



**India:
Why Go?**

CURRENT

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*Equipping the church to reach the
world for the glory of God through
Christ*

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Editorial note

India. Why Go?

This is no new question. Why do we expend so much time, energy and resources to go to a hot land and share good news? Perhaps the answer is in the question—because it's *good news*. It's worth saying, sharing, laying down our small inconveniences for—maybe even for 14 days.

In this month's *Current*, take a moment to brush up on the nuts 'n bolts of church: what is it, in a nutshell? "Church in a Nutshell" is the training material for the leaders in India. Meet the summer team. Find out leader Andrew's take on why they're going. Glance at the itinerary so you know how to pray for them each day. Finally, take a sneak peek at the not-to-be-missed Independence Day celebration on Sunday, July 1st: an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors and welcome them into our community.

Why do we go? Because He came first.

Ingrid Chung

Church in a Nutshell

More Churches for More Worship

The Most Effective Means for Reaching the World with the Gospel - 5 Marks

By Pastor Bob

A local church is a fellowship of true believers in Jesus Christ who gather together regularly for biblical purposes, under recognized spiritual leadership, and then are sent into the world for redemptive purposes.

1. The church is composed of Christians.

*Born-again (John 3) and know God (1 Peter 3:18; John 17:3).

*More than just attending meetings (Acts 5).

*The church is the people, not the building (1 Peter 2:9-10).

*Cell and house churches are the predominant church models (Acts 2:42-27; 5:42; 8:3; 10:24-27; 12:12; 16:40; 20:20; 28:30-31; Rom. 16:3-5; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:5; Phil. 2).

2. The church listens to the voice of God: through the Bible, preaching, devotions, teaching.

*Scripture is the sole authority (Acts 2:14-47; 4:23-25; 7:1-53; 8:26-35; 13:13-43; 17:10-12). Even when indigenous people do not have a complete written translation of the Bible in their language, this does not diminish the authority of God's Word.

3. The church is under the spiritual authority of the pastor/elders.

*They provide discipline, leadership, direction (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

*Local believers serve as leaders. See Acts 14:21-23; 20:17; Titus 1:5. No outsiders involved in the leadership of any indigenous churches.

*Laity fills leadership positions (Rom. 16:3-16; I Cor. 16:15-18; Col. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:19-21; Titus 3:12-13). These lay leaders are typically bi-vocational.

4. The church is a Missional church in its village/city and especially in other nearby villages/cities. It is a church-planting church.

A. Church planting is urgent! Jesus is the only way; there is no other way.

*Jesus is the only way and He has history in His hand (Revelation 5; Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 4:12; John 14:6).

*Reproduction of churches must be done urgently and rapidly (Acts 2:41; 2:47; 4:4; 8:4; 13:49; Matthew 9:36-38).

*The **unevangelized** are accountable and will be judged and go to hell (Romans 1).

B. Churches must pray about planting in order to plant—God acts when we pray!

*Prayer: foundational and fervent (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:23-31; 6:6-7; 10:1-48; 12:5; 13:3; 14:23; 16:11-15; 16:25-34; 20:36; 21:5).

*Paul asked for prayer to share the Gospel with boldness (Eph. 6:18-19).

*Jesus instructed us to pray for workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:36-38).

[When you present this truth, stop and have several pray. If no one responds by praying for planting, repeat the teaching and then ask several to pray; repeat until they pray.]

C. Churches must plan to plant.

*Infuse this vision into every new church (I Thess. 1:6-8).

*Church planting only happens when it is intentional (Isaiah 32:8; Acts 13:1-4; 2:42-27; 13-20).

*Believers must intentionally start new fellowships of believers wherever they go.

*New believers should be gathered for prayer, worship, study of God's Word, fellowship and outreach.

*Beneficial to find a person of interest/man of peace (Matthew 10:11).

Church in a Nutshell *cont.*

D. Planting requires people.

- *Pray for men and women, find men and women, challenge men and women, train men and women (2 Timothy 2:2).
- *Planting requires men who will lead their families, love their wives, lead the church, take risks for the Gospel. Christ called 12 men and sent them out (Phil. 3—fellowship of His sufferings; 2 Cor. 4:1-18; 2 Cor. 11:23-33).
- *Planting requires women who will provide leadership and assistance in ministry areas appropriate and available to women (1 Timothy 2).

