



Pastor Moses of Covenant Reformed Assemblies in Ramachandrapuram, Andhra Pradesh - Water Baptism being the 'sign and seal' of the covenant of redemption.

IRFA Prayer Digest – News Brief August 2020



Hello Bob,

Please remember our good friends Pastor Moses and Hepsiba in these days where Moses' mother has been diagnosed with COVID - 19 but is doing quite well with Indian medical systems approach to medicate against the virus and is doing reasonably well even with her sugar diabetes.



"The government is supplying and suggesting Paracetamol (500 mg) tablets, Amoxicillin Trihydrate Capsules (500mg) and Multivitamin tablets for Covid patients. This is a six day course from which we", says Moses, with good results.

Moses reports that, "... by the grace of God Hepsiba, myself and Presanthi (eldest daughter) are recovering from the virus. We are in home isolation. Our younger daughters Sarala, and Ruth Shiny tested negative" by God's grace. He goes on further "... our church believers and elders help us a lot to get things from outside for my family". The main difficulty is that Moses'

mother and younger girls are separated (some 60kms) from the home in Ramachandrapuram but they sense God's care.

Why The Reformed Faith?

IRFA's fellowship of churches is comparatively small when comparing the gathered body of Christ across Christendom in



India. Why promote the biblical distinctives of the reformed faith and Presbyterian ministry? Mainly through the ministry of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun (PTS) a unifying Spirit of "Word and Spirit" within the Indian reformed and Presbyterian churches.

As IRFA began in India in 2004, this fresh Spirit found expressed with the formation of the Reformed and Presbyterian Fellowship of India (RPF), which represent 11 denominations throughout India. This ministry is substantial in terms of their doctrinal commitment which is essential when seeking to establish a breach between confessional Protestant theology to orthodox Hindu philosophy.

Hinduism is a religion that is thoroughly consistent in its own world and life view. We have found that lite evangelical fundamentalism does not cut it when confronting the proud Hindu elite. Good theology is essential, not to win arguments but to establish authenticity so the conscience is properly addressed in evangelism.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will. He hear us." (1 John 5: 14)



Staying at home but not forlorn!

As I look at the above photograph, which was taken now eighteen months ago when preaching in Puna, Maharashtra, has witnessed many of our freedoms and even religious liberties denied. When are we going to stand up again and take hold of these liberties? We have enjoyed standing up and at least connecting through Zoom each Thursday and Friday for prayer and Bible study.

The IRFA Council has met this way each month which we have found extremely satisfactory and will probably never return to the practice of meeting at the church hall or vestry.

We are planning to set up a virtual classroom using PIM Congregation Connect software from my home in Brisbane and run the Intensive English Phonics lessons with Faith Academy in Delhi and Grace Academy in Dehradun and the Mukti Mission school near Puna.

We are wanting to run IRFA Updates and Presentation where we can gather at home using Zoom or PIM Congregation Connect. This way we can have special visitors that are connected with IRFA from India that can answer all those sensitive questions. Meeting Hiralal and Luxmi Solanki in New Delhi, Pastor Moses and Hepsiba in Ramachandrapuram, members of the faculty at the Presbyterian theological seminary in Dehradun, Kushal Rai from the Darjeeling Hills Bible school are just some that are looking forward to meet on such a forum.

Please consider inviting us to your church group, or fellowship occasion to have an IRFA Update and Presentation. We would like somebody to volunteer to gather a group with their email address or mobile number. It would be necessary that those attending have Internet access. These meetings are alive and therefore time specific. Please contact me by email or mobile.

Richard Wilson

Email: richard@logosec.com.au

Mobile: 0411 090 398

Brief Catch up with Prayer Points!

