PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS MAY 2008

# A Sister Church in India

*This is the first in a series of articles on church partnerships in India*

**Eastside Faith Center** is a vibrant church in Eugene, Oregon. About ten years ago, Eastside faced the prospect of a major remodel of their church building, so they did what any church in their situation would do: they formed a committee. During one of their first meetings, a committee member asked, what if their church helped someone else—a struggling congregation in a developing country, say—before they did their own remodeling? Pastor Sean McCartin recalls that what prompted them was Philippians 4:2, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." As Eastside developed their plan, their goal became not just to build a building, but to build a long-term relationship with another congregation somewhere around the world. They wanted to provide material help, but they also wanted to nurture the spiritual growth of a sister congregation. The more they talked about it, the more excited they got.

Another committee member, Mike Brown, knew that India Partners was working with an indigenous ministry in India that wanted to build a rural church. God's timing was evident in that the director of that ministry, was going to be in Eugene while on a speaking tour. He met with Eastside's leaders. He recommended a Dalit village where a congregation had been planted, but they had no building they could call their own.

**Robert Boggs** had encountered much trouble in his life, but in the late '90s he started going to Eastside Faith Center. As he heard about the partnership with this village, Robert became its most vocal advocate. This former rebel wanted ***everyone*** he met to learn about and support the village church. But soon after, Robert suddenly got very ill and was rushed to the emergency room. Even while on the E.R. table, Robert told the doctors and nurses about the village church. They were the last people to hear Robert's joy concerning the village church in India.

His memorial service at Eastside was a tender event. Robert's transformed life and his sudden death catapulted Eastside to support the village church at an even deeper level of commitment than before.

**An India Partners team visits the village church congregation. Eastside Faith Center funded this church building. Many team members were from Eastside.**

In the summer of 2000, Eastside designated special offerings to help build the village church. Mike Brown recalls that no prolonged fundraising effort was required by his church; the response was strong and rapid. By the end of that summer, the people of Eastside met their goal of $10,000—enough to build the church! Mike said, "It was shocking to us to see how far a dollar goes in *(Continued ☞)*

## I want to help the village church project! Here's my gift.

❍ Village Church Project ❍ Where Most Needed (will be matched) ❍ Other _____

❑ $30 ❑ $50 ❑ $75 ❑ $150 ❑ $400 ❑ Other $_____

### One-time Gift

❑ Enclosed is my gift
- ❍ check is enclosed
- ❍ credit card information below

### Credit Card

Please charge my donation to my Visa/MC:

Card # ☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐

Exp. Date ☐☐/☐☐

Name on Card (Print):_____

Signature_____Date_____

**Or donate online at www.indiapartners.org**

### Pledge

❑ I pledge $_____ per month for _____ mos.
- ❍ from my credit card. Information below, left.
- ❍ from my checking account. Information below, right.

### Automatic Withdrawal from Checking

I hereby authorize India Partners to withdraw my gift monthly from the account indicated on the **enclosed voided check** beginning (month/year) _____/_____

Preference for withdrawal: ❍ 1st of mo. ❍ 15th of mo.

Name(s) on Check (Print):

_____

Signature_____ Date _____

## India Partners

P.O. Box 5470
Eugene, Oregon 97405

**Toll-free: 877-87-INDIA**
**(877-874-6342)**
**Phone: (541) 683-0696**

**www.indiapartners.org**
**info@indiapartners.org**


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

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

AERDO
Member of the Association of Evangelical Relief & Development Organizations

ECFA MEMBER
*A higher standard*
*A higher purpose*


**Board of Directors:**
Michael Gerlicher, Brent Hample
James Krueger, Susan Paiement
Dean Rees, Steve Stirling
Milt Watson, M.D.

**Staff:**
Brent Hample, President/CEO
Donna Glass, Regional Representative
Joseph Fancher, Communications Officer
Brian Palmer, Office Administrator


## Your Dollars Will Go a Long Way

Our annual **Spring Matching Fund Drive** continues! ***Gifts to our Where Most Needed fund, received in our offices by May 31, are being matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous generous donor.***

This is a great opportunity for you to double your investment in the people you help through India Partners. Use the tear-off form below or donate online to our Where Most Needed fund. *Thank you!*

# Sister Church

*(Continued from page 1)*

India, and what a good investment it is to invest in the people there. It's not charity; it's an investment. We don't do it out of pity. In the Kingdom economy, it's good business."

**India Partners team members Amy and David in front of dedication plaque. It reads "in memory of Robert Boggs."**

The village church was built within a year and dedicated in January 2002. The dedication plaque reads, "in memory of Robert Boggs."

**Eastside's investment** in the people of the village did not end with building a church. Over the years, Eastside has upheld the people there in prayer, and has also sent several of its church members to serve: dental professionals extracted teeth; a lay team made reading glasses; and others trained local pastors through the use of life journals.

**What's next** for Eastside Faith Center and their sister church? Last summer, Eastside offerings funded the parsonage (now under construction). This summer's offerings will fund site improvements totaling $8,000. These include a secure compound wall and a safe bridge over a canal.

***If you are led, you can join Eastside to help the Village Church. Your gift of $30, $50 or more will help this village church thrive.***

**The future of India's church**

After site construction is complete, the people of Eastside see their partnership moving to help the village church nurture and disciple others. In addition, more Eastside members, including Pastor McCartin, hope to visit their sister church in India.

## Ways Your Church Can Get Involved

Here are several ways your church can partner with the poor of India:

- like Eastside Faith Center, **adopt a sister church in need.** Contact Brent at India Partners for more information.
- **adopt a medical, educational, or holistic ministry project.** Contact Brent, or visit IndiaPartners.org and click on "Current Projects."
- **send a team to India.** We can assist you as much, or as little, as you need. Contact Donna at India Partners, or visit IndiaPartners.org and click on "Join a Team."
- **organize an alternative gift fair** at your church. Contact Donna at India Partners, or download our Gift Catalog at IndiaPartners.org, click on "Toolkit."
- invite a **representative from India Partners** to speak at your church. Contact Brian at India Partners to request a speaker.
- **sponsor a village pastor, Christian schoolteacher, widow or child in need.** Contact Brian at India Partners or go to IndiaPartners.org and click on "Sponsor a Child."

For each of the options, above, visit our website or contact us at 1-877.87.INDIA or email info@indiapartners.org.


India Partners
PO Box 5470
Eugene OR 97405
toll-free 877-87-INDIA


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.