



# Independent Church in India

*"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).*

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## FINDING LOST SOULS

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### **Touching the Untouchable**

#### **Reaching Out to a Victim of Leprosy...**

Since the beginning of the year, Independent Church In India has been reaching out to a new area north of the city of Vadipatti area with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have started a new church called "Bethel Prayer House ICII" and have been also starting many Bible study groups with some of the new believers that they have been reaching in the various remote villages. Many of the people that are accepting the Lord are too poor to pay the bus fare to come to the main church, so the Independent Church team has been returning to them to equip them in the word of God. Read one incredible testimony of how one remote village was touched by the love of Jesus Christ...

One evening, the Independent Church team was led to visit a remote village named Peryapallapaddi. In this village were nine Hindu idol temples where the people worshipped various gods. As the team walked in the part of the village near the temples, it was very spiritually oppressed and the people were living in extreme poverty. Many living in very small dirt floor huts and tents. The people all had emptiness and hopelessness in their eyes. United States missionary Kathy Smith handed a Gospel tract to one woman, but to her surprise, the woman could not take it because she had no fingers. Her name was Udaiyamal, and she had a very bad case of the dreaded disease of leprosy. Her finger and toes were nearly gone and her deep sunken eyes not only gave her poor eye-sight but were spiritually empty and hopeless. Flies were constantly buzzing around the open sores on her feet. Independent Church's Gospel team learned that no one was caring for this woman and the rice that she ate was what amount she made by going begging. The team then proceeded to share the Gospel to her and a group of the other village people who had gathered. Not a one person in the crowd responded to the Gospel because they said all the gods are the same and that their gods will not allow them to worship another god.



*Udaiyamal had emptiness in her eyes.*



*Flies constantly buzzed around Udaiyamal's open sores on her feet. Leprosy affects the finger, toes and eyes of its victims.*



*A Hindu temple in the village of Peryapallapaddi.*

Pastor Britto and Kathy walked to another part of this same village, and children began following them. They shared the Gospel through visuals to the children. After hearing the Gospel, many children accepted the Lord



*Pastor Britto and Kathy putting medicine on an open wound on Udaiyamal's hand.*

and it began raining during this time. A youth girl named Rega invited the Gospel team into her house and she began asking them lots of questions about the Lord. She had also heard the Gospel when the team had shared it to the children, and she had made a commitment to the Lord. She shared with amazement and joy; *"I am so excited that I have this much love in my heart for Jesus!"* Rega told them that this is the first time that she had ever heard the name of Jesus because no one had ever come to her village before to share about Jesus. A few days later, Pastor Britto and Kathy went back to Udaiyamal's village to take her some food, put on medicine, and wrap up her feet. As they began wrapping up her feet, Udaiyamal began crying and told them *"No one has ever done this for me before. Even the doctors would not touch me, but here you are helping me."*

A large crowd gathered around her small tent wondering why they were there helping this woman. Kathy shares: *"We told her that Jesus loves her and that we wanted to show her His love. We told her that she was very special to God. In India, these people are considered low caste or untouchable, so no one has ever told them they are special or that they are loved. This was the first time she had ever heard about this type of love. Then we asked her if she would like to hear more about Jesus and she eagerly said "yes"! The people outside heard us sharing*



*Udaiyamal asks Jesus into her heart after hearing the Gospel.*

*this and invited us to come outside so they could also hear more about Jesus. Some of them were the same people who had heard the Gospel the first time, but did not respond. This time many accepted the Lord, including Udaiyamal".* Each week, Independent Church's Gospel team has been returning to this same village to show the love of Jesus to the woman with leprosy and each time people are gathering to watch them wrap up her feet. This gives the team a chance afterwards to have a Bible study with the new believers. They also are having a Bible study at Rega's house where God is already using this young girl to gather many of her friends together and more are making a commitment to the Lord. Udaiyamal is also following the Gospel team to this Bible study to hear more of God's word. Kathy shares:

*"When we first met Udaiyamal she had no peace or hope in her eyes, but now after hearing and receiving Christ's love into her life despite her circumstances she now has a smile on her face and a new hope in her eyes. This ministry's desire is to help more of these kinds of people. There surely is no greater desire in a Christian's life than to share the Lord Jesus Christ with hurting souls and to put smiles on their faces"...*



*US missionaries Lowell and Kathy Smith and their two children and Pastor Britto with Udaiyamal and others who made a commitment to the Lord.*

See more pictures and read the longer version of this story online at [www.indchurch.org](http://www.indchurch.org)

### **Children in Need of Home**



*Three Orphans - Savarimutiu (12), Ravikumar (5) and Stephenraj (8) standing with their grandmother.*

Independent Church In India has a strong desire to build an orphanage for the children who are in desperate need of a home. While visiting the remote villages, the team meets many children who are orphans. Some do not even have a roof over their heads. Please pray that God will provide for an orphanage this year so they can reach out to these hurting children who are lost and alone.

One day, the Gospel team met one depressed woman named Kamalemarray. She asked them if they had an orphanage to take her three grandsons. She shared in tears that her grandson's mother had died and their father had abandoned them. Kamalemarray's husband was an alcoholic who spent their small amount of income on his drinking habits and she was struggling alone working very hard to try to provide for them. The team shared the Gospel to her and she willingly accepted the Lord. She shared with new hope: *"I believe that Jesus can give me the peace inside and I want my grandsons to do the ministry in the future the way you are doing".*

### **Girl Healed of Tumor!**



*Pastor Britto and Kathy sharing the Gospel to children at CKCM-Colony.*

One evening, the team shared the Gospel at another village called CKCM-Colony. In this remote village was lots of Hindu idol worship and spiritual oppression. A group of over forty children gathered to hear the Gospel and many received the Lord with joy. At other spots throughout this same village, groups gathered together to hear the Gospel and those who had heard or received the Lord went and gathered many others who were sick or needed prayer. That evening the team prayed for nearly a hundred people. It was a miracle, sharing the Gospel and praying for people right in front of one of their Hindu idol temples! Now the team is returning to this village to have Bible studies and to equip the new believers in the word of God. One night after Bible study, US missionary Lowell Smith prayed for a girl with a tumor in her stomach. The doctors had told her they must operate. Two weeks later at the same

Bible study, the girl testified that she had gone to the doctor and no longer can the doctor find any trace of a tumor in her body! All glory is given to the Lord Jesus Christ for His healing and salvation to these precious people.