*"He who
plants and
he who
waters are
one, and
each will
receive his
wages
according to
his labour.
For we are*

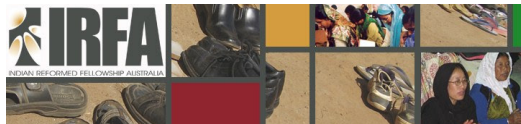
Hiralal and Luxmi Solanki

God's fellow workers. You are God's field. God is building"
(1 Corinthians 3:8 – 9)



Hiralal says: "The world is going through a time of uncertainties. While everyone is trying to find an answer, none have any. The people of God, however, are comforted in Christ. They face a tremendous challenge not only to understand Lord's work and will in these times but also to witness him to the world without hope. In countries like ours, it is even more challenging. In these times, you have stood with us in prayer, and continued support for the work of the Lord. We labour to see the excellent work of the Lord in the progress of the gospel in our beloved nation. Thanks for your care and love for us and the kingdom of God and gospel.

1. ***Please pray for Presbyterian Reformed Church in***

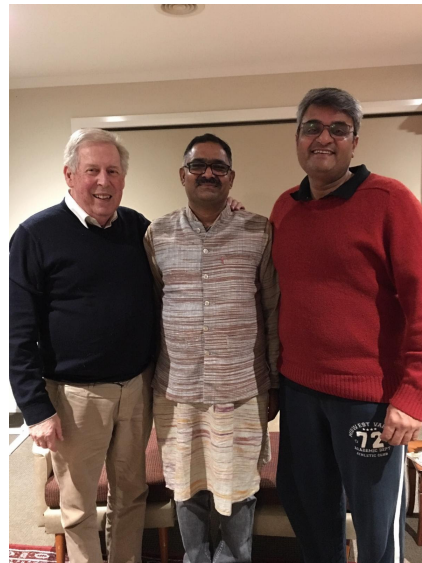


- India*** and its work of church planting ministry in Goa, Maharashtra, Panjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. You may visit us at: www.prci.in
2. Please pray for ***Reformed Bible Church (RBC)*** and its training program in Delhi to encourage and assist church planting in RPCI. Rev. Anjan Jena is leading it. There 43 pastors this term.
3. Please pray for ***our in-field training / Theological scholarship program*** and its needs.
4. Pray for ***the city of Delhi*** as it is going through Coronavirus lockdown.
5. Pray for ***our Government*** to make informed decisions to tackle Coronavirus.
6. Pray for ***the poor who have lost their jobs*** and have no food.
7. Pray for ***pastors who have lost their support*** and offerings due to no gatherings in churches.
8. Pray for ***Christian faith and witness*** in these trying times
9. Pray for ***zoom and YouTube ministries***.
10. Pray for ***COVID-19 affected people***. God may have mercy and bring an end to this pandemic.

11. Pray for **believers to keep looking to God for their needs, and plead to God on behalf of the world.**
12. **True peace and hope** in times such as these can come only in Christ that is through gospel sharing. Pray and share the gospel hope.
13. The churches are not meeting for worship, and medical needs are becoming high, offerings are going down. Pray for the sustenance of those dependent on this much.
14. **Pray for our co-labourers / our brothers and their families.** Their needs and work of God in their area.
15. **Pray for many hearts to turn to God** in times such as these. And to find real hope in the gospel.

Samuel Christian – Heading Up Gujarat Outreach

Since I reported last, things are unchanged. Dhruvi and I are still waiting for the borders to open that we may travel. We are trusting in the Sovereign God, and who knows the end from the beginning and waiting patiently. Dhruvi and I do not know how long it may take for us to start the mission, but rather than worrying about the future we are utilising the time for the preparation for the future ministry. In the meantime, I enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies at Presbyterian Theological College and doing two subjects this semester. I am also in touch with many pastors in India via zoom, phone calls and WhatsApp that helps me building relationships with them.



Please pray for us that God may give us much wisdom to make the right decisions that bring glory and honour to His name. Please pray that we may be able to organise everything here in Australia, especially the arrangements for our daughter Liza, and to start the work in India as soon as possible.

