



PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS

MAY 2007

Sharing the Written Word

In the remote jungles of Orissa, illiteracy runs to a staggering 93%. While public education in much of India is making strides, most tribal children in this isolated area (where tribal peoples account for nearly 60% of the population) still do not go to school because:

- there is no school, or
- the nearest school is too far for young children to walk through the jungle, and
- family poverty requires the children to work in rice paddies or tend cattle.



This evening class has a student-lantern ratio of 16 to 1

Adding insult to injury, adult villagers' inexperience in doing simple math allows vendors and outsiders to cheat them in commerce.

Reaching Hand Society (RHS), one of our partner organizations, is extending its hand of friendship to these villagers with its Literacy Program. RHS staff members

currently work in 17 tribal villages. As of last month, 357 children and 128 adults were enrolled in the RHS literacy classes. The results are extremely encouraging. In the six months ending April 2007, 37% of those children and 41% of the adults have already learned to read their primary book (in Oriya, the regional language). They are writing well and are learning how to account for their money.

Reaching Hand Society also shares the gospel to people who have never heard the name of Jesus.

When RHS teachers arrive in a village, they let the people know up front that they are Christians. Despite some fear of anti-Christian sentiment—RHS staff have had to leave one village due to opposition—they have accepted that will be part of their mission. "We just pray and go out there and do it," says Remo Paul, son of RHS founders R.A.C. and Iris Paul. Remo has found that sometimes villagers who start out saying they only want literacy lessons are eager to sing and learn from the Bible by the end of the day.

Reaching Hand Society has the ambitious but obtainable goal of

reaching each and every village in their district with their literacy program—some 239 more villages in all. With your prayers and financial support, it will happen!

The literacy project costs only \$280 per village and averages \$8 per person for the entire year. Please give generously! God bless.



Arjun Pangi, a member of the Kondh tribe, is a 35-year-old father of three. He cultivates some of his own land and also works as a day laborer. He never went to school as a child. Arjun was very interested in learning how to read and write, so when the RHS literacy program came to his village, he joined and brought his children, too. Now Arjun is well on his way to functional literacy. He has started reading the Bible (photo).

I will help Reaching Hand's Literacy Program



- RHS Literacy Program Where Most Needed * Other _____
**doubled up to \$5,000 when received by May 31!*

I would like to sponsor a friend in India for \$30/mo.

Note: for teachers and pastors, shared sponsorships are \$30/mo; full sponsorships are \$60/mo.

- child widow teacher pastor

I'm enclosing a check payable to India Partners.

I authorize India Partners to withdraw my gift of \$_____ per month, beginning ____/____/____, from the account on the **enclosed voided check**.

Withdrawal on: 1st of the month 15th of the month

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand I can have my automatic withdrawal stopped at any time.



India Partners

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Mission Statement:

Partnering with the people of India in ministry by cultivating relationships, sharing resources, and encouraging self-sufficiency, through the compassion and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

India Partners is a Christian international development and relief organization committed to supporting self-help ministry projects in India.

We believe in helping the people of India help themselves, with God's grace. All are served regardless of caste, religion, gender or creed.

Activities include orphanages, schools, literacy programs, church support, Bible training, disaster relief, vocational training, medical ministry, livestock loans and agricultural projects.

India Partners also manages short-term teams, speakers and sponsorship programs.

India Partners pledges to use your gifts in the most efficient way possible to help suffering people, and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our annual report and independently audited financial statements are available upon request.

India Partners is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax-deductible according to law.

Tax ID#: 93-1164757



Member of the Association of Evangelical Relief & Development Organizations



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What Are Your Plans for Next Winter?

Haven't made plans yet? Good! How about joining a short-term mission team to India?

Serve Orphans and Villagers November 28–December 12, 2007

You will travel to two partner sites in Andhra Pradesh. There you will serve orphanage children, villagers and church communities through a variety of activities that may include eyeglass clinics, first-aid/CPR training, puppet shows, leadership/ministry training, building cooking stoves and leading children's activities.



Serve Jungle Tribes February 14–28, 2008

You will travel to a partner site in Orissa. There you will serve the local tribal peoples through a variety of activities that may include general medical clinics, dental bonding, eyeglass clinics, first-aid/CPR training, puppet shows and leading children's activities. For



those interested in serving for an extended time, this trip may be combined with the "Serve the Disabled" team, below.

Serve the Disabled February 24–March 4, 2008

You will travel to a partner site in Tamil Nadu. There you will serve the physically disabled, who are receiving free computer training, through a variety of activities to include physical therapy, ESL or conversational English and computer training. For those interested in serving for an extended time, this trip may be combined with the "Serve Jungle Tribes" team, above.



The cost is approximately \$3,200, plus round-trip airfare to Los Angeles or San Francisco. To apply or for more information, call team coordinator Brian Stark of DELTA Ministries at (800) 533-5822, go to indiapartners.org, or call us toll-free at 877-87-INDIA.

Photos and stories from our most recent teams may be found on our website. Check them out!

Double Your Gift



Our Spring Matching Fund Drive

concludes this month. Gifts to our Where Most Needed fund, received in our offices by May 31, are being doubled up to \$5,000 by a generous anonymous donor. Double your investment in the ministries and programs of India Partners by giving to our Where Most Needed fund today. Imagine: your gift of \$10 becomes \$20, your gift of \$100 becomes \$200. Please give generously today by donating online or using the enclosed envelope. Thank you!



Gift Annuities are a simple yet effective way to bless the ministries of India Partners while providing lifetime income for yourself. For more information, call us toll-free at 877-87-INDIA.



Pastor Benarjee's Tour Schedule

Pastor Isaac Benarjee, Director of India Abundant Ministries, is in the U.S. on his speaking tour. If he is coming to your area, take advantage of the opportunity to hear him speak. His itinerary includes:



- Eugene, OR: to May 6
- Portland, OR: May 6-14
- Richland, WA: May 17-21
- Santa Cruz, CA: May 21-28
- Porterville, CA: May 28-June 5
- Dallas, TX: June 5-12
- Miami, FL: June 12-18
- Trenton, NJ: June 18-July 2

Details of Pastor Isaac's tour are available at our website, indiapartners.org. It may be possible to have Isaac speak at your church, club or event. Call us at 877-87-INDIA.



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I would like to use my credit card to help:

- Visa MasterCard

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Amount: \$ _____

Card No. _____

Signature _____

Or you may donate securely online using your Visa, MasterCard or Amex at www.indiapartners.org



- I have included India Partners in my will

I am interested in:

- Joining a **volunteer team** to India
- India Partners' **Charitable Gift Annuities**
- Inviting a **speaker** to my church or club
- Learning more about being an **Advocate**
- Receiving India Partners' **prayer letter**:
- via email via surface mail
- The **free biography** of Dr. Iris Paul, *Pioneering on the Pinda*
- The **free DVD** on India Partners' ministries