



Staying in Touch

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Points of Interest:

- **VBS in India**
- **God's Work in Believers Lives**

Inside this issue:

India	1
From Sam	1
VBS	2
Pastors Work	4
Student Update	4
Fencing Update	4
Family Update	5
Witnessing from Mack	5

Gospel Harvesters
International
1215 Woodland Park Drive
Hurst, TX 76053
www.gospelharvesters.org
mkgih78@gmail.com
817.456.1817

Dear GHI Partners and Friends:

Let me first of all say a big thank you to all of you who make this ministry possible through prayers and giving. This past year has been a difficult one for so many, but God has continued to meet our needs and we find ourselves constantly giving thanks for all the blessings we have been given.



India is still making use of every possible open door for ministry. We are so proud of our team there who have reached out in so many ways to those around them, sharing the good news and using every opportunity for helping in this time of crisis. You will be blessed by Sam's report below.

From Sam

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord God! I hope and trust that you are enjoying God's mercy and goodness. From January 1st, I have been preaching through the Epistle of James. As much as this Epistle has plenty of soul-searching passages, there are also plenty passages of encouragements for the discouraged.



This past week, I preached from James 5:7-11 in our campus. *God's full compassion and mercy, His work in history, His return, and examples from his servants ought to motivate us to be patient in persecution and affliction without grumbling until He comes, just as the farmer waits patiently for the rains and the crops to grow in its season.*

We live in a fast-paced life, where everything is fast. We have fast cars, fast food, fast internet, fast marriages, fast divorce etc. As believers we also want God to act fast and have not learned the important lesson of waiting patiently on the Lord. I am guilty of this too. But, thanks to God, who uses His Word to convict and encourage us.

Special report from Mrs. Fay Samuel: Our VBS 2021 was an Oasis in the Desert.

This caption really means what it says. VBS through the lifetime of every Christian child is one that is looked forward to with great anticipation and eagerness. But the religious fanaticism promoted by politics and COVID-19 played foul for the past few years here in India. It was a grim reality we had to face as Christian ministers yet do our best to share the good news in available platforms. Moreover, a child's perception of the world is not the same as that of an adult as they live for the here and now.

Why VBS during the surge of COVID in the country?

VBS 2021 was born out of pain, pain of losing many great men and women of God and many family members becoming ill due to this vicious disease. Our daughter Amelia had this query, "Why does a good God not stop this pandemic and save millions of lives?" The same question resounded in many children from our orphanage too. To answer this question, we had to show them the nature of God and His attributes. After some discussion with the Children's Ministry Committee, we came up with this year's title "Knowing God".

We planned it for four days 3rd to 6th of June 2021. The audiences were the children from our orphanage and our Pastor's kids. Teachers, volunteers, and the music team were set. We quickly worked on the teaching materials. It is such a blessing as most of our teachers, who are former theology students from our Theological College & Seminary, selected songs that express the character of God, set in order people who served snacks and found volunteers who would help with the overall operations. Here are several of the pictures taken during those days!



We could see the hand of God in all the four days. We could see the Holy Spirit illuminate the scriptures in the minds of these children. The topics were 1) God is loving 2) God is sovereign 3) God is eternal & triune. We made sure that they recollected what they learned every day. There were prayers, singing, action songs, scripture stories, memory verses, missionary biography, Q&A sessions, and recapture of the day's events every day.



The four days were refreshing for both children and adults equally. It was a great time for the teachers to use their God given talents and a good experience for the children to learn the scriptures during the peak of the pandemic.



The final day was a day to remember. Every child had a part to display their talents either through their singing, dancing, reciting memory verse or sharing their testimony of how God has revealed Himself through the scriptures. We had an opportunity to share the gospel with the children and lead them in sinner's prayer.

During the final day Q&A session, questions ranged from "How do I know God loves me"? "If God is good, why are people dying"? "How can I overcome temptations"? All these questions came from 8 years old to 12 years old children. These were prayerfully answered by our leaders. Sam preached a small sermon on "Why do bad things happen"? The children listened to it intently and had most of their doubts cleared. We even recruited Pastors Sam and John to speak!



All glory to God!! With a heart of gratitude, we thank God for His goodness, and everyone involved in it to make this VBS a blessed and successful one. **VBS 2021 was an Oasis in the Desert.**

"Praise the Lord, Oh my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:1-2 NIV.

Fay

From Sam: Encouraged by God's Work in the life of our believers.

Perhaps you would remember several months ago, my asking for prayers for 'Paneerselvam,' who came to Christ in one of our Christmas Outreaches. He was down with Covid but has recovered. In the past, he would attend our church and come for fellowship secretly as his family was against it.

