

CIM NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am so happy to greet you all through our newsletter. The Lord has done great things through Calvary India Mission in 2022. We had a blessed India Mission Trip last year with God's wonderful people. I am very thankful to Calvary Lutheran Church and Mount Olive Lutheran Church for their continuous support. We followed this with a wonderful Christmas Celebration in our Tailoring and Tuition (Tutoring) Centers. God has richly blessed the students and given them an opportunity to receive the love of Christ through Calvary India Mission. I am always thankful to God for giving us the privilege to serve Him in a better way each year.



From the Leaders of Calvary India Mission, Staff, Students and Trainees, we bring you heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year 2023! I pray and wish you all to receive blessings from Jesus the King in this year. As we start 2023, we wish this year to be a year where God is our focus and we trust Him to be our constant guide and provider. May God bless you all!!!

**In His Mission,
Pastor Udhayanesan Rajipillai**



*The Lord has done great things for us;
and we are filled with joy. Psalms 126:3*

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INDIA VISIT - 2022, OCT 18-27

What a blessing to visit Calvary India Mission in Ambur. Pr. Raji and Pr. Jeff Alexander traveled to India and visited Tuition centers and Tailoring Center. It was an amazing time!



Quilt Distribution

We started with visiting the Tuition Centers and Tailoring Center. The students are always showing us great enthusiasm! It was a great time to watch their wonderful dances, listening to them reciting Bible verses and interacting with them. Thank you Pr. Alexander and Pr. Raji!



We thank the quilters at Mt. Olive and Calvary for their wonderful quilts! These are a favorite gift for the people in India.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT CIM

In December 2022, Christmas was celebrated in all the Tuition Centers and the Tailoring Center. New clothes and Christmas gifts were distributed to the tuition students. The tailoring students and staff also received Christmas gifts.



TAILORING GRADUATION CEREMONY

Calvary India Mission offers free tailoring training for poor and needy women in Ambur. The main purpose of this training is to empower the women in and around the city. God has wonderfully blessed this training in the past years.



Pr. Raji and Pr. Alexander participated the graduation ceremony of the 7th batch of tailoring students on 26th October 2022. It was really a celebration! The ceremony started with the Lighting of the Lamp - a traditional way in India to begin any program. Pr. Alexander delivered a special graduation message. One of the students shared her experience learning and stitching in the class. The tailoring students were very happy to receive their certificate and the gift of a new sewing machine!



After the completion of their training, the students start making money with their



tailoring skills. Some of the previous graduates are working at home and earning money, while some are working as tailors in various businesses. Tailoring is a great blessing for all who complete their training at CIM. Praise the Lord!



We are happy to see some of our former tailoring students on graduation day. We are looking forward to starting the 8th batch of tailoring students in January 2023. May the Lord bless all the new candidates who are going to be in the next class.

DEDICATING A THIRD TUITION CENTER

What a blessing to report that Calvary India Mission is being expanded by the grace of the Lord. We have started a third Tuition Center in a village called Vadapudhupattu. Pr. Alexander offered prayers and inaugurated the new center on 20th October 2022. There are 27 students (Christian, Hindu and Muslim) in the new tuition center. Class starts after the normal school day and dinner is provided everyday.



We reach out to people with God's love and mercy through the tuition centers. We distributed Bibles to the students and Tamil hymnals to the congregation.



Pastor Raji interacting with the students



Bible distribution to the students



Hymnal distribution to the congregation



FLOOD RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

At the end of 2021, there was heavy rain all over Tamilnadu. Ambur and its surrounding area was flooded and people were not able to go out. In most of the areas, people were affected by the heavy rain. Some of our former tailoring students also suffered a lot.

Rice Packs, Groceries and Vegetables



During this difficult situation, Calvary India Mission stretched out its hand to help our students. We distributed rice packs, groceries and fresh vegetables to the students. The people living on the river bank were thankful to receive these donations.



***From International Mission Director,
Marvin Hansen***

New Year blessings to all of our CIM supporters! 2022 was a special year for CIM as we were able to start a third Tuition Center. This was only possible through the generous support of our individual donors and our budgeted support from Calvary and Mt. Olive Lutheran churches. We were also hoping to start a second tailoring center in 2022, but this was delayed by some government permit issues. We do anticipate starting the second tailoring center in 2023, and we ask for your prayers that this will be a smooth process. We trust in God's good timing and the continued blessings of prayer and financial support that make this ministry expansion possible!

2022 also saw our first mission trip to Ambur, India since Covid slowed international travel. We thank God that Pr. Raji, Pr. Alexander and Sam Udhayanesan were able to be in India this year! It was a small team, but they were able to distribute Bibles, hymnals and quilts as usual. They also helped lead the graduation ceremony for the 7th batch of Tailoring students and officially inaugurated the third Tuition Center.

For 2023 we ask for your prayers as we anticipate a larger mission team going to India in October. Please consider whether God is calling you to see in person what God is doing through your support of Calvary India Mission!

***From VP of Community Engagement,
Pr. Jeff Alexander***

What a special joy it is for Calvary India Mission to serve the beautiful people of Tamil Nadu, India! As we begin a New Year under the blessings and provisions of our Savior and King, I pray that Jesus continues to work His wonders and bless the work being done in our tailoring and tuition centers, in addition to the other ministry partnerships we have in South India! The support and love shown to Calvary India Mission by the people of God continues to amaze me! As they say in Tamil: "Romba Nandri!" (That is, "Thank you very much!")

God has blessed me with 11 visits to India since 2013. Each one of these trips has been unique and special in their own ways, and I've learned so much about the culture, language, and customs of the Tamil people. Despite all of the differences between where I live in the Indianapolis area and where our friends in India go about their daily lives, what we have in common is our shared humanity and need for the gift God has provided for us all in Jesus Christ. When people here at my hometown ask me to sum up the differences between here and there, I like to say: "There's not much difference between Indiana and India." When they ask how that is so, I smile and say: "Not much difference: only two letters."

Whether this newsletter finds you in India or Indiana or somewhere in between, know that you are loved deeply by our God. You are a vital part of our ministry together through Calvary India Mission! Romba Nandri!

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