

A Global Ministry for a Global Need

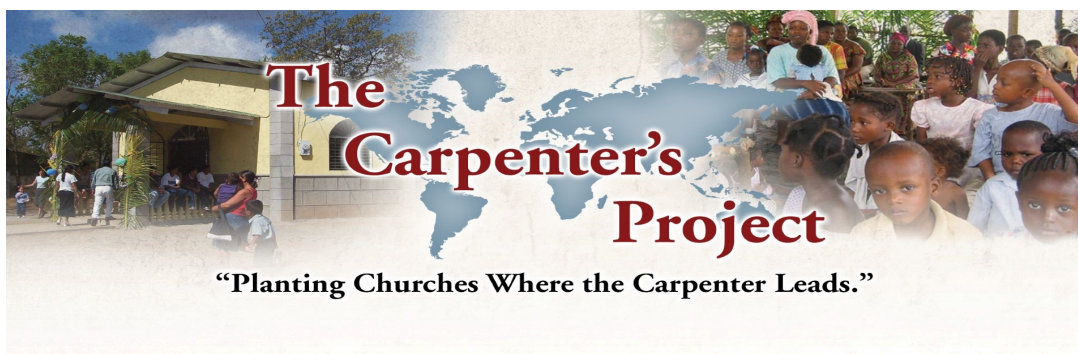
The Carpenter's Project
is an Independent
Baptist ministry
dedicated to
church planting and
church growth in
unevangelized
countries



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Lift Up Your Eyes

November 2019

A Field Ready for the Harvest

India is now thought to be the most populated and least evangelized country on earth. There are more people groups with no Christian witness and no missionaries than any other country. More than a billion lost souls live within its borders and hundreds of millions more live in close neighboring countries. It is truly a field ready for the harvest.

There is hope. The Spirit of God is moving. In 1911, less than 2% of the people of northeast India called themselves Christian. Today, about 40% embrace Christianity and a few thousand Baptist churches have been planted. These churches are aggressively trying to reach people in their region with the Gospel.



*Percentage who embrace
Christianity in and around NE India*

*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; For they are white already to harvest.
John 4:35b*

Rodney just returned from a two week trip to Northeast India where he ministered in churches and in two Bible colleges. The following is a summary of his trip.

Week 1: Ukhrul



I arrived in the mountain town of Ukhrul in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur. Ukhrul is a city of nearly 100,000. There I met Pastor Ningwon Kumrah (with me at left) who ministers at Ukhrul Theological Baptist College. This school was started in 2011 and trains workers for the ministry. Presently 70 students are enrolled (pictured below). The college is located on rented land but they recently purchased a large piece of property that they hope to utilize when funds are available for a new building.

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings I spoke in two different private (not Christian) high schools. There were about 100 students at each service and several students made professions of faith in Christ.

At the Bible school I preached in three chapel services, taught two lessons on the Inspiration and Authority of the Scriptures, five lessons on the doctrines of Soteriology, and three sessions on the Tabernacle.

I also preached in two churches on Sunday. Several walked the aisle to receive salvation in Christ. After one service the pastor told me that his father was a drunkard, but he was rejoicing because his father was one of those who trusted Christ.



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Week 2: Siliguri

I then traveled to Siliguri. Siliguri is a city of more than half a million people located very close to the borders of Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. It is a modern city where people from these neighboring countries come to live, work, and train. There are 22 colleges and universities in the area.



There, I met Athem Chothe (left with his family) who pastors at Mountain View Biblical Baptist Church (bottom right). This church operates the Himalayan Baptist Seminary that presently has 18 students (right) preparing for the ministry. I was privileged to speak in their chapel services on Wednesday and Thursday and to fellowship with the faculty and students.



Thursday afternoon I headed to the Indian state of Sikkim traveling over four hours up into the Himalayan mountains to the city of Gangtok. This state borders China and is a restricted area. Foreigners must have special permission to enter. This was granted and I was able to visit a ministry where a church was planted several years ago. A Christian school was also established there. I spoke to children and their parents at the school's annual sports day. Many Hindus have come to Christ through the ministries of this local church.



How We May Help

In Ukhurul: The Bible college doesn't need our help with day-to-day expenses, however it is space-limited and the student housing needs to be upgraded. We will be seeking the Lord's will about how we might be involved when the college moves toward it's new location.



In Siliguri: There is an interesting opportunity to sponsor periodic "deputation seminars" to train Bible school graduates in how to share their missionary call with established Baptist churches in India. Through this training and subsequent deputation, these men will be fully supported by Indian churches to go into various Indian states and neighboring countries as evangelists and church planters.



Ukhurul is a rural mountain city

We will be sharing more about these opportunities in future newsletters.



Siliguri rests at the foothills of the Himalayas

Final Word

The Lord heard and answered your prayers on my behalf during my visit to India. Souls were saved, Christians were edified, and our Savior was exalted. I was blessed to minister and be ministered to by the mutual faith of the believers I met, and I look forward to partnering with the laborers in this corner of the harvest field.

Thank you for being the Carpenter's friend. May God bless you.

Rodney