

# Updates from the Field

december 2011



## **LUCKNOW REGION**

(Including Bihar, Lucknow, Rourkee, Uttarakhand, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)

Pastor James is serving the Lord in Lucknow and witnessed the amazing graces of God throughout. Year after year, month after month God has upheld the CFI ministry in Lucknow region. This month as well we experienced God's amazing wonders in the land of Lucknow region. God is using His people mightily to expand His kingdom and lot many lost souls are coming to Christ after experiencing the grace of Lord in their lives personally.

## **MEN'S TRANSFORMATION CENTER**

In the Transformation Center all the students are doing great in their studies as well as their personal lives. They are developing physically and spiritually as well. Last month three days fasting prayer was organized in the Transformation Center so that students and the people of God may strengthen themselves in the word of God and come closer to the Almighty God.

This was a great blessing for each and everyone. The students were filled with new zeal and enthusiasm and enjoy spending more time in prayer and worship. Many of them were touched by the Mighty Holy Spirit and were gifted with the 'tongues'. The lives were changed and they experienced the newness in their personal lives and attitudes as well. They became more eager to live their lives in Christ likeness.

There was an outreach programs as well and all the students along with Pastor James and his wife Sister Mini visit lot many villages to share the Good News to the people who are still in the bondage of the dark powers and idol worship. Lord has provided us with land and also provided to build a Transformation Center on this land in a nearby village. We are able to reach numerous people in this Village after shifting the Transformation Center there. Lord is expanding the ministry and opening doors for us to reach many villages with the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Recently Lord helped us to start two fellowship meetings in villages near this new center. Around 60 people gather for worshipping the living Lord in these prayer fellowships.

As the number is expected to increase in the days to come, we are also planning to start Sunday Service in these two villages. We require your fervent prayer for this matter. Lord is the ultimate provider and

He provides for every need in His time. In Matti Transformation Center we still do not have electricity and students have to face lot of problems because of this. Students have to struggle a lot to study at night. We believe that very soon God is going to provide for this as well. Please keep upholding us in your fervent prayers as you have always done.

### **LADIES' TRANSFORMATION CENTER**

In the Ladies' Transformation Center as well students are doing great. Sister Mini is working very hard to care of the young ladies and train them to be the zealous women of God. They are very particular about fasting and prayer. They know that they need to be closer to God in order to serve Him faithfully and fasting and prayer help them to humble themselves before the Almighty God. Recently as well there, a Three Days Fasting and Prayer were conducted in the Ladies' Transformation Center as well. For some of them it was an entirely new experience but they were too excited. It was the time of great blessing and personal time with the living God.



God has always been faithful to His people and in Lucknow as well His people are experiencing the matchless grace of the Almighty God in every arena of their lives. On 23-24 October a team from Switzerland visited Lucknow Ladies' Transformation Center and they had great time of sharing and encouragement together.

In the Children Homes in Lucknow, Children too are keeping well and growing in the love of Christ Jesus. Though some of them were not keeping very well as the weather changed, but God is keeping them safe. They are now preparing for their upcoming exams. Please pray for their exams and also for their good health.

### **MERCY HOME**

Mercy Home is proving to be a milestone for so many mentally sick people who have been cured here and restored to their kin. The good work is going on with much zeal and passion. God is doing wonderful work through the Mercy Home and continuously gives strength to the in-charge Pr. Paul and his family to take care of the mentally challenged people. At present there are three patients who are being treated in the Mercy home. It was God immense grace that one of the patients Phool recovered well and went back to home. Sameeksha is now recovering and getting well. Recently another man was brought into the Mercy Home. He was very slow to speak and was not ready to reveal his background. But God brings wonderful changes in his life because Pastor O V Paul of the fasting and prayer. We request your valuable and fervent prayer for and his family that the Lord may uphold them in all their needs and the ministry may grow and many such people who are wandering in the streets abandoned may be reunited to their family through this ministry.

God brought some of the new believers in to the City Light Church in Lucknow from surrounding places and even from little far off places. God is expanding His kingdom and people are being added to the body of Christ. God brings new people to the church every Sunday as well as new preachers to strengthen the believers. Please continue to pray that in the days to come we may see more people added to the church.

It was our passion and desire for long time to start a Tuition Centre for the poor children in surrounding place in Lucknow. God helped us to start a tuition centre and it was a great blessing for us as well as the children. The kids are from very poor backgrounds that are coming to study in the tuition centre.

We got many contacts through these children and access to their village and houses. We were able to reach many with the Good News of Christ Jesus. We also show Christian films to the children and their families and it was new experience for all of them. They were so happy and joyous to know about the eternal Lord.

