

2016 India Update:

We are excited to share with you what God has been doing in our city and in the communities we are connected with over the last month because you play such an important role in it.

In our Kolkata city church, we have seen a breakthrough since the last one year. There have been many who have tasted His goodness and seen miracles in their lives. There has been recommitment of lives, people getting saved, baptised in water and people added to house groups. This last month, we had 13 baptisms in Kolkata where people from non Christian backgrounds had taken steps to come forward and leave their traditional beliefs. There was one orphan in the group who grew up in our Bethesda Children's Home and as a child grew up seeing and believing how God provided for his life until now. He is 19 now and has decided to confidently go forward in His steps. Praise Him!!

Similarly, 4 days ago we had 12 baptisms in one of our village churches in North Bengal area. Our team have been working in that village for several years now and it's great to see many people receive Christ and regularly coming to church.

About two weeks ago, we had organised a Leadership Summit gathering all of our National leaders of the organisation in Bangalore. We had about 40 people who were a part of this group. The main objective of this was to talk and discuss the future of Nicog and to build and prepare our younger generation for the days that lie ahead. I believe it is a significant step that we took to make our organisation more forward looking, and transformational in the lives of everyone who is a part of the Nicog family.

In our Kolkata Tree House, almost all the boys in our Home had chicken pox last month, and after that our house parents also caught it. It's been tough in the Home with everyone affected by it, and all in pain and being sick but they are recovering slowly from it now. Our little boys have been on their session break for the last 2 weeks. Most of them were not able to complete their exams because they got sick, but for those who wrote it have passed with fantastic results. During their break, they did a bit of gardening with the tiny space that is there behind the house, and they had so much fun doing that.

We have 6 beautiful girls in the KTH Girls Home now. The youngest one is 4 and the oldest is 11. We started with 2 children and now with more in the Home, coming from different backgrounds, they have all adjusted with each other and even plot some mischief's together. They have all learned how to pray and sit together and wait for one another to have their meals. There are 2 sisters who were unwell in their feet and hands having cracks all over due to the water problem in their old place and walking without sandals. Now they are being treated and taking medicines, slowly getting better. The youngest is a girl called Mandika. She has become the one who leads the rest of the house in prayer every night. She loves doing it and she's got much better at it with a little help from our staff :)

April is the time where the new school year begins and none of our girls have been enrolled into school yet as we started the Home only in November. We are looking at Homeschooling both the boys and girls this year. As we don't have much knowledge and training in this area, we are trying to get in touch with other institutions/organisations that run this way but it is difficult as not many people go for homeschooling here. Please pray with us on this, as we endeavour to give our children a better and brighter education.

Our Vision Rescue (VR) bus has been running for the last few years and we are so thankful that the staff are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of these young kids. This week we had a guardian/parents and teacher meeting in our bus. We talked about children's punctuality, hygiene and discipline, how important it was for the kids to be regular in school and having to revise at home, with parent's cooperation. The parent's feedback was excellent as they believe the kids are starting to show a change in their behaviour as well as their commitment to school.

There is a slum area in Kolkata where many people engage in drugs, political crime and other rebellious activities happen. We felt a strong urge to begin something there among the children and youth. Young people are unskilled with less awareness of health and hygiene. Hence, a ministry called Educare was given birth to, through which we intend to reach out to children with some basics in education informally and also at the same time, provide the community with some skill training, health awareness through medical camps. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to those who have not experienced love and care. There is a hall available in that community which we will have to revamp and repair a few things to make it in a condition for children to come to. We started with 7 children this week and have a senior teacher and two assisting staff who help. The kids are very excited and thrilled to be a part of something that can change their lives forever!! And so are we!!

We write to you with a grateful heart filled with awe and amazement in how God carries us forward in a nation where only 3 % are Christians. There is a huge task ahead of us to reach out to our nation where harvest is plenty, and need more missionaries. We so appreciate your prayers and concern for our families and church teams who are on field serving people with an expectation of making a difference in as many lives as possible. Thank you for helping us through your contributions and emotional support which is a great strength for us often!!

Blessings and much love

Binu



