



# VOICE *of* SHALOM



## JOYFUL ARE PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY

by James L. Rittenhouse

Joyful are people of Integrity who follow the instructions of the Lord, begins Psalm 119. During the recent PPMI Pastors Conference in Hyderabad, India, I found that the Biblical principles of integrity and accountability are not widely taught or adopted by the culture. In addition to wealth and clean drinking water, many of the things we take for granted in the United States, could not be assumed in India.

I was asked to teach on accountability, integrity and stewardship from a biblical perspective during the four day PPMI conference. In spite of 101 degree heat in a unairconditioned building, I found the Pastors attentive and eager to learn. I was wrong in assuming that basic skills of money management and using debt sparingly were taught equally throughout the world. As the Lord is our shepherd and accountable to us, we are also accountable to him. The Pastors learned that they are accountable to the people in their congregations and that every financial decision is also a spiritual decision. We are simply stewards of the resources God has entrusted us with. That includes both the field worker in India earning 26 cents per hour and a business owner entrusted with much living in Pennsylvania.

We traveled to a number of the small rural churches these Pastors have started. The love of Jesus and the desire to serve him was obvious. We were greeted warmly and the affection for and appreciation of Paulus and Sumatha Thalathoti serving through PPMI was very meaningful to witness. People can be joyful while having so little, knowing who their shepherd is. Those of us, who have much, have so much to learn.

**Thank you for your Generosity** to all our donors and supporters all these years. Your prayers and financial support is helping us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches in the name of Christ in the interior rural communities.

## UPDATES

### PPMI Board of Directors



PPMI's Board of Directors announced earlier that Ms. Anya Williamson, a chemical engineer at Merck & Co., was appointed to the Board of Directors. We praise God for her talents and gifts on the Board.

Anya is active at Plains Menonite Church and served in 2009 for 1 year with MCC in Brazil, through the SALT program. Her interest in missions stems from her childhood when she lived in Asia for 10 years (Nepal and Indonesia). She enjoys running, traveling, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She also serves on the Board of the MCC Material Resource Center - Harleysville, since 2011.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Dr. Paulus Thalathoti

Ever since I returned from our recent Pastors and Women's conferences in India, I have been thanking God for the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of all God's people brothers and sisters radiated. I have not stopped giving thanks for their commitment, availability, and zeal in sharing the love of Jesus Christ around their communities.

I continue to remember all of the pastors and their wives in my prayers. I continue to ask that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give them the spirit of wisdom, so that they may know Him better day by day through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We praise God for the dedication of our new church in South India. PPM Jesus Christ Prayer House was dedicated on July 18, 2015. Pastor Sahay, once a far-left Communist, has been serving in a remote village for the past seven years, for the glory of God through the Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we move forward, we covet your prayers in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ here and across the seas.



## PPMI Board of Directors

Dr. Paulus Thalathoti,  
Founding President

Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber  
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Anya Williamson

## PRAYER ITEMS:

- Prayers are requested for our annual banquet, being held October 24, 2015.
- Help in obtaining portable microphones, bores to drill wells, and a small church building/s.
- Prayers for Wallace Wolff and his recovery from a stroke.
- Immediate need: Pastor Paul Bennaih and his wife Ruth's church needs 3 sides of brick walls to be constructed. Your support is greatly appreciated.

What a privilege to be able to take part in the Women's Conference of PPMI this past July. My task was a daily session with the pastor's wives concerning music in worship. Our Christian brothers and sisters in India love to sing praises to our God! They sing with a gusto that makes cautiously measured Western singing seem anemic. Clapping, drumming, and tambourine often complete their joyous offerings.

Not knowing the Telugu language or Indian songs, I decided to have them focus on the texts of their songs, hopefully making them think more thoroughly about what they are singing. What we sing in worship tells about us, our relationship with God, and the world around us. The women thoughtfully chose songs using prompts of God, creation, Jesus, mercy, forgiveness, among others and then all sang as they lead each one.

One new song was learned which was, "We will follow" ("Som'landela"), a Zimbabwean song, the theme song of this year's women's conference. I quickly discovered that listening to each other was not a strength in Indian singing. This gave opportunity to draw a comparison to the beauty of church, a group comprised of unique individuals that work together.

We also practiced using song between readings of scripture. Using scripture that speaks to a wide range of life experiences interspersed with song is a way to offer those experiences to God in a more holistic way than can be done with words alone.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to sing with these women. Their faithfulness and gratitude are an inspiration I hope never to forget.

## CORDS OF SONG

by Kendra Good Rittenhouse



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