In Christ,
Samuel

Pastor Moses and Hepsiba CRA Ramachandrapuram

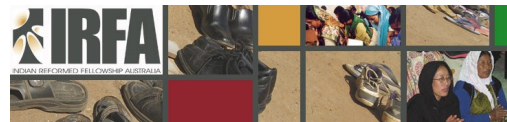
Pastor Moses, along with Hepsiba and the children, report that they are being sustained wonderfully at this time. They have several things that they want to report on, and

so Pastor Moses says as follows:

***They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles;
They shall run and not be weary;
They shall walk and not faint."*** Isa. 40:31.



Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Christ. Though we are surrounded by the virus, by the grace of God, we are alive and doing well in comparing with the other people. For the last one and half months, we are permitted to gather for worship on Sundays with some restrictions. You are all in our congregational and family prayers as well. Due to the rainy season here we are unable to use online facility which was distracted by the winds and rain and after that, we had security issues that are related to using the computers. By the grace of God at the moment, we have good weather and settled situations. Though you are all away from us, we appreciate your constant prayers for us even in stressful situations. May the grace of God bestow upon us continuously in all areas



With a humble heart, let us leave you some prayer requests so you could remember us in your congregational and family prayers.

1. ***Many of our believers in the congregations lost their livelihood, facing troubles financially.*** Also, with the pastors and their families.
2. ***We are searching for the church site,*** and please pray for open doors in this regard.
3. ***India's dense population is a dangerous breeding ground for the Coronavirus.*** Please pray for India and the virus is infecting thousands, and a great many are dying. The economic disaster is probably more dangerous than the virus itself. Pray for employment and means to generate funds amongst the subsistence farming sector. (Daily more than 32,000 are being infected).
4. ***One of our pastors has started living in a slum area to start future new work.*** Kindly pray for this couple to be established for the ministry. And another pastor with his wife and two children in a small village called K.Kota is desperately suffering from the lack of finance to continue the church in the rented house. We appreciate your valuable prayers for these requests.

Pastor Uma and Santosh Sharma - NCC Nepal

Pastor Uma shares his joy on receiving a gift that came into IRFA for Nepal:

Dear Rev. Richard,
Greetings from Kathmandu
Just now I received a gift from Western Union. Thank you so much Rev. Richard for your continue prayers and generous support for this ministry. I do appreciate it.



Due to the three months lockdown our brothers and sisters in the mountain, Salyan are suffering from lack of food so that tomorrow I will send 45000 Nepali Rupees to Leader Gebiram to supply food to church families.

Tomorrow I will also supply one pack of rice to each family in Kathmandu. This support is great blessings to our families. Again thank you so much for this big support.

Tomorrow I will send some photos of the food supply of Kathmandu.

Please convey my greetings to your family.

In Christ,
Uma

Dear Rev. Richard,
Greetings in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ

In human history, the church did not face this kind of hard situation. When some corona virus-positive cases found in Nepal, Nepal government decided to go in-country lockdown. When Nepal government made an announcement about country lockdown on 25 March, we did not know how we can keep in contact with our church families and do fellowship together.

We prayed and asked God's wisdom on how we can keep continue our fellowship and pray together. God gave us the understanding to make small groups and continue weekly fellowship so that we divided us into six small groups and started to have weekly fellowship in different houses and different places. From 29 March we are doing a weekly fellowship of six small groups, praising and worshipping our mighty Lord and praying together for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the UK and our nation. We also continue praying Daycare centre in Kathmandu and Salyan, Nepal.

We are also meeting for bible study in small groups using the gospel of Mark during the lockdown. God has revealing

Himself through the gospel of Mark. God, the Holy Spirit, is blessing us in our weekly fellowship and Bible Study. This week eleven families (who can manage internet facility) gathered one place, and we also sing praise and online fellowship, and I shared God's word.

From last week we also opened our church in Kathmandu and Salyan. Only three-four people started to gather together in the church for praise and worship to our mighty Lord. The Government said "do not gather in the church" so that only 3-4 people started to gather.

