

# CLCI - India

Church of the Lutheran Confession India (CLCI)

## STATUS

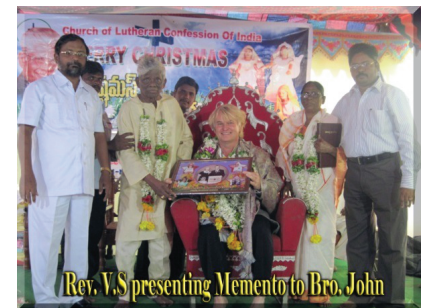
In Fellowship ☒

## STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>348</u>	Congregations	<u>322</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>51</u>	Preaching stations	<u>247</u>

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The seminary continues to operate at full capacity of fifty-one students with a growing waiting list of men who want to study. Last year ten students completed the Bible correspondence course and another ten have joined. This past summer the CLCI distributed 1,250 New Testaments and 3,400 tracts at fourteen street evangelism programs and they conducted twenty-one Gospel meetings in rural slums and tribal villages. The new vehicle has greatly benefitted this work. The CLCI has faced opposition in the form of false police reports. The CLCI has also been doing outreach via WhatsApp (a mobile phone chat app) by sending out Bible lessons.



## SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

The CLCI works throughout much of middle and northern Andhra Pradesh, as well as into the southern tip of Odisha. Their work includes:

**Pastoral Seminars** are organized by the CLCI among its various districts on a regular basis for the continued training of its pastors.

**Public Gospel Meetings**, including film programs, are held in various villages. Anywhere from 500-1000 attend these three-day meetings.

**Outreach and Evangelism** programs have met with success. Many young men who attended the CLCI youth camps at Nidubrolu have become evangelists for these outreach programs.

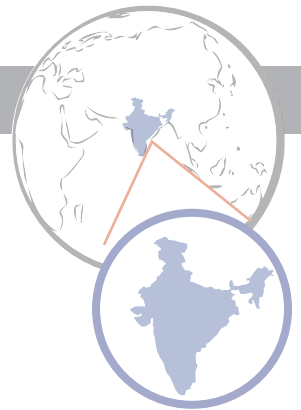
**Constructing Churches And Prayer Sheds** is also a priority. The CLCI does its best to help its pastors and churches with the construction of places of worship.

**Tribal Outreach** is another important opportunity. Many of the tribal people of India are neglected and downtrodden. The CLCI reaches out to them with the Word of God, but also helps them in other areas including education.

**Orphanages** are more common in India than in the States. With the help of KINSHIP the CLCI supports and educates a large number of orphaned children.

**HIV/AIDS Awareness** programs are used to spread the Gospel. HIV/AIDS is not only a serious problem, but is also surrounded by a great deal of superstition and misinformation. The CLCI works to educate people about HIV/AIDS and to give help and assistance to those who are infected, most importantly to share the love of Christ with them.





## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The CLC has been working with the CLCI in India since 1981, when a CLC member, John Rohrbach, put the CLC in contact with Pastor V. S. Benjamin.

In April of 1983, the CLC Board of Missions sent money for the building of a mission house in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh, India. This mission house was to be a home for V. S. Benjamin. It was also the headquarters for Pastor Benjamin's church, the CLCI. Later it would grow to include both a Bible school and an orphanage.

In 1984, KINSHIP helped with the building of an orphanage in Nidubrolu with a capacity of 25 to 30 orphans.

In September of 1989, Jyothi Benjamin, son of Pastor V. S. Benjamin, flew from India to the US to begin training for two years at ILC, in Eau Claire, WI.

In May 1998, Jyothi Benjamin began a Bible School in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh.

In June 2000, the first two men, Isaiah and Jacob, graduated from the Bible School in Nidubrolu under the teaching of Jyothi Benjamin. The CLCI is based in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh, a town just south east of Guntur.

## PERSONNEL

Pastor V. S. Benjamin, founder and current president of the CLCI.

Pastor Jyothi Benjamin is the son of Pastor V. S. Benjamin. Pastor Jyothi is the active head of the CLCI. He is also the main teacher at the CLCI Seminary, and does much of the work of organizing the various programs of the CLCI.

Nireekshana Benjamin is another son of Pastor V.S. Benjamin and brother to Jyothi. Nireekshana works closely with Jyothi as the CFO of the CLCI as well as doing much to organize children's programs such as VBS.

## FUTURE PLANS

Though the current political situation with the pro-Hindu majority party in India has caused a crack-down on Christianity, the opportunities to train faithful pastors to proclaim the truth of God's saving Word and start new congregations are overwhelming. There is seemingly no end to the opportunities before us. We pray that the Lord would provide the necessary resources, man-power, courage, and zeal to continue in this harvest field that is so ripe for harvest.