



India

Lesson 6

BELC Vacation Bible School

The BELC VBS Program

Indian children do not get three months of summer vacation like US children. Instead they typically get one month, May, off for summer vacation. In India May is the hottest month of the year. This can make it difficult for churches to attempt VBS programs, nevertheless the churches of the BELC have been trying for the last 21 years. They understand the importance of reaching out to children with the truth of the Gospel. Many of the children they bring to the VBS programs are Hindu and have no knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Most of the churches of the BELC participate in the annual VBS program. For the first seven days of May each church will hold a VBS program. Pastors as well as teachers and other members of the churches volunteer to teach the kids, and provide snacks and games. Even some of the youths in the congregation help to teach the younger children.

At the end of the week all the congregations in a district will gather together. Bible quizzes and memory recitals will be organized to give the children a chance to show what they have learned. The children will present entertainment on the Bible themes including dramas, dancing and singing. Snacks, lunch and gifts will be distributed to the children. Often Hindu and Muslim children also participate and show what they have learned in just one week.

In 2013 more than 15,000 children participated in 16 different districts.

1390 at Koppedu, 1270 at Chittoor, 1252 at Shrikalakhasti, 998 at Uthukottai, 1461 at Vaniyambadi, 1070 at Chennai, 1214 at Tiruvallure, 867 at Tiruttani, 329 at Puttur, 477 at Madanapalli, 125 at Ponneri, 223 at Ambur, 2535 at Nellore, 1433 at Renigunta, 1311 at Kudapa, 123 at Kurnool

You can find all of these districts marked on this google map:

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z1diRk4HgUUo.kA29MIROHiUs>

The VBS programs provides great fun and fellowship, but most importantly it allows the pastors of the BELC a chance to reach out to children who would not otherwise have a chance to hear about their Savior Jesus Christ. We remember the words of Jesus, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Mat 19:14 NKJ)



Figure 1: VBS Student singing



Figure 2: Koppedu district Students gathered at end of week



Figure 3: Dancing after week of VBS



Figure 4: Dancing at end of VBS week



Figure 5: Lunch at VBS program. This is called Biryani. It has rice, spices, and chicken



Figure 6: Boys waiting for food at VBS program