

INDIA MISSIONS NEWS LETTER - OCTOBER,2008

PLANS FOR THE GENERAL CONVENTION - 2009 :

We are planning to conduct the General Convention during 12 – 14th of February 2009 in Eluru. We have invited Bishop Dr. Jerry Ogles, the Primate of the AOC Worldwide Communion, the Diocesan Secretary Mrs Betty Hoffman, Dr Elizabeth Raj and the Revd. Dr. Joshua Raj, Bishop's Coordinator for India, to participate in the General Convention and to visit the Diocese. We have plans to conduct a 100 Pastors' Conference during daytime of the General Convention. Please pray for the proposals.

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

The Church building at BHOGOLU village is almost completed. Finishing work is going on. About Rs.11 lakhs (USD \$24,000.00) was raised through local contributions. About US \$1000.00 is needed for the completion.

The Church building at LOKUMUDI (see AOC Picture Gallery – India Missions section) is yet to be completed. The roof was erected and plastering is going on. Most of the grant of USD2500 given by the AOC headquarters has been spent. Local contributions have covered other costs. About US \$ 1000.00 is needed to finish and paint the building.

The Church building construction at DANAGUDEM village (see picture gallery) is progressive. The grant of USD\$2500 given by the AOC has been spent. A further least US \$ 1,500.00 is needed for the completion.

The Church buildings at SERI NARASANNAPALEM village, ADIVINEKKALAM village and WEST KOTHAPALLI village are so old and badly in need of reconstruction. These projects will be deferred for now.

The flooring of the Church at MANUGULURU village was fully damaged due to recent floods. Repairs have started with their local contributions. A further USD \$ 600.00 is needed.

Anyone felt led to donate please send payments to the head office designated for AOC India Missions.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

We are looking for a new coordinator as God provides. There is need for the assistance for the regular functioning and for some of the paraphernalia. A computer and a printer are very much needed. Any donation in kind is appreciated.

ARAADHANA (EMD-AOC India television ministry):

The TV programme is broadcast on Saturdays. Bishop John is the speaker. The response is very good. The programme reaches 150 villages apart from the Eluru city. Kindly pray for this programme. It is truly a method of outreach that can reach the masses. It costs only USD80 per broadcast.

SCHOOLS :

Schools are functioning well and children are blessed in rural areas. The building of ICM Jubilee High School at Hanuman Junction village has been completed. About USD\$550.00 debt is left over. The government has introduced the Mid-Day meal programme for the secondary (high school) students. Two of our High Schools will benefit. Many of the school buildings are becoming old and some needs urgent renovation and some needs reconstruction.

There are about 12 teachers posts (due to retirements) vacancies in our schools. We can not fill up the vacancies as the Government has imposed ban on filling the aided teachers posts. The CSI church and Salvation Army are using EDUCATIONAL VOLUNTEERS at a salary of Rs.2000/- (US \$ 50) each per month. But we have no such resources to appoint the Educational Volunteers. If anyone feels led to support a teacher for these rural schools at USD50 per month, please send donations to AOC headquarters designated AOC India.

TAILORING SCHOOL ;

This is a school to help poor villagers, especially women find some income for their families. The trainees are now just started stitching small shirts , pillow covers and frocks.

TRIPURA TRIBALS :

The congregations at Tripura, a north-eastern state of India are really very poor and they have no proper shelter, clothing and even education for their children. The Very Revd. John N. Reang is shouldering all the burden and suffering as he has no support even for his monthly needs. There is dire need for assistance for the native Missionaries working there. Let us pray for theses unfortunate people of God.

MEETING THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Andhra Pradesh Federation of Churches (Bishops' Association of the State) met the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 3 rd October 2008 regarding the ATROCITIES against the Christians and their institutions in the states of Orissa and Karnataka of India, lifting of ban to fill up the TEACHERS posts vacancies in the church - run schools (see above), and granting of scheduled castes status for the Dalit Christians. Our own Bishop John has been appointed to the District Committee. It is a good sign and importance given to our Church by the Government.