GRACE LIFE MINISTRIE

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KHANDAMAL DISTRICT, ODISHA

In 1999 the world was shocked when radical Hindus burned Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death in their vehicle. This incident happened in the Khandamal District and it shamed India, causing the Church worldwide to intercede. Later Khandamal again came to the attention of the Church in 2008 when radical Hindus attacked and burnt 100,000 Christian homes along with many churches and ministry centers. Many Christians were martyred and refugee camps were set up for 50,000. This was the worst persecution of the Church in India's history.

Odisha has more temples and shrines than all of India combined, even though this is a relatively small state with approximately 40 million people compared with India which has over 1.24 billion people. It's a dark place spiritually. However Khandamal has over 100 years of missionary involvement, mostly missionaries from Canada. At the time of the persecutions, as many as 25% of Khandamal was Christian and the district is now a very ripe harvest field for the gospel. The rural village people readily come to Christ and are baptized in spite of the real threat of persecution.

There are 828,000 people that live in 2800 rural villages. The district is very poor and electricity has come in only just last year. There are no rivers. These farm communities must rely on the yearly monsoon for their one crop. This is a hilly area that still has many jungles. However the jungles have receded over the years and the wild life and the jungle produce is not reliable anymore. The young people in the villages do not have many options. They can reach grade 12 levels but after that it becomes very difficult for families to further educate their children. As a result, poverty continues its endless cycle.

A GREAT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Grace Life Ministries has had a long relationship with this district and there are many young Christians eager to learn and follow God. We have very courageous pastors and our main leaders come from this area. These leaders are trained to disciple a new generation of young believers to bring the gospel and pastor the new believers in Christ. Our vision is to slowly reach all of these villages. Training will be situated in 3 key areas and has already started with an initial 20 young people. Along with the new young evangelists, our leaders will teach in the churches throughout the district plus encourage and provide ministry tools to many pastors. To gain favor, but also to bless the villages, we plan to bring simple poverty breaking tools that will enable the villages to grow multiple crops plus make sure they don't lose their yearly crop due to poor monsoons.

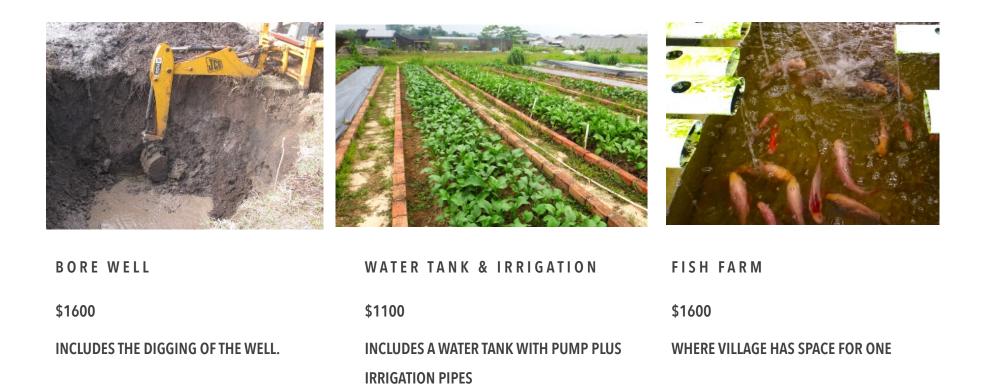




The villages are all very similar in their needs. Many require clean drinking water which can be supplied with bore wells. Most villages have small acreages that can be used to supply pumps, water tanks, plus irrigation lines to the land. Typically they would be able to grow then two vegetable crops plus one rice crop. Also some villages would benefit greatly from fish farms. All produce can be sold locally and would automatically break poverty and give the churches the ability to be self supporting. Grace Life Ministries will also build a prototype training farm that will teach hydroponics plus alternative farm techniques. Our friends in Singapore from Onesimus Farms will help set up this training center and supply initial support. Our main leaders have already been trained at the farm so we would be ready to proceed. Our young people would also be trained in these new techniques, thus bringing practical help to the villages.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

We would like churches to adopt a village. Prayer is of first importance, especially prayer that the whole village would be reached with the gospel. We would ideally like to have a commitment of \$50/ month to support each evangelist. Churches can also participate in practical areas such as bringing clean drinking water, plus irrigation, and some fish farms. The villages are not large. Some have 30 families, others have 200 families in the bigger towns. Every village will have their own particular needs.



TO ADOPT A VILLAGE

Grace Life Ministries would provide a profile of information of a particular village. Areas of specific prayer would included.

Initial commitment of \$50/month. We will provide information of the village needs and the sponsoring church can sponsor the other needs as they are able.

We will also provide a spiritual profile of the village that will help the sponsors to pray.



KASINI PADAR (PROTOTYPE VILLAGE)



Twenty years ago the village was 100% Hindu. First Karuna, our main leader, came to Christ. He was heavily persecuted. Slowly others came to Christ until now there is a strong church with outreaches into 3 other villages. The village has 120 families and many bright young people. At least 20 of these young people wish to be trained for the ministry. The village water supply is not safe and the well dries up for 2 months in the summer. Also monsoons are not always sufficient. The village needs a tube well plus pump, water tank ,and irrigation pipe distribution system. They also have the land to build a fishpond. Markets are close by, so with these provisions, poverty will quickly be broken. We would also like to build a covered shelter plus housing for the teachers.



Our leaders are already training young men in the Bible and evangelism.





GRACE LIFE MINISTRIES

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