



VOICE *of* SHALOM

COURAGEOUS HOPE

by Jenifer Eriksen Morales



What a joy to meet and briefly journey with brothers and sisters involved with PPMI in India! The scripture focus for the Women's Conference was taken from 1 Corinthians 13:13, 14, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." Each day we worshiped together and studied examples of women in the New Testament who exhibited these attributes. Yet even as I taught and told the stories from the Bible, I knew stories of faith, strength and courage were sitting right in front of me.

The women of PPMI, also known as "the Pastor's Wives," are growing in their own identity as ministers of the Gospel. As we spent time in worship, learning, work, and conversation with this group, it became clear they are beginning to see themselves as partners in ministry with

their husbands. The women shared stories of leading singing in church or traveling with their spouse; reaching out to others through visits. A number are dedicated to prayer and some are involved in healing ministry. One woman leads a team from her congregation who prepares an agape meal which is served every Sunday to their fellowship and anyone who joins them from the surrounding community. The "Pastor's Wives" exemplify Paul's words.

These sisters are strong, courageous leaders in their communities. They faithfully live and minister in impoverished situations, reaching out in love to their neighbors, and those who are sick and marginalized, inviting people to know Jesus and come to church. At times, the work of ministry can be dangerous. Some pastors and their families have been threatened by neighbors who practice a different faith tradition. Whether or not they are engaging in hands on ministry, all of the women dedicate themselves to intercessory prayer. Through prayer they find hope.

It is this hope that refreshed my spirit as I connected with these dear sisters in India. With hope filled faces as they spoke about a Savior who loves and heals and answers prayer. This same hope enables them to minister in difficult situations, as they balance community and family needs. I saw new hope dawning in my sisters' eyes as they learned and grew, not only in faith but in their identity as ministry leaders. Our shared learning as well as their example inspires me to be a faithful, strong and courageous woman, who leads in love and sees through hope filled eyes. I am grateful.

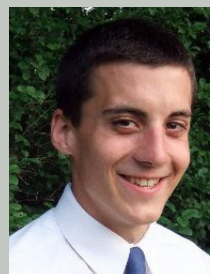
Thank you for your Generosity to all our donors and supporters all these years. Your prayers and financial support is helping us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches in the name of Christ in the interior rural communities.

UPDATES

PPMI Board of Directors



PPMI's Board of Directors announced earlier that Stephanie Perry, Senior Vice President Cash Management of Univest Bank and Trust Co., was appointed to the Board of Directors. We praise God for her talents and gifts on the Board.



PPMI's Board of Directors announced earlier that Caleb A. Benner, Bible/ELL Teacher of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, was appointed to the Board of Directors. We praise God for his talents and gifts on the Board.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Paulus Thalathoti

I thank God, along with the rural village committed pastors from India for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus and the good news of His resurrection during this Lenten season.

The pastors have been working and serving the Lord day and night in the same hostile environments where other religious fanatics are instigating uprisings. In spite of these difficulties, the Holy Spirit God has been sustaining each of our pastors. Through their service and ministry, people are responding to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some openly expressed their faith in Jesus Christ and were publicly baptized even in the hostile environment.

We praise God for the dedication of our new church in South India. The Calvary Light Prayer House was dedicated on January 26, 2015. Pastor Novahu was once a Hindu brother and a mob member but through the ministry and witness of his mother and his wife, he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and Lord and became the follower of Christ.

As we move forward, we covet your prayers in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ across the oceans.



PRAYER ITEMS:

- Would appreciate your prayers as Phil and Arleen Godshall moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina and Wallace and Karin Wolff to Maryland
- Remember to pray for Wallace Wolff and his recovery from a stroke
- Remember to pray for the dedication of two new churches in India happening this July, where Pastor Nireekshana Rao and Pastor Deva Sahayam serve
- Remember to pray for Pastors conference and Pastors Wives Conference scheduled for July. Resource persons for these Conferences are: James and Kendra Rittenhouse, Pastor Jenifer Eriksen Morales, Dr. Paulus and Sumatha Thalathoti
- You can help! Some churches needs doors, windows, utility connections, roofs and side walls.
- We are in need of people to give \$25 a month for travel support for a pastor in India. Pray for people to be willing to do this, and ask God if it is something He wants you to do.

PPMI Board of Directors

Dr. Paulus Thalathoti,
Founding President

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SEWING AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Sharon Swartzentruber

Sewing machines are useful to have; they can be used to mend torn clothes, make clothes for your family, sew for others for income, or used to teach others a practical skill. Each PPMI pastor couple received a sewing machine to enhance their home and ministry following the Pastors and Spouses Conference last summer.

During the conference afternoons, and some evenings, participants learned how to sew on treadle sewing machines. Several of the women knew how to use the machines and patiently helped their sisters. Some of them learned quickly, while others needed more time. By the end of the conference each woman had completed and took home a pillow and Bible cover that had been sewed on the machines during the conference.

Sewing is an important part of my life as a former Home Economics teacher and now, one of my favorite hobbies. I was privileged to spend this time helping the women to learn to sew as well. I pray that God will use this practical skill to further the Kingdom of God for our brothers and sisters in India.



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