But now, by the grace of God, his mother and wife have trusted Christ. They are reading the scriptures every day at 6 am. We feel sad that Paneerselvam's dad died due to Covid, but glad that he heard the Gospel from our Pastor attentively just a week before his death. Only the Lord knows his heart!

Also, pictured below is 'Gandhi,' who also came to Christ through one of Christmas outreaches in 2019. Later he came to us asking for baptism and he continues to grow in the Lord. While doing several jobs, he continued to knock on doors to find a good job and finally a government job opened. But getting a job without giving a bribe is extremely rare in India. But by the grace of God, Gandhi got a job with the Government Electricity Board without a bribe!! Sadly, he has been posted from us beyond Coimbatore, over 250 miles away, but we are staying in touch with him. Please pray that he would grow in his relationship with the Lord.



Pastors cannot wait to get back into the villages for Evangelism.

The state of Tamil Nadu has been under lock down from the 3rd week of April and so we are unable to go into the villages for evangelism or for discipleship. Even our churches have been closed since the 3rd week of April. Just today, the state government has allowed opening of religious places in only four districts. Some of our churches come in one of these districts, but other churches will continue to remain closed. Please do pray that all the believers would remain in the faith. Pictured below is our Pastor Richard and his wife Beulah doing door to door work.

During one of our meeting, Pastor Barnabas said, *'Even though there are 50 pastors in Sholinghur (8 miles from our campus), I have never seen any of them except one going into the villages to preach the Gospel to those who have never heard.'* He was glad that GHI has been faithful in getting the Gospel across to those who have not heard it. His comment is not one of pride but one of sadness. Please pray that we would be faithful to declare the Gospel far and wide. Just a few hours after sending this on to you, we got news that David and Emima, one of our pastors and his wife, tested positive for Covid, so keep us all in prayer because they were both here helping build the wall.



Bible College Students are eager to return to the campus for training! With both the government and private institutions closed because of the lockdown, we have been conducting classes online for the extension students. However, the residential students who are currently at their home expressed their reservation for online classes. Last week some students called me through conference call and told me that they would prefer being on the campus. We thank God for the enthusiasm of the students to know God, His scriptures, to grow in their spiritual lives, experience community living and learn practical ways of doing ministry. Would you please pray for the new students who would be joining us soon?

Fencing along the mountain side is progressing well.

By the grace of God, we were able to erect a 1,000-foot wall along the mountain side to prevent the wild animals and reptiles from entering the campus. We have bought the chain link and once it is put up, all that needs to be done is plastering with cement and then painting. Prayerfully, this will keep the wild animals and snakes out of our fields and away from our various buildings on our property.



We did face several hurdles in this project, but by God's grace the work is going on smoothly now.

We have also bought more fruit trees to plant in the campus. Please pray that this campus would be safe and comfortable to all the children in the orphanage, the Bible College students and the GHIndia staff.

Our Family By the grace of God, the family is doing well. Fayma as usual is busy taking care of all of us as well as serving the campus community. Aradhana is beginning her 10th grade; Amelia the 7th grade; and Abraham Paul is in his 9th month. Apart from Covid-19 and a militant Indian government, life is good!

Recently, our tractor (that was bought used, 10 years ago), packed it in and needed to be replaced. It is vital for the farming (cultivating fields for rice, ground nuts, vegetables, and fruits) as well as transporting construction materials. They gave us \$3,500 for it and we traded for a new one (\$11,150) and God has provided all but \$2,500. We wait for His provision. Please pray in faith for this urgent need.

Once again, a big thanks for your prayers, encouragement and financial help that keeps us going. With lots of love. *Sam*

P.S. From Mack - This morning, while composing this prayer letter, guess who showed up at my door in 90-degree heat with five small children and two strollers? I was on the phone talking to a dear friend and while walking to the door, I said, *I think they are Jehovah Witnesses*; but it was Laura and Meleesa from Steadfast Baptist Church (about two miles away) and when I opened the door, she said I heard you and we are not JW's. Ha, ha!

Laura began to give me the gospel and how to be saved. As I tried to tell them I was saved and President of an international ministry; and an evangelist and missionary, it didn't seem to matter. She insisted on giving me the gospel anyway. So, she opened her Bible to highlighted scriptures and proceeded to get me lost in order to get me saved. I bless God for them. Fantastic!

And He called...and sent them forth two by two and gave them power...Mark 6:7 NIV.

Dottie and I send our love to each of you! *Mack*



O for a passionate passion for souls,
O for a pity that yearns!
O for the love that loves unto death,
O for the fire that burns!

Amy Carmichael