



Don Johnson Evangelistic Ministries
and
The Indian Council of Missions
present



Project *India*

A STRATEGY FOR TRAINING INDIGENOUS LEADERS
AND PLANTING CHURCHES IN SOUTHERN INDIA

The vision of Project India is to reach 200 villages in the Melur province of Tamil Nadu State in Southern India, planting 50 churches in this region over the next two years.

The workers are ready to be sent.

Since 1988, the Indian Council of Missions has been training evangelists and church planters to reach India with the gospel. Over the years ICM has developed a model for reaching the villages of Tamil Nadu that has proven very successful. Now, in partnership with Don Johnson Ministries, ICM is ready to expand God's kingdom even more.

There are currently 50 eager young workers ready to take the good news to 200 villages in the Melur region. Each church planter will be responsible for reaching 4 villages. When enough people have come

to Jesus to warrant the construction of a church building, one will be built for those four villages. Given the success of ICM's recent efforts in this area of Tamil Nadu, we believe that we can expect anywhere from 500 to 1000 new believers in each church plant.

Just think, 10000 to 50000 new believers over the next couple of years! Is that just wishful thinking? We don't believe so. Rather, we think that the fields are ripe for harvest and that the villagers of Melur will welcome the gospel. All we need to do is get it to them.



WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

A missionary to the villages of Southern India needs only \$100 per month in support. For less than the average cost of cable, we can keep a church planter and his entire family in food, clothes and shelter, enabling them to carry the gospel to people who have never heard it before. This is a tiny fraction of what it would cost to send a foreign missionary. Indeed, for that amount (\$5000 per month and up) we could support all 50 of the workers who are ready to go. The picture at left is a class of students at the ICM Bible College training for ministry. They are ready and willing to go the villages, but need out support.



Eager Students

The Benefits of Using Indigenous Church Planters

There are several good reasons to train local leaders rather than rely solely on sending in foreign missionaries.

Training national missionaries to take the gospel to the unreached villages is simply more effective and efficient than using only foreign workers.

One reason for this is, of course, the cost. A missionary family from overseas requires several thousand dollars a month in support, whereas the local Indian church planter needs only one hundred.

However, cost is not the only reason, or even the most important. Rather, the best reasons for support-

The gospel is spread more effectively and efficiently by those who don't need an interpreter.

ing indigenous workers regard how effective they are at advancing the gospel. As hard as they try, it is very difficult for foreign missionaries to overcome the cultural differences between them and the people they are trying to reach. Languages are difficult to learn and customs take a long time to master. As such, it takes that much longer for effective communication to take place and for relationships to build. On top of this, it is very hard to dispel the notion that the missionary is bringing a foreign religion rather than the truth for all mankind.

Local leaders do not have to face these hurdles. They know the culture and can present the gospel in the heart language of the people. When this happens, Jesus is not seen as just some Western holy man or deity, but as the savior the Indian people have been longing for.



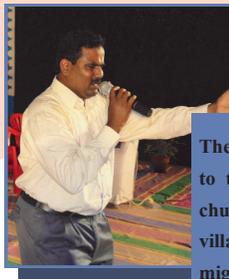
A Village Evangelist

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please pray for the work in India and consider spiritually adopting a village in Tamil Nadu. If you would like to find out more, please visit our websites or contact us directly using the information below.

Don Johnson Evangelistic Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation registered with the state of California. All donations are tax deductible and can be made:

- Online at donjohnsonministries.org (you can use Visa, MasterCard or your bank account number via a PayPal account)
- By mailing a check or money order, payable to DJEM, to the address below.



The villagers at right are new followers of Jesus thanks to the work of Pastor Thomas Maher (left) and the church planters at ICM. In fact, almost everyone in this village has become a believer. Please consider how you might help further this work to more villages.



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