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**Thank You!**

Church of Christ India Fund  
c/o Dave Nance  
399 Terry Lane Rd.  
Covington, TN 38019

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August, 2023

"...how you turned from idols to serve the living and true God."  
(1 Thessalonians 1:9)



Church of Christ India Fund  
David "Tud" Nance  
901.647.0488  
David@IndiaMissions.net

## Mission Team Meeting

This past Saturday the Jersey Village church of Christ elders hosted a team meeting about our India work (as you may recall, Jersey Village is the eldership that oversees this uniquely effective work).

All of the elders attended: Shawn Biggers, Robert Efir, Doug McCullough, Gill Pipkin, along with myself and John Charles who is our office manager in India (via video conference).

Our meeting lasted approximately two and a half hours. We had to restart the video a couple of times as we are using a free service which gives us only about 45 minutes before cutting us off.

We covered quite a few subjects that are important to our work, particularly the scrutiny that the Indian government is applying to our work, and not only to ours, but to all 'Christian' works.

There have been, over the years, quite a large number of incidents where Hindus were enticed to be baptized by various means (mostly by Pentecostal groups operating in India—a group particularly known even in the U.S. for evangelizing by offering the enticement of how Christ and the church will improve one's earthly life—often called "The Health and Wealth Gospel.")

As a result, many of the state governments in India have instituted laws

requiring candidates for baptism fill out a government form affirming that they are converting out of their own free will, without enticement or coercion.

Of course, the requirement of this paperwork is a real inconvenience in our gospel work, but it is no real problem for us. After all, true gospel conversion only takes place voluntarily without any offers of enticement. Not one of the conversion accounts in the New Testament mentions how following Jesus will improve life in this world.

In fact, Jesus says: "...a man's enemies will be those of his own household" (Matthew 10:36). This is a fact that is quite literally true in India, all too often.

Yet, despite this inconvenience, brother Charles informed us that we've been blessed with over 700 baptisms as a result of our efforts this year.

Praise to God for His glorious Son!

Another topic we spent time on was that status of our ability to send funds to India for the support of gospel preachers, for the relief of widows and the support of orphans.

The Indian government is very closely watching our funds under a law they call FCRA (which stands for Foreign Contributions Reporting Act). They want to make sure that these funds are actually being spent for the purpose that

they claim. And, if we think about it, this is not a bad thing in itself.

We have complied with the FCRA law for many years, but it requires a renewal of approval every five years. Brother Charles reported to us that this process is all but finished for our renewal, requiring only the final issuance of the certificate from the government. He assures us that he has been told that it has been approved, and that the paperwork for the certificate will be issued shortly.

Of course, as with any mission or church work, there were a lot of other things that came up for discussion, that are part of the normal day-to-day challenges of improving and expanding the Lord's work in any mission field, even those in the U.S. itself.

The elders, I and brother Charles are all excited about the state of the work, and the position we are in to improve and expand this work.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your financial support! It is being used well, and is accomplishing much good for the Kingdom of our dear Savior!



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India Fund

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