

John Ricky Gootam

India Harvest 2023

Kakinada, India

DECEMBER 2023

WORKS IN:

- Preachers work-shops
- Gospel meetings
- Children Home
- TV/Radio ministry
- Bible Course
- Homeless shelter for the aged
- Village ministries
- Medical Missions
- Homeless shelter for the aged



In May 2nd, 2023 a mob of more than thousand started killing, burning and raping in-Churachandpur, Manipur state in north east India. They have burned thousands of Churches in that area. A group of six of us from Kakinada went to Manipur State to see them and

pray with them. There were more then 60,000 who were affected by this. They are placed in 300 refugee camps in the state of Manipur. The situation is still very bad. It has been more than six months and they are still killing lots of "tribal Christians". The government is not doing anything. The refugee camps are at different places but we got to go to very interior places to see them and encourage them. We took a lot of medication to the refugee camps. Each camp we visited we

gave solar lamps, clothes, shoes, flasks for drinking water, food and nets to keep the safe from bugs and mosquitoes. Every day they all cook together. Each camp has elders who lead them and keep them safe. Every night, every village has young men outside the villages guarding. We were blessed to go and see them, talk to them, have devotional with them, pray with them, encourage them and serve them. They all spoke Manipuri language. We had Thonboi translate for us and who was our local guide for us. He and his wife were our gracious hosts.



INDIA
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Manipur Sate Mission work



Memorial wall with pictures of few who have been killed in this village

Kangpokpi is a district where many relief camps were set up for the refugees from the fighting. They still live in them. We were blessed to visit them. There were many children who were born in these camps. We got to go visit them, we have supplied milk powder for babies and infants in 9 refugee camps which would be of use to them for a month. This state still is in a bad stage. In India, 80% people are Hindus. Here in this state of Manipur, there are 90% Christians. Many churches have been burned and their stories are just never heard.

We were at a place where, the locals gathered pictures of those killed and made into a monument. We were looking at hundreds of those pictures and we saw a picture of a baby. They were telling stories of each and every one. We talked with the parents of the girls who were raped and cut into pieces. They were saying, their bodies are still in the government hospital and they were not being released to them. Their stories are heart-breaking. On our way into the mountains, we have seen many houses burned and many churches destroyed. Just heart-breaking to see all this violence in India.



Lhungtin, Kangokpi district, Manipur State



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds
- Psalm 147:3

Since the war which started in Manipur state, things have been very bad. Each village sends 10-15 young men to be trained at "Lhungtin camp". The government is not doing anything so each village send their young to get trained in the camp here and then they go back to their village. In India, it is "illegal" to have guns. These camps have their own gun for protection. We asked, "what can we do to help?". They said, "just pray for us. Pray for peace for our land. Pray for Gods protection on our people". These are young men who are between 16-19 years of age who want to protect their villages and their families at any cost. We got to give their families medication and that made all those who are in those hut very happy. Each camp has more than 100 young men in training. They asked not to disclose their location nor their training pictures so we did not take many pictures there. They are like an "army" to protect their "fellow Christians" in the tribal villages in the mountains. The government does not care nor look at them, saying they are "extremists" so let the Hindu tribes kill them. Many of the older ladies had knee pains and a lot of other medical complications. They were so happy we gave them balms for "pain relief". We got to spend half a day praying with them and I was blessed to talk for an hour about "staying strong and always looking towards God for protection".



Mannuel whose cousin was killed and burned



This picture to the left is of Manuel, whose cousin was pulled out of their car while he was travelling and was burned on the road. They used to be at the local Children home.



Saikul, Kangpoki District, Manipur State



We got to minister, pray, encourage, teach many children in the refugee camps in Manipur. Their hearts are were burning with 'revenge' t. We assured them, that God always is there and encouraged them to keep their eyes on Jesus. We all had translators into local languages. I was the "preacher" who preached in all the places and we had our team distributing, talking and praying. We took food to many places when we went.

Some villages we asked, "what we can do". Some asked for - blankets, clothes, shoes, solar lights, eye glasses and bibles. They had to leave everything and run for their lives and they are still living in hiding. No one knows when this fighting will end. We can not minister to everyone, but we tried to do some in the name of Jesus and his Church.



Lamshang, Imphal City, Manipur State

We touched 100 new families for Christ at this village called "Lamshang". This place is very close to Burma border (20 km away from the border). Since they live off from government reach, they could sign up with us to do bible study . We had 100 families who have signed up to be involved with the local church. I got to speak on "be strong and courage, the Lord your God goes with you". . This was in the month of September when we visited all these villages.



Thangkanpai, Saikul Sub-division, Manipur State



We visited and ministered many refugee camps in Manipur state. There are 300 camps like these but we could not minister to everyone. This refugee camp had a lot of children born here in the camp. So, they requested many items for the infants and kids.

Just sad, to see this situation. One mother requested a flask to hold hot milk. Other requested

baby food and baby clothes as everyone in the refugee camp had to run out of their homes for their lives. A generous donation of \$50,000 next year will have a profound impact on our mission to empower and strengthen young individuals as devoted Christians. With your support, we can reach more young people, nurturing their faith and guiding them towards a purposeful life in Christ. Together, let's make a lasting difference in their lives.



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the gentiles” - Romans 1:16



This Lady to my left, Mercy used to live in Imphal City. She finished her Masters for Social work. She just finished her college and was looking for a job. On May 2nd, 2023 a mob just entered her house but she escaped. Her entire house was burned and she had not been back till now. She was our helper with Thonboi and his wife. She was very good translator. We went in three different vehicles when we traveled in the state of Manipur in North- East India.



On September 24, 2023, In Jaggampeta, Andhra Pradesh State, we had a preachers meeting. This was attended by all the preachers we work with in this area. Brother Kimmi from Hyderabad who we have been working with for many years. This is hosted by local preachers with John Wesley, taking the lead for this area in Jaggampeta.



To the left—In the month of October and November we did 9 medical camps in Andhra Pradesh and we helped 14 refugee camps with medication. We have young doctors and nurses who help with our medical out-reach in the villages. We get to work with “Trinity Hospitals” in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.



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The church in Stillwater, Oklahoma is the overseeing congregation and stateside
coordinator of funds for Ricky Gootam's mission work in the Kakinada area.
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