E. Everyone in the church must live by the Gospel and proclaim the Gospel always and everywhere, especially to the distressed and downtrodden – those we picture as least likely to make good Christians.

- *The gospel is sowed abundantly (Luke 16:31; 24:44-49; Acts 4:12-120; 2 Cor. 9:6). The gospel is proclaimed abundantly through a variety of media (parable of the sower in Mark 4).



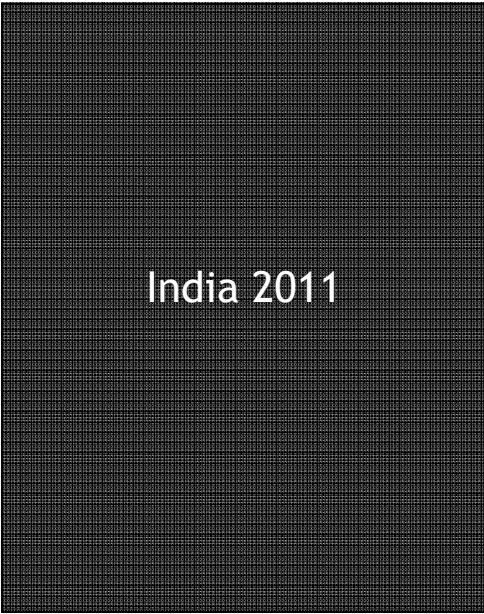
- *Jesus had compassion because He had eyes of compassion and saw the outcasts, downcast, and downtrodden (Matthew 9:36).

F. Planting requires danger, risk and uncomfortableness. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." Tertullian, 1st century AD

- *There must be a willingness to let all of life's luxuries, friendships, family, money, comforts go...being well-thought of...inconveniences (Matthew 10:16-23, 34-39; John 15:18-21; 16:1-4; Romans 8:16-18; 2 Cor. 4:7-12; 12:9-10; Philippians 1:27-29; 3:10; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:12-14; Revelation 6:9-11; 12:11.)
- *You have to be death defying, to cause you to trust God in new ways (Matthew 5:43-45).

5. The church practices Gospel fellowship: care, respect, encouragement, rebuke, counsel, and love for each other. Ministry supports mission #4 above (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, Philippians 4:10-23).

- ***Aim at ministry; you never get mission. Aim at mission, and you get ministry—ministry is the means by which you support and do mission.** Rally around what you do outside the church (2 Corinthians 1; Philippians 4).
- *Community forms in the context of ordeal. It could kill you, but if it doesn't, it makes you stronger (2 Corinthians 1).
- *Ministry is the means of doing mission. You have to do ministry along the way. You have to be loving, serving together to achieve your mission. If not, then the Gospel becomes a civil religion that affirms my lifestyle. We use family to "resolve" the tension (Philippians 4).



THE SUMMER

Name: Bob Burris

Age: 57

3rd Time in India

Team Role: Pastor

Why I'm going to India: Village evangelism, training of indigenous leaders, preaching on Sundays. Encouraging the pastors and evangelists to plant churches in new villages.

Name: Doug Keller

Age: 55

1st Time in India

Team Role: VP Online Communications

Why I'm going to India: I think God wants me to go and am looking forward to what He going to do.

Name: Katie Burris

Age: 23

4th Time in India

Team Role: Village Program Coordinator and Morning Devotions Coordinator

Why I'm going to India: To share the Gospel with un-reached people and to encourage fellow believers in their faith. I am excited to share God's redeeming love and see old friends.

Name: Marcia Lichte

Age: 48

1st Time in India

Team Role: Travel Logistician, Children's and Women's Ministries

Why I'm going to India: Because I feel like it is time to use all that I have been learning over the past several years to God's glory and toward His ultimate purpose of reaching those who have not

INDIA TEAM

Name: Gary Meier

Age: 67th

3rd Time in India

Team Role: Magician

Why I'm going to India: Save souls. They are very lovely people and completely open to the gospel.

