



*New India Evangelistic Association, Inc.*

305 Old Ashby Ridge Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104

[www.nieamission.org](http://www.nieamission.org)

304-482-9045

## Newsletter April – June 2023

### News Update for Prayer and Information

Dear friends,

Warm Greetings in Jesus' name! We have had exciting moments recently celebrating the Savior's resurrection, with followers of Christ around the globe! The Savior's passion and His resurrection- both – provided humanity with the possibility of a redemptive destiny. The cross purchased it, and the resurrection delivered it. We echo, the timeless Gospel message that – *the way to the Father is as narrow as the wood on which Christ was crucified*; His resurrection provided us and all of India and beyond, with eternal hope and life through Christ Jesus our Lord! (Jn 3:16)

At New India we are grateful that this message keeps echoing through our ministries of Bible training, planting of discipleship groups, the care of children, educational projects and medical services. Scripture translation projects provide God's word in the language of the heart to over fifty different language communities across India. This edition of our newsletter brings hope and joy, as the transformative power of the Gospel is proclaimed and demonstrated among people and language groups which are most needy and impoverished. Thank you for standing with NIEA as we continue to echo His love and purpose, consistently and with perseverance.

In Christ Jesus, yours sincerely,

Dr. Alex Philip

Executive Director, NIEA India

### **GRADUATION AT BIHAR BIBLE SCHOOL**

Great excitement and joy filled the air, at NIEA's Bihar Training Institute on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. Principal Rev Ashish Kumar and Vice Principal (Admin) Rev Pramod Paul, along with their teams, had worked tirelessly to see this lovely day! 99 graduates had lined up and were ready to receive diplomas and credentials for Master's level, Bachelor's level and Certificate level programs. Drawn from seven states of northern India, representing over twenty language groups, there was gratitude and praise to God for His faithfulness, as students completed their academic modules in a covid accompanied context, in both formal and non-formal theological education streams.



Chief Guest on the occasion was Rev Ashok Andrews, an itinerant evangelist and Bible teacher from Kolkata, who message of hope and comfort brought great encouragement to all gathered. This institution is the first accredited institute in Bihar state (population 100 million) and offers theological programs recognised all over Asia. Efforts are being made to offer another accredited program in Hindi language for grassroots workers, to enhance their capacity and their effectiveness while serving on the front lines. The leadership of the institute will provide hybrid coaching (both online and live classroom) to candidates in a specially designed classroom starting June 2023; in addition, Scripture translation and language development workers will continue to be provided with a Certificate program to enhance their basic knowledge and the context of the Scriptural text to improve their primary ministry work.

“Bihar is such a needy place, and this institute will serve to further the mission of the Church in Bihar and beyond,” says Prof, Rev. Dr Subhro Sircar, Vice Principal of Serampore College, and NIEA Board member.

- *Please pray that the Lord will build a healthy leadership team at this institute to further the mission and ethos of NIEA over the next decade.*
- *As students are enrolled for the new session starting June 2023, please pray for both students to enrol, and for the faculty in their preparation towards approx. 100 strong residential student body.*



## HEALTHY LIVES MATTER

NIEA’s Medical Centre in Purnia, Bihar celebrated the culmination of a meaningful project on World TB Day, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In partnership with a SAMRIDH grant from USAID, and in collaboration with QURE.AI, an artificial intelligence software developer providing digital solutions and interpretations for Chest X-rays, this exciting Active Case Finding (ACF) project screened over 1,200 school children for active tuberculosis, during a six-week period, Feb 1 to March 15, 2023.

Bihar is known to be endemic for both pulmonary tuberculosis and MDR (Multiple drug resistance) tuberculosis, which cripples families and societies, as the disease often spreads in low socioeconomic settings, and where health seeking behaviour (HSB) is slow. This program was effective in screening over 1,200 children belonging to NIEA’s Hostel and School Program, by bringing the in batches to the CMCH (Christian Medical Centre & Hospital) – NIEA’s Medical facility for digital X-rays, blood tests and sputum examination. A three percent positivity rate brought to sharp focus yet again, the importance of widespread screening among low resource setting communities with a view to pick up active disease and provide a pathway to healing and health.

The District TB Officer, Dr A Jha on the close of this exercise, commended CMCH staff for their efforts and for their active work in the community. CMCH has been awarded status to screen, treat and provide Government TB drugs for free, to all patients affected by this disease from hence forth. CMCH is also working with QURE.AI on a special project extending the artificial intelligence software for another year (3,000 scans, till May 2024) at a discounted price of about US\$3,750.

- *Please pray for the work of CMCH in providing affordable health care among the needy families drawn from especially four surrounding county’s representing about 10 million population.*
- *Please pray for the training program for Nurses, which is seeking government recognition, now as the final inspections from the state government authorities are over.*

