



VOICE *of* SHALOM



FREE EYE CLINICS IN INDIA

Noah Kolb

I went to India at the request of Peace Proclamation Ministries International (PPMI) to resource Pastoral Leadership with a keen awareness of how difficult it is to communicate the good news of Jesus across cultural lines. Proclaiming the good news of Jesus in a culture to which I am a stranger

requires more than words which are so easily misunderstood, especially in a context where hate and conflict between religions and cultures is so evident. Expressions of love and compassion are required to communicate love and the way of Jesus.

It was exciting for me to see local rural pastors setting up Free Eye Clinics to invite anyone from the community to come and have their eyes examined. One of our first stops was to visit an Eye Clinic where persons who had been examined were receiving eye glasses for the first time. Hindus, Muslims, Christians and anyone else gathered for the occasion, as a local Christian Eye Specialist prepared to hand out prescription lenses. We were privileged and invited to bless the occasion in the name of Jesus and then help in distributing and placing the eye glasses on their face! What a joy to see the smiles and deep appreciation by the recipients as we they received their eye glasses.

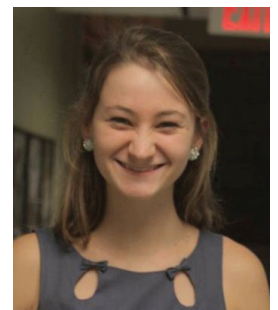
On another occasion later in our trip we visited another eye clinic where the same Christian Eye Specialist was present to do examinations for another group of persons. Again the local pastor extended an invitation to anyone in the local village to come and be examined. Many people from different backgrounds and religions gathered as we observed and blessed them as they received their examinations. This is one of the new and very exciting parts of the ministry we saw happening in India through PPMI. This has become a new channel that God's love is being communicated to people regardless of where they come from. PPMI continues to seek new ways in which to share God's love in these interior rural and some villages.



LANGUAGE IS NOT A BARRIER FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST

Jessica Bergey

Interacting with the church members in India was an incredible blessing; God was teaching me to see them as my true brothers and sisters. I enjoyed talking with the youth and young adults because despite language barriers, we are so similar at heart! God



was also challenging me on the concept of "home." India is not my home but neither is the United States. I am learning to keep an eternal perspective, remembering that my joy, security, and hope for the future all rest in the promise of truly being home one day. I look forward to worshipping the One Who Saved me face-to-face, alongside the many sisters and brothers I have not yet met. I am grateful that this trip gave me a unique opportunity to share what Christ has done in my life, as well as a chance to hear many more stories of His faithfulness from the other side of the world.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP RETREATS

Sara J. Kolb

As I continue to be involved with the ministry of Peace Proclamation Ministry International (PPMI) in India, I find as I witness what is happening there with the Pastor's and their Spouses, I see how God is working his Kingdom out. Five years ago when I traveled to India when the first conference retreat was for the Pastor's spouses, it was a very special event. Witnessing the eagerness to learn and the wanting to share the gospel of Jesus with those whom these women relate to was encouraging and humbling.

This year, was so exciting to get reacquainted with the women again along with many new spouses. The eagerness to learn and share the good news of Jesus continues to be a priority for them. The women believe strongly that God's call on their lives is to serve alongside of their pastor/husband in his ministry. They are very involved in visitation, caring for the women in their church as well as the community. They study the scriptures diligently, love to read the Word as well as pray fervently for each other and those they minister to. They enjoy being loved and cared for as we as a team brought encouragement and joy to them. Our cultures are so different, communication is hard, understanding each other's way of life is difficult, but communication happens through hugs, smiles and nods.

I continue to give God the honor as the church in India grows, I pray for them because of persecution as well as the needs continue to arise. May God continue to honor the ministry of PPMI.





GROWTH OF BELIEVERS IS EVIDENT REGARDLESS OF PERSECUTION AND PRESSURE

Pastor Franklin Gilliam III



I was very privileged to have the opportunity to join PPMI on this mission trip to India. This year my heart was moved by the sincere growth of believers and their willingness to worship and evangelize regardless of persecution and pressure. There was a genuine hunger in each location to know Christ and live for him. Also, the eye clinics were something beautiful to witness. These clinics served as a witness to God's children, Hindus and Muslims of his grace.

Blessings.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Paulus Thalathoti



Someone once asked Daniel Webster, "What do you consider the most serious thought that has ever entered your mind?" Mr. Webster replied, "The most solemn thought that has ever entered my mind is my accountability to my God."

In Matthew chapter 28, Jesus challenges us to be active in building His Kingdom. This is not a 40-hour-a-week job but a lifestyle of service and ministry that extends the love of Christ to our families, friends, and acquaintances.

Saint Paul highlights the practicality of Jesus' commission in Romans 10:14-15. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of Jesus Christ!"

Let us continue to serve with passion for Jesus and equip those who are responding to this heavenly calling by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities and across the world. We request your prayers as we serve along with pastors, evangelists, members of the Church of Jesus Christ in both the US and India.

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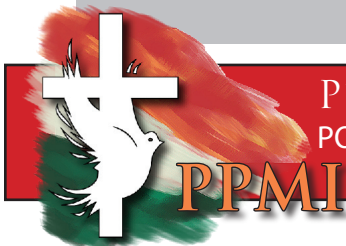
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Thank you for your Generosity to all our donors and supporters all these years. Your prayers and financial support is helping us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches in the name of Christ in the interior rural communities.



PRAYER ITEMS

- You can help! Some churches need side walls and doors. Please pray and consider giving.
- Continue to remember to pray for our Indian Team as they serve Jesus in their challenging and volatile rural villages.
- Pray 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, church repair projects, bicycles, rechargeable electric lights, sewing machines and hydro bore wells.
- Pray for Evangelism and Discipleship training conferences to Youth, Christian women and Pastors in June.
- Pray for Pastor Mike Derstine, James, Kendra and Emily Rittenhouse, Caleb Benner, Paulus, Sumatha and Sarah Thalathoti as resource persons for Youth, Christian women and Pastors.
- Pray and support financially if the Lord is leading you for our new ministry of Medical, Health and Eye Clinics in the rural and forest rural areas. Through this ministry we have been reaching hundreds and thousands of rural people from various faith journeys.



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