

PRIA

Ministry of Love

Sharing God's Love by Helping Others

Newsletter

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www.priaministries.org

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"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

We thank each one of you, our partners in ministry, for providing funds for (1) A Christian school where more than 435 students are receiving Christian education; (2) Supporting 100 Widows, widowers, and handicapped people with food, clothing and medical help; and (3) Supporting the lay witnessing program. Our lay people love to share their faith with their neighbors. Your contributions help us to conduct branch Sabbath schools in four villages.

"Just as there are limits to how much we can eat at one sitting, so there are limits to how much we can do. That is why Jesus goes on to say that some sow while others reap but both 'rejoice together.' As we work for the Lord, we will be encouraged to do more and will pray for a greater willingness to be used in every possible way." Sabbath School Quarterly, p. 106.

"Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ." *Christ's Object Lessons*, P. 351.

WIDOWS' MINISTRY/LAY MINISTRY

Widow's Ministry and Lay Ministry go hand in hand in witnessing. Mrs. White says, in Ministry of Healing, page 143, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."

Seetharathnam's Vision & Mission

Seetharthnam and her husband used to minister in a Hindu temple, singing songs and healing people of their sicknesses. By doing this, they amassed a lot of wealth because people brought offerings to the temple to be healed. She would tie a string on the arm and sing mantras and people believed they were healed.



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Seetharthnam (cont)

After her husband's death, she retired from ministering in the temple. She has four sons and they would drink and waste all her money. In the meanwhile someone gave her a New Testament Bible. One night she locked all the doors and windows of her house because she was afraid that her sons would come and trouble her for money. She started reading chapter 5 from the book of Matthew, and fell asleep with the Bible under her pillow. Suddenly, in the middle of the night, there was a bright light in her room. She was afraid. Didn't I lock all the doors and windows and turn off the lights? She thought.

She saw a man dressed in bright light standing at her bed. He called her, "Seetharathnam, will you serve me?" "She replied, "Who are you that I should serve you?" He replied, "I am Jesus. Will you serve Me?"

"Yes, Lord, I will serve You" It was almost morning. She quickly dressed and went to a neighboring village where her niece lived. Her niece had converted to Christianity some years before. Excitedly she told her niece, "I saw your priest last night in my dream. He asked me if I would serve Him, and I promised to serve Him."

Her niece in turn took her to her priest and related Seetharathnam's dream. The priest was excited and baptized her. Seetharathnam wondered within herself, "What is he doing? He is baptizing me without any studies?"

She stayed in that church for some years and joined another denomination. One day an Adventist pastor hearing of Seetharathnam's conversion to Christianity, went to visit her. He took his associate pastor with him. They wanted to share the Sabbath truth with her. She told him, "I don't want to join any other denomination. Please don't waste your time. Just leave."

The Adventist pastor waited till evening to convince her to give them a few minutes to explain, but she refused to listen. At last the pastor said to her, "I will give you some texts from the Bible. You

read them and if you are convinced, then please call for me." She agreed.

After a few weeks, the Adventist pastor got a call from Seetharathnam. "Pastor, I believe that Saturday is the Sabbath. Please come to my village and hold meetings." After her baptism, she started witnessing to her neighbors. Following Christ's method, she would pray with the sick and tell them about Jesus' power to heal. Soon she had 20 women meeting in her home every Sabbath. The Adventist pastor would go and conduct worship services.

On one of our visits to India we visited Seetharathnam and marveled at her story and her faithfulness. There were 20 ladies, mostly widows, and a few men worshipping. They were very poor and in need of food and clothing. She shared her food and asked us to help with clothes.

Before she was forced to leave her home by her sons, she had raised a church of 35 believers. She donated land and Maranatha Volunteers built a small church for these believers.

Seetharathnam has a unique way of teaching and preaching. She will preach in a sing song way and deliver the message, asking questions to see if the people understood the message.

Many widows and widowers in India suffer on a daily basis from substandard living conditions, and lack of education. They also lack means for food, clothing, and medical care. And when they accept Christ as their Savior, they lose all support from their families. Such is the condition of some of our believers. PRIA Ministry supports 100 of these people, not only providing help with food, and medical help, but also ministering to their spiritual needs.

Following Christ's example, our lay members in Tanuku, went about caring for the needs of widows and widowers in their need, they also told them about the true God and invited them to church. Many people accepted the invitation and were baptized. These are three groups of people that are needing a place of worship.

Chintapalli – These believers have been praying for nearly ten years for a small chapel to worship the Lord. By the grace of God, and your contributions, plans are underway to build a small chapel before the end of the year. Wish we could be there to see their joy when they enter their new place of worship. →



←Ravipadu – These believers meet for church in a member's home every week. Some men object to their wives going to a home where other men are present. As you will see from this picture, most of the Worshippers are women.

These believers too have been praying for many years for a place of worship. We thank God for their enduring faith and patience. We hope to build a small chapel for these worshippers soon.

←S. Ellindalaparru Believers. They too have been praying for a place of worship. They close off the road for the evening and conduct worship services on the road. We hope soon to build a chapel for these believers also.



Padma Rao's Testimony

My name is Chadalawada Padma Rao. I have been working at the Chadalawada School for the past 15 years. I have been married for 14 years, and have a son studying in 6th grade. After my son's birth, my wife and I had many disagreements, and she went back to her parents' home. We tried reconciliations, but they did not work. During this separation, I faced many temptations. I was baptized 16 years ago, but did not live a Christian life. I became a slave to drink and lost my health. In my deplorable condition, PRIA Ministry came to my aid and helped me get treatment. Many people prayed for me; and God gave me victory over my bad habits and drinking. I regained my health. It's been a year now since I have come back to the Lord. I attend church regularly, study my Bible, and pray daily. God performed another miracle in my life. On November 24, 2014, my wife and son returned to me. Now my family is complete. I praise God for making my life whole. Please pray for me and my family.



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THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THESE SPECIAL NEEDS.

* These are annual goals that begin in June.

SPECIAL NEEDS			
	Need	Raised	Balance
Scholarship Fund*	\$15,000	\$1,630	(\$13,370)
Office/Lab/Classroom Equipment	\$15,000	\$7,400	(\$7,600)
School Building (Includes Pre-school & toilets)	\$300,000	\$13,062	(\$286,938)
Community Support*	\$15,000	\$3,960.67	(\$11,039.33)
Community Outreach*	\$15,000	\$5,450	(\$9,550)
Chapels (4)	\$35,000	\$6,780	(\$28,220)
Busses (2)	\$50,000	\$0	(\$50,000)
Bakery Project	\$300,000	\$8,064.77	(\$291,935.23)
Undesignated Donations		\$1117.40	

Remember it takes only \$30.00 a month for 11 months to sponsor a child, and \$25.00 a month to support a widow.

When making a tribute to your friends and relatives, please remember: “In Memory Of” is for someone deceased. And “In Honor of” is for someone you wish to honor and express your appreciations.

We are grateful to each one of you for your continued support, and wish God’s abundant blessings on you.

--Sarojini and Baburao Chedalawada

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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