

## Making a difference in India

India is overwhelming for most outsiders – not only because of the population of 1.27 billion people, but also because of the vast diversity, contrasts, intense religious experiences, poverty, technological advances, political challenges, plentiful colours, strong tastes, unadulterated smells, never-ending sounds.

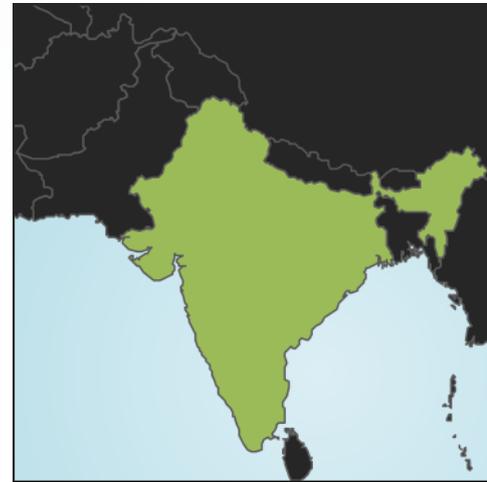
It might seem that the small minority of Christians, mostly coming from marginalized communities, have very little influence. Yet those who truly believe often see how God uses them to lead whole families to faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

With an annual population growth of about 20 million people, the church should grow by at least 460 000 believers per year (50 churches of 25 people each per day), just to maintain the current 2.3% demographic distribution. Leaders need to be found for the new churches and current leaders need to be equipped to lead new believers to maturity in Christ – leaving a non-Biblical worldview behind and embracing all that God has intended in terms of total transformation.

As 50% of India's current population is under the age of 25, new ways have to be found to minister to this generation. Please pray that God will open more doors amongst students and that every trained person will not only apply biblical principles in their own lives, but also make a great effort to disciple others. The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the labourers few. With a full time staff of only five – all Indian people - we need God's wisdom and direction to know how to minister to the vast needs of this nation.

### Focus

The Veritas work in India is focussed in the northern states where the Christian population is the smallest and where a lot of persecution occurred in recent years, especially since 2008. In spite of this, during the last three years an average of 1,089 people per year have been trained.



With the change of government in March 2014, the threat of country-wide persecution increased. However, in these circumstances the training is still multiplying and the spiritual impact is most encouraging.

Local facilitators mostly train in Hindi and Odiya with Nepali training also developing. Veritas College translates material into additional Indian languages as the need arises.

# A church transformed

In a small village in north India two families started meeting for worship in 2007. Nobody had any theological training, but churches were far and these families decided to worship at home. Danie, one of the sons, was working in Delhi and he and his wife experienced how God transformed their lives while they attended all four modules of the Veritas training. After the first module he invited his younger sister, Tina, to travel about 36 hours to Delhi to join the training



Church members in their new building

Tina was later trained as a facilitator and trained her own parents and other family members back home. This is totally against the cultural norm where young people should learn from the elders. All four Veritas modules were presented in this small church and new believers were added as the members reached out. At present the 21 official church members, mostly from non-Christian backgrounds, have an active youth ministry, Sunday School, adult literacy programme and women's ministry in the church and amongst unbelievers. Some who have moved away from the village are impacting their new churches while those left behind are equipping every believer to serve. As a community they have started reaching out to other churches, challenging them to follow their example.

Inspired by the training, church members became faithful in tithing and sacrificial giving. Their new small church building was completed and paid for by a happy local church in November 2013. During celebrations such as Christmas, Good Friday and Easter, it was their custom to invite preachers from outside. Equipped by Veritas College, the leaders are convinced that their own church members deliver life-changing sermons, eliminating the need to invite others. This very small, but growing church has a broad leadership base and all believers are contributing to the expansion of the Kingdom, rather than waiting to be ministered to. Tina is now a full time Veritas staff member in a nearby town.

## Prayer points

1. Staff: The staff consists of three full time facilitators, one administrator and the National Coordinator. Pray that they will work in godly unity, encouraging one another and building each other up.
2. Governing Committee: This was formed recently. Pray for wise decisions, integrity and that the right members will join. The committee will meet again on 21 September 2014.
3. Sanjay Sahu: He is the Country Coordinator. Pray for wisdom, protection and God's guidance to lead the team into a new level of spiritual devotion, productivity and joy in the ministry.
4. Financial support: With India's economic growth, comes escalating costs on all levels. Pray for additional donations.
5. Persecution: Participants (students) and facilitators are exposed to increased persecution. Pray for faith, boldness, forgiveness of persecutors and protection.

While we are grateful for fruit in the ministry in the past 22 years, we realise that there is still much to be done. Countless Christian leaders all over the world have to minister every day without having received adequate (or even any) training. Your prayers and financial contributions will help us to equip them for their service in the Kingdom.

Donations can be made online at [www.veritascollege.org/donate](http://www.veritascollege.org/donate)

Or E-mail for more information [vci@veritascollege.org](mailto:vci@veritascollege.org)

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