



## AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

### Building the Foundation

No one can accuse the Presbyterian Church of South India (PCSI) of thinking small! Since they began in 2007, they've been working toward their vision of planting 300 churches in south India. But just numbers hasn't been their goal as seen in their motto "Quality, not quantity." They're building a solid foundation for their churches. To reach their goal, they have set three objectives: require continuous theological education for elders in order to build strong leadership, develop women's discipleship to build strong believing women, and establish an outstanding children's ministry to equip for future generations.

To accomplish their objectives the leadership of PCSI turned to ITEM this February to supply training in addition to that offered at their six training centers. ITEM responded by sending Will Hesterberg, Director of Development, to teach "Biblical Leadership" in February and in July, Rev. Dr. Fritz Harms and his wife Brenda. Fritz taught "Biblical Hermeneutics" to 45 teaching and ruling elders while Brenda taught "Evangelism" to 13 wives. During the joint adult training, two Indian teachers also taught 9 children. The women told the men, "We don't know whether you (men) enjoyed your time of teaching but we certainly enjoyed all our sessions a lot. We have been blessed with a unique and practical subject...learning how to evangelize the Gentiles with patience, care, and building a constant relationship with them."

So, the PCSI has stayed true to its objectives and ITEM is delighted to work with them in building quality so quantity may follow, all by the grace of God. Together PCSI and ITEM thank you for your partnership in this multiplying endeavor.



July Session in Andhra Pradesh



Vidya Boddu, Brenda & Fritz Harms, Joseph Boddu

### Strengthening Families in Ministry Can Strengthen the Church

July 19-21 proved to be a popular time for Indian churches to meet for training. The Presbyterian Church in India, Reformed (PCIR) also conducted a training session in NE India on these dates. Forty-three (43) pastors and wives gathered to share for the three-day "Couples Seminar." On the first day, the couples shared their joys and challenges in ministry and prayed for each other. The group, led by one of our Indian leaders in NE India (name withheld for safety), then met the two remaining days to explore together the theological foundation for the purpose of marriage and God's intention for how husbands and wives are to relate to each other in order to best reflect the image of God in which they are made. The

study and discussion format allowed for much heartfelt sharing of weaknesses and failures leading to confession and repentance.

While ITEM did not send an instructor for this seminar, due to the continuing political unrest and danger, we nevertheless played a key part. ITEM supplied a wealth of teaching materials which were translated into the appropriate tribal languages and then distributed to the participants. These provided the basis for study and discussion. ITEM also helped cover the transportation cost of the pastors and their wives traveling to the seminar. We were particularly excited to have one of the leaders of PCIR doing the training. ITEM is committed to working ourselves out of a job on every mission field by training some leaders even more extensively and intensively who can take over the training from us.

Once again, thank you for enabling ITEM to work with the PCIR to train NE Indian national leaders who are growing the kingdom throughout that area, other parts of India, Myanmar, and Cambodia.



Couples' Marriage Seminar in NE India, July 19-21

### **ITEM Matching Grants**

**Don't forget our two matching grants. The first is for \$5,000 for more preaching conferences. In addition to Ukraine, we have received requests from ministry leaders in Romania and India to bring our preaching conferences there also. Our second matching grant - \$25,000 – is for new investors in 2016. If you would like to give toward these gifts, mark your check accordingly. Thank you.**

### **Opportunities to Pray for ITEM**

1. Praise God for great training sessions in Andhra Pradesh and Churachandpur, India.
2. Praise God for Maurice Sikes' filling in as our instructor in Romania in July.
3. Pray for a successful surgery, August 8, for Debbie Richards, wife of board member and instructor, Dr. Jeff Richards.
4. Pray for successful August 4<sup>th</sup> treatment for Pat Klinger, wife of Secretary Jeff Klinger.
5. Pray for the planning of more preaching conferences this fall and the trainers to lead them.
6. Pray for God to open more fields for training in 2017.

### **“So Easy, So Smart, So Switch”**

That's the slogan for a well-known insurance company, but ITEM would like to appropriate that little phrase for our newsletter email list. If you are currently receiving our newsletter by regular mail but have email, would you consider switching to receive it through email? It's easy; just let us know by mail, email, or phone that you'd like to switch. It's smart, because it will save ITEM time and money and also allow you to share the newsletter with others on your email list.

We're venturing further into the social media mainstream through Facebook. So, like us on Facebook to get more current stories, updates, and pictures.



Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, % of Action International Ministries, 3015 A, 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7T1. In the U.S. to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or through PayPal at [www.ITEM.Org](http://www.ITEM.Org). Ph: 618-939-4836 Email: [lwhesterberg@gmail.com](mailto:lwhesterberg@gmail.com)