

Successful Crusade Evangelism in India and Africa

BY ALAN DOERKSEN

Crusade evangelism is a key method used by indigenous ministries assisted by **Intercede** to bring many souls to Christ. Hundreds of people have committed their lives to Jesus as a result of the crusade work done by two such groups—**Bharat Bible College** in India and **Cornerstone Evangelistic Ministries** in Kenya.

Leaders of Bharat Bible College have discovered that not all learning takes place in the classroom. So its students regularly engage in hospital visitation, tract distribution, street meetings, and gospel campaigns in Hindu villages—all sponsored by the college.

Once a year, the entire student body and faculty conduct an intensive evangelistic campaign in a major city in southern India. Campaigns in recent years have been held in 22 major metropolitan areas and 300 villages.

“We had a wonderful gospel campaign from December 6 to 14, 2008, in 15 towns and dozens of villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh,” reported BBC leader Samuel Buraga recently. “We were able to distribute 150,000 gospel tracts during our personal witnessing. Your faithful support has been a constant encouragement to us in the gospel work of our Lord Jesus Christ in India.”

For last December’s campaign, BBC sent out

15 teams of 10 to 12 members, each consisting of two senior leaders—one of them a teacher. Some local pastor friends and BBC graduate pastors also helped out.

The college follows an approach it calls “saturation evangelism” in its Annual Gospel Campaigns. This involves its students and teachers taking part in house-to-house distribution of Gospel tracts, personal witnessing and street preaching. In the evenings, there are open-air gospel meetings. Evening meetings usually attract thousands of men, women and children. BBC’s student counsellors, as well as local pastors, are involved in active personal counselling during the campaign.

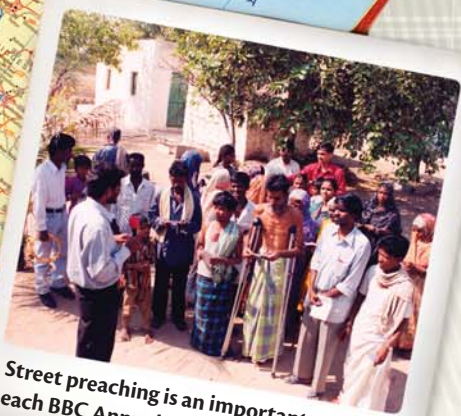
These teams work in conjunction with the local Bible-believing churches. Other methods they use are: sharing testimonies, presenting gospel skits, singing songs, conducting cottage prayer meetings, arranging youth retreats, and preaching in the streets. During the 2007 campaign, one team screened gospel films, and women’s teams visited many schools, and presented puppet shows to women and children. Teams also served the local churches, Sunday schools and ministered among the college students, women and children and in the neighbouring villages of the towns they visit.

Preparation is an important part of each Gospel Campaign. For the 2007 campaign, BBC reported that “much time was spent in prayer for God’s help, strength and guidance for the gospel campaign. Members of each team spent time together for several months seeking empowerment by the Holy Spirit for discharging the obligations of the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of the 16 teams was knit together with six to 10 members each to support one another, bear one another’s burdens, and thus encourage one another in this rewarding task of evangelism outreach.”

But the campaigns are not without difficulties. Many of the teams have to travel to interior rural areas on foot. Others travel by train or buses to their destinations. “Train and bus journeys can be an adventure, especially when these modes of transport are full of passengers day in and day out,” wrote Buraga in 2008. “Sometimes you wonder if your bus or motor vehicle will ever make it to the destination, through long stretches of treacherous roads! The Lord took care of all our teams to and fro without an incident, as far as travel was concerned.”



BBC staff and students share their faith in Guntur.



Street preaching is an important part of each BBC Annual Gospel Campaign.

The students face some opposition from non-Christians and Hindus in many places. But despite such challenges, students successfully evangelize many villages each year. "We praise God for the willingness of each student to go through hardships to preach the gospel," writes Buraga.

