



# VOICE of SHALOM

## LOVE IS GROWING, QUIETLY BUT SURELY



### INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

#### Youth Conference 2018

##### *Sarah Thalathoti*

This year PPMI began organizing one day youth conferences hosted by rural congregations for the youth of that region. Working with the youth is easier for me than older women because obviously I could relate to them more. I decided to speak on Queen Esther because it was always one of my favorite stories and has amazing lessons that everyone can learn from. We went to a church that was in the mountainous region. There, several girls and a few guys showed up eager to learn more about the Bible, Jesus Christ and what our team had to share. As each person went on to share what they prepared, you could see it in the youth faces that they were very invested in the stories. We gave them notepads and they wasted no time using them to take several notes. It's clear that the people were not extremely rich, but some were educated and cared about learning about the Bible, Jesus and the stories that were shared. For some of the sessions we sang songs and played "Heads Up 7 Up", which got the group up and interacting with us. Would you please join with me in prayer for the seeds that are sown in these younger and precious interior rural youth?

#### Women's Conference 2018

##### *Kendra Good Rittenhouse*



Quiet changes. I observed the women at the conference to be different this summer. Three years ago, I observed invisible barriers between some of the women. Some did not interact at all with some others likely due to the cast. This year was noticeably different. They interacted with one another much more like family. Yes, they still had a tendency to sit next to the same people much like Westerners do in church pews. But their interactions were much more relaxed and there was more eye contact between them. Every year, Sumatha has noted their seating habits and asked them to change seats. This year with knowing smiles they gracefully obliged. There are growing relationships here among these women of different regions and villages. My friend, John Ruth, reminds me that salvation is within our relationships. It is heartening to see these beautiful women work out their salvation in this way. Love is growing, quietly but surely.





## YOU ARE OUR GLORY AND JOY

**Pastor Mike Derstine**

I was blessed to travel again to Hyderabad, India this June, 2018. This was my third trip to India with PPMI and once again I was grateful for the rich experiences along the way: seeing the familiar faces of the pastors and wives, enjoying the most delicious meals and table fellowship, and traveling through a part of the world so different from my own.

Each time I go, more of the barriers between my life and theirs seem to come down and rather than anonymous faces, their ministry, names, and dedication to the gospel of Jesus with little reward sinks deeper into my soul. This was especially clear as I was teaching from the book of Mark, where three times (8:31, 9:31, 10:32-34) Jesus teaches his disciples about his cross and theirs, and what it means to follow as a humble servant, leaving everything behind. Each time in Mark, the disciples don't quite understand what Jesus was saying.



I asked the pastors, what does servanthood look like in their culture ... do you know what Jesus is talking about here? And in their responses and nodding of heads I knew they knew it better than I did. For each PPMI pastor and wife, this weekend conference is like a retreat; it is their only annual vacation --

a momentary escape from their regular lives of hard work where they could relax, find spiritual and emotional encouragement in sharing, singing, learning, and praying with others, and where they didn't have to worry about food and preparing meals. The annual PPMI Pastor and Wives Conference is truly a gift: to them and to those of us who go to share and end up receiving more than we give.

**GOOD FOOD**  
for a  
**GOOD CAUSE**

The Annual  
Fundraising  
Banquet

September 22  
6:00pm  
Souderton  
Mennonite Church

- Please pray and plan to attend, and also invite your family and friends to join us. We ask that you purchase tickets ahead of time.
- Please reach out to Sumatha at 267-210-8947 for tickets and other details.

## UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

**Caleb Benner**

Ephesians 4:3 says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace". During the 2018 PPMI pastor's conference, the phrase "unity of the Spirit" stood out to me. The moment I experienced this unity most tangibly was in the prayer tower where the pastors and their wives gathered for evening prayer. Together, they prayed passionately for the needs of their congregations and ministries. Since they were praying together in the local language, I did not understand what they were saying but it provided an opportunity to add my silent prayers to their own. *(continued top of next page)*





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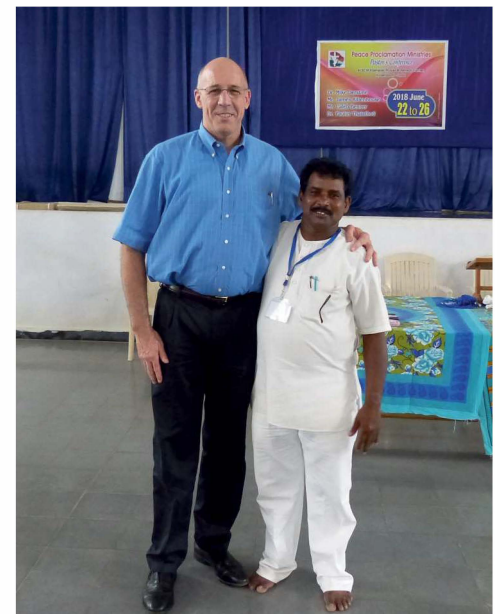
In that upper room, gathered together in Jesus' name, devoted to prayer, filled with the Holy Spirit, and speaking in different languages, I experienced a glimpse of that first Pentecost. Just as Christ's disciples in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago were a religious minority empowered by God's Spirit to share the gospel of Jesus with the world, these pastors were continuing that same mission, empowered by the same Spirit, following the same God in a land where many don't know the gospel of Jesus. I felt an amazing bond with the pastors and their ministry of building God's kingdom on the other side of the world.

## GROWING IN THE BIBLE AND THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

**James L. Rittenhouse**

Interacting with the Pastors of India who attended the recent PPMI Pastors Conference makes the many hours in an airline seat tolerable. It has been very meaningful to watch and listen to them grow in their understanding of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. The questions they ask and the conversations we have when a session is not taking place provide encouragement that they are learning and appreciate the energy PPMI puts into these Conferences.

Everyone has a story. That is true for each Pastor as well. We were able to once again visit some of their churches. You never know what to expect as far as building materials, location of the church in the village or what farm animals may be resting from the heat nearby. I have come to expect the warmth from the people and their sharing with us out of abundance and not scarcity. With that perspective, I am grateful for a plane seat to be able to meet with the Pastors and their wives in the first place.



**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.*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Dr. Paulus Thalathoti**

Luke 2:9-10 – An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

The good news of Jesus Christ brings immeasurable joy that is meant to be shared! We are very thankful for your prayers and generosity since the founding of PPMI in 2011. We have been extending Christ's love by training, equipping, and encouraging youth, pastors and their wives to serve their congregations and their communities. It's a joy to see the pastors mature and the congregations grow with new believers.

Through outreach and ministry programs, the gospel of Jesus has been penetrating into the hearts of rural communities. The quality of life for thousands in these communities has been improved through the provision of bore wells, health clinics, and prescription glasses. People of all religious backgrounds have been experiencing the love of Jesus demonstrated by communities of growing believers.



### **PPMI Board of Directors**

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## PRAYER ITEMS:

- Continue to remember to pray for our Indian Team as they serve Jesus in their challenging and volatile rural villages.
- Pray that God would put on your heart the parts of this PPMI ministry He wants you to pray for. Write them down and pray for them. If you would like to share them, we would like to hear from you. Ministries are as follows: Pastors, Youth, Women, church planting, bicycles, rechargeable electric lights, sewing machines, Eye Clinics and hydro bore wells.
- Praise God for His safety for Pastor Mike Derstine, James, Kendra and Emily Rittenhouse, Caleb Benner, Paulus, Sumatha and Sarah Thalathoti during our recent trip.
- Praise God for the seeds that were sown during youth, pastors and women's conferences. Please join us in prayer as these seeds are growing in Truth.



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