CFI in the Lucknow Region was privileged to conduct a volunteer training seminar in the month of October. The seminar started on 10th of October and was concluded on 12th of the same month. The event was held in the Lucknow City Light Church hall. The motto of the training was "Not to be served, but to serve". The three days of training was a just great and memorable for all those who attended the same. The seminar coordinator Anu and Pr. Shibu arrived at the location around 1 pm and program began at 2 pm on 10th afternoon. As we expected, God brought around 80 participants to attend the training from several churches in the Lucknow Region. All the trainees were encouraged by the good teachings shared by Godly people. It made them aware about what is happening in their personal lives and societies. All the candidates utilized this opportunity by attending this wonderful training. They were also entertained by various games, music and video presentation. God's help was evident in all the activities.

The volunteer's training seminar was inaugurated by Pr. James, the Regional Director of Lucknow Region. He welcomed all the resource people of the seminar followed by the excellent time of praise and worship and it was led by Pr. Ashok. Mr. Anu took the first session. Primarily he divided all the participants in five groups and named them Rose, Lotus, Jasmine, Sunflower and Lily. Also he announced the prizes that would be given at the end of the seminar for best team and best trainee according to the performance. He taught about discipleship and quoted, "Disciple and discipline are the two faces of a coin and unless there is discipline no one can be a good disciple". He concluded the session by giving four wonderful lessons about good disciple. A good disciple should be people oriented, connected to the one another, go forward and be on the right track. At the end of the day there was the time for dedication and many came forward and submitted before God to be a good disciple and decided to be disciplined in the life.

The second day God helped us to start the program with prayer and worship at 9 am. After the worship there was the time to hear the word of God. Pr. Trilok encouraged all the candidates by emphasizing on the qualities of Zacchaeus and challenged everyone to bring the changes in their lives as the follower of Jesus Christ. Each session in the day was sensational experience for all the participants. First session was taken by Pr. James and he spoke about servant hood by quoting the point "Be a servant not for self-profit but for others". In the next session Mr. Anu made everyone aware of being a part of the mission. He said, "You can be a candle, even though you can't be a star". Another session was about social awareness. It was taken by Rev. Brijendra, IPS. It was a wonderful session and stimulated every candidate to be a part for the development of the community through loving and caring the poor and oppressed people. The last session was taken by Mr. Ashish, the Associate Director of World Vision. He shared many precious thoughts to the participants by taking the example of an Ant. We should have the confidence and patience to do big and better things as ants do. Think positive and go forward", he added. All the participants decided to apply the lesson learned to their lives.

On the last day after the great time of worship, Pr. Shibu shared the message from the word of God. The subject was "How can be a good volunteer". He made it very interesting for all the participants by presenting the topic with several points. A good volunteer is a person who loves God, reads Bible, walks in the law, be example to others and should be a new creation. The point he made "Do not wait for others, do it alone" fortified everyone to do things voluntarily for the glory of God. Last session in the seminar was excellent; Brother Anu shared the message titled "Cup and Saucer". He exhorted each candidate to be a cup which overflows and be a blessing for others. For that we have to be empty, clean and be under the submission of the source, who is Jesus. In the end, there was the time for dedication.

All the participants were asked to light a small candle and uttered to God these words with dedication- "O Lord, you help us not to be served but to serve and let's be a candle which shines over where you placed us". Everyone who participated in this seminar was blessed by the Lord.

Apart from this there was the time for prayer, music, video presentation and games. Indeed it was a great time of blessing. The group Lotus was selected as best group in overall performance. Dileep from Allahabad was the best trainee. All the participants enjoyed a lot and it was a memorable experience for all of them. Sashi from Gazipur says, "If I would have missed this seminar, it would have a great loss of my life. I thank God for this seminar and the good experience I had gone through. Dileep from Allahabad added," I have been attending the church since last 7 years, but I never heard the teaching and inspiring messages like I heard in this seminar. The seminar was over by 12th October at around 2 pm. The Lord helped us to have a fruitful time and we are thankful to all who prayed and supported this event.

God is doing great wonders in Lucknow Region. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers that we may the great revival in Lucknow region in the days to come.

### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- Please pray for the students in both the Transformation Center's that the Lord may bless them with good health and wisdom that they may carry on with their studies well and become great witnesses' for the Lord.
- Pray for the Children Home kids as well that the Lord may keep them safe and in sound health.
- Kindly pray for the patients in Mercy Home that they too be cured by the matchless grace of the Almighty God and be restored in their families. Also pray the Lord may meet all the financial needs in taking care of these patients.