During the 2007 campaign, "Altogether 200 villages and 16 towns were visited, and the teams distributed more than 10,000 gospel portions; 200,000 tracts; and reached thousands of people, personally and in groups," reported BBC. "The decisions to believe in Jesus Christ ran into a few hundred."

"We deeply appreciate the local pastors, elders and members of churches in these villages and towns, who accommodated our teams, provided their needs and extended hospitality to them," stated Buraga. "The team members were full of joy and enthusiasm as they returned from these places of ministry, bringing their sheaves with them. They look forward to such opportunities in the future. This endeavour has helped the students to gain a deeper understanding of self-discipline, teamwork and to manifest commendable leadership qualities.

"The college administration and faculty deeply appreciated the prayer and financial assistance received from our friends from within and outside the country. Praise the Lord! We would appreciate your continued prayers for all the students, the local church pastors and elders who helped the teams, and hundreds of thousands of people who received the written and spoken Word of the Lord, so that the Spirit of God may continue to bring in fruit to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The latest Gospel Campaign cost about \$16,000, for expenses such as printing 200,000 tracts, transportation, food and accommodations for students and teachers taking part, and PA systems.

With Faith Alone

Some tribal groups in Kenya have yet to hear the gospel even once, reports Timothy Kinyua, leader of Cornerstone Evangelistic Ministries. "Most of the rural natives of Kenya remain predominantly animistic and nomadic. Besides the Turkanas and Samburu, CEM also works among the Meru, Borana, Kikuyu tribes and Muslim Somalis. These are among the poorest tribal groups in Kenya."

During one summer outreach, an astonishing 8,000 tribal people responded to the gospel

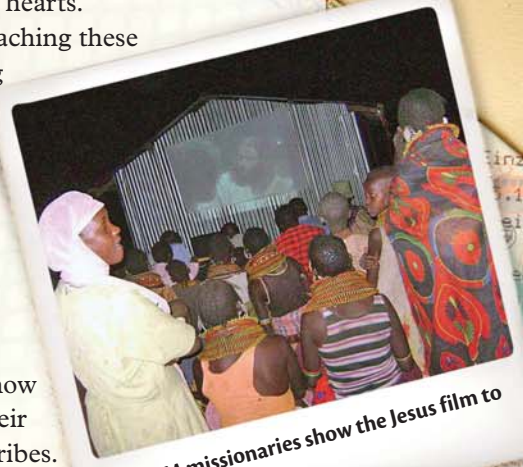
through house-to-house evangelism, open-air meetings, and showing of Christian films. In a campaign in late 2006, CEM missionaries took the gospel to 438 villages over a period of six weeks. The response was excellent: 3,789 people accepted Christ into their hearts.

Another way CEM is reaching these tribes is through a feeding program assisted by gifts to Intercede International. This enables the nomads to stay in one place to establish small communities, and opens opportunities to share the gospel. The converts are now evangelizing the rest of their family groups and other tribes.

CEM is also open to different approaches in evangelism. For instance, last December 13, CEM staged a music extravaganza to target Meru young people. "Many attended. We had a good time to preach to them as well as preaching through singing," reports Kinyua. "We had invited a local gospel artist who thrilled the young people. A total of 89 young people received Jesus in their hearts.

"I was traveling recently when I noticed a puncture on the rear wheel of the Land Rover," observes Kinyua. "I got the jack out and changed the tire, proceeding with my journey home. I compared the size of the jack to that of the vehicle. The jack is quite small but is able to lift the vehicle, which is thousands of times heavier than the jack. I analogized the jack and Land Rover to our ministry. Though it may seem very small, the Lord continues to bless us with greater accomplishments for the glory and honour of our Saviour. We all can do marvellous things for our Lord with faith alone."

Please keep BBC, CEM and other Intercede partner ministries in your prayers, as their missionaries reach thousands of souls through crusade evangelism.



CEM missionaries show the Jesus film to Kenyan villagers.



Young people dance at a CEM outreach in Meru, at which of 89 young people received Jesus in their hearts.

For more information and quarterly Field Reports from these ministries, contact Intercede International mentioning these project codes: 620BBC, 572CEM.