

# **Punjab Mission Report-2005**

## **Introduction**

In February 2005, Pastor Gangar made a second mission trip to Punjab, India, his place of birth. We are thankful to the Lord for opening up the door to this mission field, for which our pastor is perfectly suited in terms of language, nationality, and family connections. The mission trip in February 2004 was a great success such that it encouraged us to pursue it further. This trip encouraged us and confirmed that we can have an important and effective role in evangelizing the villages in Punjab, establishing churches in the villages, and providing theological education to perspective leaders. We include a report from our pastor.

We are planning another mission trip around February 2006. We thank you for your support and covet your prayers and support as we continue to develop this mission.

## **Report from Pastor Gangar**

### **1. Pastoral Work**

In the three weeks that I was there, I preached on Sunday and Thursday. I also led daily Bible studies for an established and growing church in a certain village. I made my way through about a third of the Heidelberg Catechism. They were appreciative of the teaching as opposed to what they are surrounded with, namely, Charismatic emotionalism and a stress on faith healing. I also led Bible studies on topics on discipleship suited to their present needs. The Bible studies were well attended.

I met with those that support the church (my aunt, her daughter, and a pastor from England). The discussions were to do with a need for a permanent pastor rather than a preacher that simply comes to lead services. I raised concerns about the present preacher who is Pentecostal. They took my concerns seriously and are considering dissolving their relationship with him. This will mean that we will have to help find them a good full time pastor. We have some good connections and will seek to guide them.

I also met with leading people as some divisions had arisen. We were able to counsel them and bring about a full reconciliation. I am confident that the church will do much better than before due to the removal of these tensions. I also led some Bible studies on the government of the church so that people would respect the leaders, and that the leaders would care for the people.

The people were overjoyed that I came back. They were so glad that we are committed to helping them in the long term. They are already looking forward to me going back.

## **2. Evangelistic Work**

We held one evangelistic crusade. We hired a big tent and catered a dinner afterwards. People have to travel to come from the surrounding villages and hence attending the meeting takes up most of the day. The meeting began at 11:00 a.m. and was over at about 5:00 p.m. We had about 450 people turn up. We did not advertise other than by word of mouth. We have three speakers including myself. I preached on the Transfiguration stressing the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and must be only One that we follow and hear. The other speakers spoke on what the Jesus the Son of God does for us. The third speaker stressed the need for people to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus. There was no altar call, but the word was sown in the hearts. We pray that the Lord will grant faith and life to those that He has ordained to eternal life. We look forward to seeing the fruit.

Besides the evangelistic meeting, we met with many one and one and shared the gospel and encouraged them to attend the church. From the last time that I went we saw an increase in the number of people attending the church. We trust that this will continue.

## **3. Church Planting Work**

The daily evening Bible studies attracted people from nearby villages. From my own village there were four young men who attended faithfully. They are certainly good prospects for future leaders. One evening I asked if we could hold the Bible study at their home in their village. They were overjoyed and agreed. Their parents are also Christians since last year. When I went there were about 25-30 people gathered for Bible study. I think that this group will be ready to form a church in one or two years. I encouraged them to attend the established church, but to meet together in their own village for Bible study. They are eager to see a church started in their village also.

## **4. Future Plans**

Firstly, we want to pray that the Lord would provide good native pastors. Pray that the Lord would guide to one as soon as possible.

Secondly, there is a great need for theological training. We would like to work on setting up an informal Bible school in which we can train future leaders from among the people of the villages. The Heidelberg Catechism is now available in Punjabi. Work is underway on the Belgic Confession. These documents will be a great help for the churches.

Thirdly, we would like to see the established church grow as well as see new churches planted in each village.

We value your financial and prayer support and trust that you will be able to continue to work with us in this new mission field.

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