

From the Desk of Rev. Saji K. Lukos

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Dear RIMI Partners and friends,

Greetings! This month's newsletter comes to you as a *personal letter*. Moni and I want to thank you again for your friendship, faithful prayers and financial partnership. As you know, today there is a great spiritual awakening in India, amidst persecution and internal struggles between hopeless religions. It is harvest time and thus RIMI is doing everything we can to maximize our effort by sending more workers to the unreached peoples. Let me give some ministry updates:

Church planting: This is our number one objective. Today we have over 280 workers in 16 states, serving in 500 village churches. Our goal is to have 20,000 house churches within the next 20 years. There are many thousands of districts without saturation evangelism and discipleship.

Leadership development: How can we reach unreached people without sending indigenous workers to live among them? That is why RIMI is establishing a major training center in Nagpur, and satellite Bible schools in every state of India. Today we have ten training centers in ten states, training 175 students to become church planters and pastors in India. Our goal is to train 100,000 young men and women in various programs within the next 20 years. This multiplication effect can be achieved by mentoring today's converts!

Compassion: About 50% of the Indian population live below the poverty line. RIMI is called to show the love of Christ through various means. RIMI is currently involved in many compassion projects, and are Children's programs are among the most important to us. We now have four mercy homes for children in two states and scholarship programs for deserving children. Amazing things are happening through these programs. One of our mercy home children, Varsha, received the highest grade on her high school exam in the whole city of Nagpur! God is good and He will honor our humble project that is truly intended to honor Him alone.

Mission India campus in Nagpur: Work is going on briskly to complete a few buildings. This year 75 students are being trained there with limited facilities. More students are interested to join this year, but due to lack of facility we are unable to take them. Only two buildings are available for these 75 students. A three-story staff apartment is being constructed to house five faculty families. I have challenged some friends to help with this need since this building will cost \$100,000 to construct including the furnishings. Pray for my friends who have agreed to raise this money soon to pay off the bills. With the compassion, vision and hard work of Bob and Marge Ancha of Prescott, Arizona, we are now working on the Campus Bridge and dairy farm. Bob did something unique after seeing the need in India. He put his house on sale to help us with the campus needs! What a great commitment and passion to reach the lost souls! He has raised money to build one of the urgent needs of the campus - the main campus well. Please pray for Dennis Clements and Phil Gunderson as they are working on raising the money needed to build the technical facility which will train students in various job skills so that they can be self supporting church planters.

Mission India staff: We have added a few more people to our India staff - Manohar and Jasmine James, Xavier James and his wife, and other administrative helpers. Rajesh Sebastian will be leaving for further studies, but he will continue to help us in training students. Pray for PD Joseph, Charles, Vijay, Regi, Abraham Mathew, Saji Mon, and SM Tendi and the other staff members. These are all hard workers who often work beyond their set working time.

The Lukos family: Moni and I with our daughter Maryann (9 years) and my sister Ancy were in New York recently so that I could preach in various places and spend a few days visiting with Moni's family. We also spent a week in Washington D.C to attend a conference. Ernest Mall joined us there and we had a great time. God saved us from a major accident as we were in PA (I-80). One of the tires on our van burst into small pieces. Then, I noticed some rash on my face when I was in DC, that spread all over my face (causing my whole face to swell badly), and I had to go to the emergency room twice. Right now I am under medication, and the swelling is slowly going away. Sometimes we face warfare in life; yet as children of God, we trust on God and wait to see good things come out these adverse circumstances to mature us in his likeness.

Maryann and Saji's trip to India: We will leave on August 5th by Lufthansa to Delhi. First we will go and see the new training center in the Jind district of Haryana. On the 8th we will fly to Nagpur from Delhi. I will have two teaching seminars in two cities - Sambalpur and Raipur. Then I will mainly be spending time with our 100 leaders who are coming in from all parts of India for a three-day retreat. Afterwards, we will have our Mission India board meeting for two days and ordination for a few of our missionaries. Maryann will go with my brother Sunny to Kerala to spend a few days there with my parents and her cousins, and then finally she will meet me in Mumbai airport on the 29th and we will fly together to NY to attend a family marriage. We will return to Chicago on Sept 2nd. Moni will miss us but she has to do a lot of work at the office, especially for the upcoming RIMI annual banquet luncheon on Saturday September 28 at the Bristol Court Banquet Hall in Mt. Prospect, IL. I encourage all of you to plan to attend this annual event with your friends and families (for more info, please call her at (847) 265-0630).

How important each of you is to us: Your regular prayers and continued financial support are so crucial for the ministry of RIMI. All that is happening in the ministry is because of your care and the grace of God. Thus you are in our prayers daily. Each dollar you send to RIMI is multiplied in India 45 times! **Summer is always tight here financially, and thus I ask you to help us with some additional funding for the various needs of the ministry such as campus construction needs, ministry tools (Bibles, tracts, motorbikes, bicycles), Saji's teaching seminars expenses in various cities, missionaries' medical needs, and their children's educational needs, etc.** Every month we look forward to your response with much anticipation because you hold the rope! See the attached contribution receipt to check your giving to date. This will help in your planning as you give to RIMI and other ministries. Once again, Moni and I thank you and pray for you for your financial partnership. May the Lord continue to bless you and guide you as you seek to honor Him daily. Please let us know how we can pray for you. We value your requests as you value the ministry of RIMI in India and around the world.

In conclusion, from Jude v.20-23, "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh (NIV).

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Gratefully in Christ for your partnership,



Rev. Saji K. Lukos
Founder and Executive Director