



ASIAN INDIAN MINISTRY - CHICAGO

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
6003 N. CAMPBELL AVE, CHICAGO, IL

CHRISTMAS LETTER 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Bethesda Asian Indian Ministry celebrated its tenth anniversary during June 2008. We thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity all these years, to come together to worship Him in our own language and cultural style. Our members have great joy in singing hymns, listening to the Word of God and receiving the Sacrament in our Telugu language. As a result, this approach to ministry is very successful in attracting new immigrants from India, especially from our state of Andhra Pradesh.



Whenever and wherever we have the opportunity to preach the Word in the Chicago area, we are also reaching un-churched and de-churched Asian Indians with the Gospel of Christ. We give out Gospel tracts and New Testaments and personally invite the people to our special worship and fellowship events like Christmas, New Years, Easter and Thanksgiving. We also use e-mail, our web site and phone calls to reach others with the Word of God.

We have been greatly encouraged these last three years in reaching our people. Worship attendance has increased two-fold and our offerings have increased 200% over previous years. Many Telugu and non-Telugu speaking Indians attended Gospel Meetings that we conducted at Bethesda and in several Chicago suburbs. There they received the Gospel and came to know the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



One Hindu woman related how her husband and son died in the same week two years ago. She told us that our Gospel Meetings helped her to know Christ as her personal Savior and they gave her comfort in her grief. Another Christian woman, who lost her husband last year and attends our worship regularly, said that this ministry gave her new hope in Christ

and great encouragement through our fellowship.

A Hindu man came to our worship to participate in our Telugu fellowship and became a strong lover of Christ. He then brought his family, still living in India, to Christ and Christianity.

Furthermore, our mission work these past ten years is bearing fruit, not only in the U.S., but also in India. Some of our church members who were trained to be evangelists, and who worked with our ministry, have gone back home and have continued to evangelize in their neighborhoods in India. One of our leaders has even started a congregation in his neighborhood. Another member is now helping to construct a church building in a remote village of Andra Pradesh State in India. These persons continue to have close contact with our mission work here in Chicago.

By the blessings and grace of God, our ministry has been very successful in reaching many Asian Indians in the Chicago area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ours is a unique ministry and a pioneer in Telugu missions by reaching out to both Hindus and Muslims arriving from India.



Each Christmas Day, we invite both Christians and non-Christians to celebrate Christ's birth with us. Because Christmas is a universal festival, many are willing to worship and fellowship with us. Following worship we give out gifts and food. The gifts cost us \$300.00 and the money for the Christmas dinner we collect in advance by going door to door to our church members, singing Christmas carols.

However, this year is different. This year we will not be able to continue our Christmas outreach without your help. We need a Christmas gift from your congregation, or from individuals, as God leads.

If you can help, please write your checks to **Asian Indian Ministry** and mail them to us at
Bethesda Lutheran Church, 6403 N. Campbell Ave, Chicago, IL 60645.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you and continue in the New Year 2009.

Shadrach Katari

Rev. Shadrach Katari
Pastor, Asian Indian Ministry-Chicago