Every Saturday from 11 am to 12 noon we have weekly fellowship in six small groups in Kathmandu. Our brothers and sisters in the mountain also have weekly fellowship in small groups.

In Okhreni, Salyan there are 132 houses (families) in this Village (area). Nearly 67 houses (families) have already come in Christ. Last year in 2019, we constructed church building and day care centre in this Village. We need to climb the mountain to get this Village. It takes three and half hours to get in this Village from Salyan bus park.

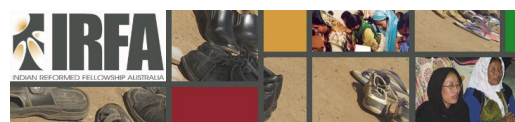
In the picture where I circled, there are 82 families in this Village. This village name is RAMRI, Salyan. It takes five hours by walking from Salyan bus park to get in this Village. It takes two hours by walking from CLC Okhreni. From last year we have started house fellowship in this Village. God is blessing our work in RAMRI, and until January 2020 eleven families came in Christ from this Village.

We were praying and planning to do opening church fellowship on April in RAMRI, but due to Coronavirus we couldn't do the opening fellowship in April.

Last week Gebiram (from Okhreni) went to have fellowship in Ramri and had fellowship with eleven families.

When the health situation is a little bit better, we are praying to open fellowship in Ramri. We have already printed a banner for the opening ceremony.

Thank you so much for your continuous prayers and kind support for this ministry. By the grace of God and power of your prayers, we are okay in Kathmandu and Salyan.



1. **Until today nine coronavirus affected people died in Nepal.** More than 2300 affected people are in hospitalised. More than 125000 people are in quarantine

in different parts of the country. Many positive cases are increasing from day to day. People are getting afraid when people started to die through this virus so that please pray for our people that we may focus on Cross where we obtain salvation. In these days every day, there is found new positives cases in Nepal. Please pray for this country that this virus may not spread in this country.

2. ***This country's health system is very poor*** so that I request to pray for our people who are living in the difficult situation.
3. ***All medical persons and hospitals are afraid to give regular service in Nepal*** so that it is difficult to get regular treatment also. I do request to pray for our people that they may not get sick in this difficult situation.

Today we are in 72nd days of country lockdown. It is extended until 14 June. There are three branch churches and total of 93 families (nearly 384 people, including children) in Salyan, mountain. One month before we supported food to all 93 families, but due to the almost three months country daily lockdown life is being much harder than before. Much appreciated your prayers that they might not be affected from virus and get some food to manage their everyday life.

Kushal and Tina Rai – DHBS Darjeeling Hills

Last year, 2019, ended on a positive note concerning our ministry. Graduation held on 30 November 2019 was well attended with over 550 guests and 26 graduates (largest batch as for my knowledge). Unlike many years in the past, we had some reserve in our bank account. We carried this positivity into the new year, 2020. We began the long-overdue partial fencing and entrance gate work in the month of February (hope to have the work done by the middle of August). The cost of the work has come up to Rs. 4 lakhs.

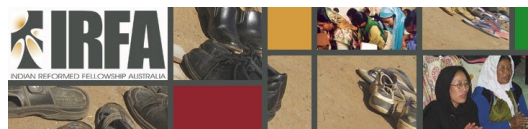


The new academic session began on 4 March with six new students with four more from Nepal planning to join in April. However, the month of March witnessed a gradual increase of COVID 19 cases in India and the announcement of lockdown in three phases from 24 March. With just six students, we decided not to shut down the school (indeed, God's amazing providence). All things everywhere remained shut; we continued our regular classes with precautions and safety measures. Currently, we have just begun our third semester.

With the current situation in India extremely grim, it seems we will not be able to conduct our Special Course, which is scheduled to commence from the first week of September. This course draws the majority of our students. We are looking into the possibility of conducting another short course (six weeks) provided the situation takes a turn for good.

Considering the present scenario, Graduation scheduled on 28 November does not look feasible (or, we may organise Graduation with a much smaller gathering).