### **After Prayer God Provides the Rain**

At another village, the team met a young man named Isaiah. He was a Christian that had a burden to be a witness to his village where a very small percentage were Christians. After the team shared the Gospel, some accepted the Lord and they are going back again to have Bible studies. At the first Bible study a group came of around 20 people, not all could fit in Isaiah's small house, so some stayed outside to listen. The new believers were very excited to hear more about the Lord Jesus Christ. Afterwards, the people asked the Independent Church team to pray for rain, because it had not rained a drop for months. After they prayed, God worked a miracle and it rained the same night and the next night as well. Isaiah began going to encourage the people who were at the Bible study about how real God is and that they should trust in the Lord, because only God can work such a miracle as causing the rain to come.

### **Delivered From Suicide**

One evening, in a village named Chinnapallpatti where they worshipped ancestral spirits, one man invited the Gospel team inside his house. He began sharing all his problems with them. He had just written a suicide note to give to his mother and six sisters. He wrote where and when he was planning to end his life. But that night, the Lord saved him after the team shared the Gospel with him. The man said he does not have the desire to commit suicide any longer after hearing the truth about Jesus. That same week he attended the church.



*When Pastor Britto went to share the Gospel with Ambika she said she didn't need Jesus.*

### **Ambika's Testimony:**

#### **From Hindu Priestess To Loving Servant Of God**

Ambika was a Hindu priestess heavily involved in witchcraft. She was possessed by a spirit of divination that had been passed down to her through her family. In the village where she lived, the people would worship her like a god. The village people would come to her so she could tell them their future and put on them mantra powder. They believed by having this mantra powder applied to them by a Hindu priest or priestess they would be healed from sickness or be blessed. They believed that Ambika had Hindu gods living in her body that would tell them their destiny, heal their sicknesses, and help them when they were tormented by weaker demonic spirits. Hearing about her from a friend, Pastor Britto the founder of Independent Church in India went to share the love of Jesus with Ambika, but she rose up bitterly against him. But that unpleasant experience did not stop him. Pastor Britto felt strongly led of the Lord to go back to Ambika a week later. This time he even shared more about Jesus Christ, and boldly told her that she was possessed with a devil spirit that she called god and that it would end up destroying her. Shortly afterwards, the Holy Spirit began convicting Ambika and she went

to Pastor Britto's Vadipatti church the very next week. During a powerful time of worship she got completely delivered and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior! Shortly after this, the Pastors prayed for healing for her legs that had been crippled by an accident, and the Lord healed her!

After Ambika became a Christian, she would no longer lead the village people into the festival worship of the Hindu gods. They became very angry and the whole village rose up against her and the Independent Church Gospel team. They would not allow them to enter the village any longer. The village people destroyed all Ambika's things and burned down her house. They also stole Ambika's cows which gave her a source of income by selling the milk. After this misfortune, the believers of Vadipatti church helped Ambika by supplying many of her needs. She is now a very active

believer in the church and goes along each day with the Gospel team to share God's message of love with the village people. To those who used to come to her for divination, she now testifies about Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior. Her testimony is very powerful because she can now share how she spent her whole life serving the false gods and all they did was bring her discouragements, misery and poverty. She believed demonic spirits attacked her many times by making wounds on her body if she would not do exactly what they asked of her. God has now used Ambika to help Independent Church in India to reap many souls in her village and also around the whole Vadipatti area.



*Ambika worshipping the Lord.*



*Ambika (right) praying with the Gospel team before going to a remote village.*

Ambika shares a personal testimony of how God used her in one woman's life; *"One day a woman that knew I used to do divination asked me to come to her house because she was very sick. She began telling me that last night she had gotten lots of stomach pain and a heavy fever and had felt oppressed by a demonic presence. She told me that she cried in misery the whole night. She asked me if I could put the mantra powder on her and do the divination over her like I had done before. I said to her that I once prayed to the Hindu gods and did the divination, but I will no longer do those things because I have now accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. One thing I can do for you is pray for you. The women said to me whatever you want to do you can do for me because I believe your God will heal me. I laid my hands upon her and began praying that the Lord would heal her sickness and deliver her.*

*After this, I left to go to the bus stop to return to my house. In less than five minutes this woman came to me at the bus stop. I was surprised to see her because she could barely get off her bed minutes earlier because of her weakness. The woman said to me that after you prayed God healed and delivered me! Your God is a true God! A little later than this I felt in my heart to go and visit her again. When I went to her she had an infection in her arm. It was very big and painful. She asked me how I knew she had this illness. She told me that God led you to me because I have been going to many places to people who do divination but no one could heal me. I prayed for her and the Lord miraculously touched her and brought healing again to her body. That day she committed her life to the Lord. After God used me in this way, I committed myself to the Lord again. Before, I was in divination and I did many things for the Hindu idols, but now my whole life I want to do God's work. The Lord has laid on my heart to intercede for others and He is waking me up in the middle of the night to pray. Whatever situations may come in my life I will never stop doing God's work."*

**"My whole life I want to do God's work".**

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