubts. He repairs and reforms the temple, and starts off big. In fact, he aspires to restore it to its former glory, but that devotion and reverence is absent later when he commits murder in the same temple courts desecrating God's sanctuary. We wonder about his true commitment to God.

Did it stem from a need for appreciation from people? Did he want to make a name for himself? In contrast, we see Moses who had had a difficult childhood too but dealt with his adult insecurity by depending on God and remaining humble. God

used him to rescue His people. It is a reminder that our past circumstances do not determine our worth, and what God can do. When we commit our painful past to God, He can restore us and use us for His glory. When we trust and obey Him, we can enjoy the peace and security that come from depending on Him.

Inherited nature controlled his behaviour

Joash's family tree was not something he could be proud of. He was born in the lineage of Jezebel, Athaliah, and wicked kings. His evil nature surfaces quick enough when he murders his own cousin, priest Zechariah, the son of his foster-parents, without any remorse, gratitude, or repentance. He was definitely controlled by his inner nature. A few generations later, in the same lineage we see the rise of King Hezekiah who was in stark contrast to his predecessors. His character was different because he held onto God's commands and followed Him (2 Kings 18:3, 5, 6).

Some of us may have inherited some unhealthy qualities and patterns. It may be because of the fallen nature that is in us. We have desires of the flesh that we struggle to overcome. However, as Paul reminds us, we are a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5: 17) and when we walk by His Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5: 16). Are we controlled by the Spirit of God in our everyday life, or the desires of flesh? Are we in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ?

Sin separated him from God

Towards the end, Joash reached a point of no return. His heart was so calloused that he did not realise he was far away from God. Idolatry, murder, and other evil he committed separated him from God (2 Chr 24: 20). Our God is mighty to save, and we can depend on Him for help. However, as Isaiah reminds us, our sin can isolate us from Him (Is 59:1-2).

We may not commit murder, follow other gods, and do blatantly wicked things but have idols we nurture within us. A sin that needs to be cleansed. As Susanna Wesley defines, "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself." What sin in our lives is obscuring our view of God? We need to remove it to enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling relationship with God.

What are we dependent on which is directing our lives? Is it other people, a past circumstance, my inner nature, or the sin I wilfully commit?

Shall we commit our lives to God so He can redirect our lives?

By Dr. Susanna Sam, ICGM Board Member.

Testimony



My name is C. Vincent and I hail from Mount Zion village near Rajapalayam. I come from a Christian family, with my father actively involved in Evangelical Ministry. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour during my time at a VBS in an AG Church. In 2011, I experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit and on February 19th, 2012, I took baptism in an AG Church.

As a believer attending a church near Rettiyampatti village, I was blessed to engage in Children's Ministry, where God enabled me to impact the lives of three children who eventually dedicated themselves to full-time ministry. After completing college, I went to Chennai for a job, while continuing my ministry involvement with VCYM.

However, due to unforeseen health issues, I returned to my hometown, where God graciously provided opportunities for service at New Life Christian Mission in Salem, alongside my work in the village.

After getting married, my wife and I relocated to Madurai for work purposes. We have been attending the Power of God church and we are in the service of helping others. Last December, through the ministry of God's servant and the proclamation of His Word, we felt the call to full-time ministry. My wife received a special anointing from God during this time. For two months, we eagerly awaited further direction for our ministry journey. Eventually, the Lord graciously opened doors for us to serve in the ICGM Ministry. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to be part of the work of God through ICGM.

Praise & Prayer Points

Praise Points

- ▶ For the Vision casting opportunity at Nagpur and Yavatmal college of Leadership Training from 5-7th April.
- ▶ For the wonderful Gondi Samaj meeting at Raipur from 20-23rd April in which 140 people attended and forty committed their life to serve God.
- ▶ All the needs were met locally by generous donors in Chhattisgarh state.
- ▶ God's grace and protection for the general servant in the last month of travel

Prayer Points

- ▶ For the staff retreat planned from May 13-16 at Munnar for the TN field staff.
- ▶ For the audit scheduled in this month to be completed on time.
- ▶ For the efficient staff to join us in the mission field in all the states.
- ▶ For the Ayothi patty church to be constructed and also for the parsonages of Indira Nagar and Paraman patty to be built.

FOR DONORS

Church Construction Fund

Account Name : India Church Growth Mission
Account Number : 11194454531
Bank : State Bank of India
Branch Name : Vinayaganagar, Madurai.
IFSC Code : SBIN0001479

General Fund

Account Name : India Church Growth Mission
Account Number : 10143136773
Bank : State Bank of India
Branch Name : Selaiyur Branch, Chennai
IFSC Code : SBIN0007948

INDIA CHURCH GROWTH MISSION

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