Failure to organise Graduation will hit us badly; financially. We will incur a shortfall of about 4.5 lakhs with we need to cover our expenses (a significant portion goes towards payment of staff salaries).



1. Do pray for our needs for the year.
2. Do pray that we will be able to have regular classes and ministry the following year.
3. Do pray for the situation in India...the worse is yet to come.
4. Do pray for the plan of the school (we plan to restart our B.Th program with proper accreditation).
5. Do pray for My: Zion School (up to class V) and the need for school building.
6. Do pray for faculty trainee, Mr. Dheeraj Rai (III M.Div, PTS) and the plan for further studies

Protestant Reformed Church - Paul Raj and and Kasthuri Vellore – India

We bring greetings to you in the name of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that this newsletter of ours finds you in good health even at this time of global pandemic. It is by grace, we are



staying well and all the members in both of our congregations are keeping well. It was my desire, to update with you of our life and work here, for months but got delayed as we were keeping ourselves with busy. We do thank God for keeping

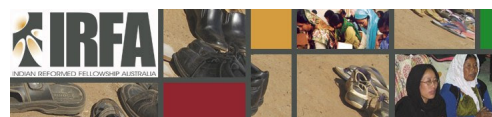
you. These days we frequently remember you in our prayers. Though things seem very challenging around, we are not left without hope as we are blessed to have our Savior who is greater than the pandemic.

About two months we are having our worship services online with both Tamil and English churches. We do pre-record the entire worship service and share it with Tamil Church WhatsApp Group well in advance and on Sunday all are encouraged to join the worship services around the same time from their respective homes. The members in VCC (English) are smart enough to use online apps such as Zoom with which we have our online service, Bible Study and Prayer Times at real time.

Presently, we are having a series of sermons in the Book of Acts and we have had about six sermons until Acts 2:39, three of them were on Infant Baptism. I just finished preaching my third sermon on, "The Covenant Children's Right to Baptism" with the sub titles, "Infant Baptism as Covenantal, Confessional and Congregational". It was a blessing to me in the first place and I think of composing these three sermons into a booklet, God willing.

During week days, since we are not allowed to go into the community, I take Catechism Classes for the children, staff and volunteers on our Eden Campus, five days every week, between 6 pm to 7 pm. Wednesday, I take Heidelberg Catechism class for English Church Group via WhatsApp, between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Bible Study conducted for Tamil Church on Wednesdays between 7 to 8 pm. Friday night between 8:30 to 9:00 we meet online, via zoom, for prayer. In fact, we have more opportunities to minister to the spiritual needs of our church members during this lockdown and we do thank God even for this pandemic. This pandemic is used of God in a special way that Indian Christians be spared from persecutions from the local Hindu groups to some extent.

We remain thankful for the opportunity to minister to the needs of the members of the Tamil Church during this lockdown. We do thank GPRC for the diaconate fund to help the Tamil Church members and the pastors those who are part of our Reformed Mission Network here in Vellore. The members from our English Church also extended a generous support to help the people in our Tamil Church and we are very thankful to God for that.



Here below, I wish to share some prayer points and points of praise as well.

1. Please pray for the members of English church those who are mostly medical professionals that they may stay safe as they treat Covid 19 patients.
2. Please pray for the Tamil Church members that they may be able to resume their work and have their daily needs be met.
3. All the members in both congregations are safe. Please pray for the spiritual welfare of both congregations.
4. Ben and Priscilla from English Church are blessed with a girl baby, a month ago.
5. Libiya Parthiban, Stella Dhiviyakumar and Lidiya Thayakumar are expecting. Please uphold them in your prayers.
6. I could officiate the wedding of Bakya, a Tamil Church member, with Prasanth, last Wednesday. The wedding took place on our Eden Campus.
7. Elder Arockiam's (Tamil Church) son Joshie was suspected of Covid 19, but tested negative. Thanks be to God.
8. My father underwent a cataract surgery in my home town. Please pray for his recovery. We do think of visiting him next week, God willing.