Name: Andrew Runion

Age: 23

3rd Time in India

Team Role: Team Leader

Why I'm going to India: I believe that the most important thing on earth is to share the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God, not just locally but globally as well, especially among groups of people to whom the Gospel is completely new.

Name: Anna Lichte

Age: 18

1st Time in India

Team Role: in charge of music

Why I'm going to India: I'm going to India because I've always wanted to be a missionary and share Jesus with those everywhere. I've had a lot of chances to share within my comfort zone and now I feel it's time for me to step out that zone.

Name: Jarrod Phipps

Age: 22

2nd Time in India

Team Role: Congregation Liaison

Why I'm going to India: Commitment to the need for gospel to be explicit worldwide.

What are we doing in India and why are we doing it?

By Andrew Runion, Team Leader

What are you doing in India? Going door-to-door to share the gospel, working with pastors to plant churches in different villages, making sure that the churches are doing well, and holding a large gathering for all the local churches.

church, and not just hanging out.

How do you know the church is a healthy church? Pastor Bob has a list of criteria; see “Church in a Nutshell” article.

Why are you doing it? Because of the Great Commission.

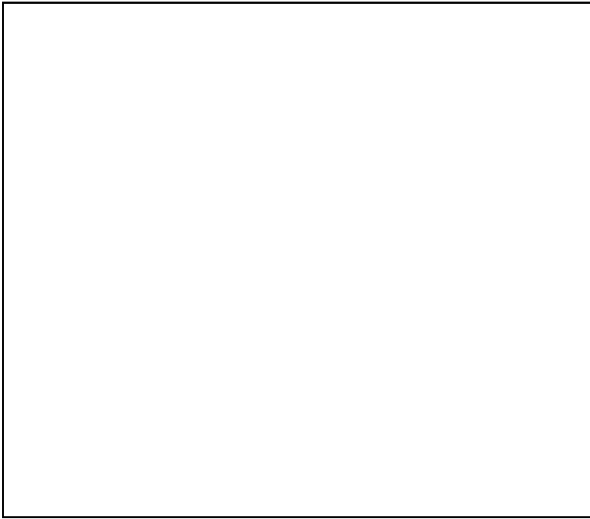
Who will you be working with? Leadership Training Centre and the Shalom Adivasi Society, a small group of pastors we’ve become friends with, to get them into the villages. We will also be working with locals to create self-sustaining communities to continue planting their own churches. We will be meeting with the leaders and making sure the church is healthy and actually a



What challenges do you anticipate? Traveling and jet-lag; I don’t do super-well with long trips. As a team, our challenge would be to stay focused on our goals of discipleship, church-planting, and making something more sustainable than just going out and sharing the gospel. The challenge is to make disciples, not just converts. Missions Committee and Pastor Bob have been pushing that. Doing devotions as a team will get us focused on church-building.



India Itinerary	
Saturday, June 30: Arrival	Village
Sunday, July 1: Worship Service, attend two house churches	Thursday, July 5: Jabra Village, Magic Tricks Show
Monday, July 2: Atal Tea Estate, Magic Tricks Show	Friday, July 6: Kothy Village, Re-visit Atal Tea Estate
Tuesday, July 3: Lohaghar Village, Discipleship	Saturday, July 7: Koina Village, Tourist Activity
Wednesday, July 4: Ashapur Village, Rakhmjote	Sunday, July 8: Large Gathering, Tirrahnah Tea Estate, Small Group Discipleship
	Monday, July 9: Departure



Independence Day Party: Sneak Peek

Burgers o’ goodness by Frits

Water slide

Live band: Via Verde

Sumo. ‘Nuff said.

Bike parade

Cake walk

An opportunity to show our neighbors that we’re here. For them. Come join us Sunday, July 1st at 5:00pm!



This month @Taft Avenue...

Communion Sunday

Sunday, June 3

Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, June 16, 7:30am-9am

Youth Car Wash

Saturday, June 16, 7am-11am

Neighborhood Outreach

Saturday, June 23 @ 10am

India Send-Off Luncheon

Sunday, June 24 @ 12:00pm

Youth Mexico Mission Trip

Sunday, June 24–Friday, June 29

India Summer Team

Thursday, June 28–Tuesday, July 10