

India Gospel League

Travel Manual





Welcome

Overview of India Gospel League and India

Preparing for a Trip

Your Travel Experience

Finances and Fundraising

Trip and Travel Applications

Medical Information

Packing and Travel Tips

Returning from India



Welcome to India Gospel League!

We're very excited...

that you are serving on a missions trip to India through India Gospel League (IGL)! We hope that in the pages that follow, you will find information that will answer the questions you have about what is involved in preparing for this service opportunity! The IGL staff is ready to answer any questions that your team may have.

Can I really make a difference?

It is exciting to know that God has elevated India to a special place of significance in your thoughts, your heart and your prayers. We trust that your decision is a result of a clear sense that God is prompting you to move in the direction of service in India. While it is important to plan your trip and to move with a purpose, please recognize that your perception of what will be accomplished in India will, in fact, be somewhat different from what the Holy Spirit will ultimately do with you during your time there. It is simply impossible for the human mind to comprehend the full breadth of ministry that is accomplished simply through our obedient presence in the place where we serve.

In addition, much is accomplished through subtleties that we miss—a kind word or expression of interest, gentle moments spent in prayer with or for another, leading by example even in servanthood. So, the answer to the question is yes, you can make a difference through the work of the Holy Spirit in and through you during the time that you give in obedience to the Lord. Just be cautious not to become so caught up in your own agenda for the trip that you fail to see what is happening all around you that will undoubtedly exceed your own expectations and plans!

So begin to make yourself open and available to the work and experience that He will have for you in the process of preparing for this experience ... for there is no greater adventure than the one which comes from acting in obedience to His calling!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT, REVEREND SAMUEL STEPHENS

My great grandfather was the first Christian in my family. He became a Christian in the 1800s during the very early years of the Salvation Army's ministry in India. Street preaching was a very effective way of communicating the gospel at that time. During one of their street meetings, a young man named Raju Munisamy heard about Jesus for the very first time in his life. He weighed what was being said about the One True God and His Eternal Love against his own faith, traditional beliefs and superstitions. Raju decided right there to accept Jesus into his life as his Lord and Savior.

He went home and told his family about this new experience expecting that they would also turn from their superstitions and pagan faith. To his surprise, they thought he had brought disgrace upon their family by becoming a Christian. From that time onward they constantly tried to dissuade Raju from continuing in his new belief. They took away from him the Bible that had become his obsession. The 'black book' as they called it was to be destroyed before any of the other children could get a hold of it. Raju begged the missionaries to give him another Bible, and without the knowledge of his parents, started memorizing large portions

of scripture. Nothing could stop Raju from growing in the Lord and in his new Christian faith.

Raju finally became convinced that it was time for him to take a public stand for the Lord through baptism. There was great turmoil in the family. His parents would not even consider thinking of anything like that happening to one of their sons. As hard as he tried, none of them could be convinced. Facing great opposition and persecution from his family, he was baptized. The missionaries gave him a new name because he had the name of a very ugly and fearsome Hindu god called Munisamy. His new name was Stephens. He was now a totally changed person that included his name as well!

For Raju's parents that was the last straw. They thought nothing worse could have happened to the family than one of their children embracing a religion other than Hinduism. It was worse than death itself. Though they were fairly well educated and wealthy, they were fanatic. They decided that it was better to kill Raju than let him live as a Christian. One day without his knowledge they poisoned his food. Raju's younger brother, who did not agree with the others, quietly warned him about this. With his

help, Raju ran away from home.

The fact that his own parents tried to kill him brought Raju closer to the Lord than ever. He decided that he would live for Jesus. From that time onward until his death, he went from village to village winning people to Jesus Christ. He lived the rest of his life as an itinerant evangelist.

Raju's three sons became pastors. One of them was Devaprasad Stephens (my grandfather). In his lifetime, the Lord used him in a mighty way. He was responsible for planting many churches in many districts in south India. He established schools and hospitals in many places. Emma Eaton, an American missionary originally sent by the Church of the Nazarene, met Devaprasad Stephens and was greatly challenged by his ministry. Together they went from village to village proclaiming Jesus and planting churches.

My father, Rajah, the oldest son of Devaprasad Stephens, received his call to full-time ministry while he was training to be an air force pilot in north India. He left immediately to join seminary and upon completion of his Bible training, he joined his father in the ministry. He became instrumental in organizing

the work mostly as it stands today. God had placed His hand upon my father, Rajah Stephens, and had used him in phenomenal ways throughout the 40 years of his ministry. He was a civic leader and a powerful Christian witness to the entire community. His ministry and influence extended widely over south India and in certain other parts of this country. He was a man with a vision for the unevangelized and lost. The Lord raised him up as a pioneer to bring the message of the gospel to the people in untouched villages. He made the scripture verse one of the motivating forces of his life and ministry. It also became the motto of India Gospel League.

My parents were married in 1948. After three daughters were born they prayed asking the Lord for a son. I was born in 1954 and my parents named me Samuel, dedicating me to the Lord to be His servant. I committed myself to the call of full-time ministry while attending college. After three years of seminary studies in a very conservative evangelical school, I returned with a Master of Divinity degree to join my father in the ministry in 1976. I worked with him for 12 years until he went to be with the Lord in 1988.

The leadership of India Gospel League fell upon my shoulders when I had least expected it, but

the Lord had prepared me adequately through my father and many other practical experiences for this sudden change. In my 12 years of ministry until 1988, I had been a village evangelist (bare-foot pastor as we call it now), and walked every square foot of the area covered by our ministry preaching, teaching and planting churches. To practically live in most of these villages at that time was a very rare and special experience for me. It gave me the opportunity to move with the masses and get a true Christian perspective of their spiritual, physical, material and emotional needs. That was truly the period when the Lord was breaking my heart for the people of this country. The Lord also started the process of melting and molding and creating in me a vision for the future. It was also a period of deep confirmation of my call to be His servant and the framing of modalities for my future ministry.

The Lord also allowed me the privilege of serving as a pastor during which time I received my ordination. That was followed by a period of assisting in administrative responsibilities and a lot of travel in order to promote and financially establish the ministry. The Lord opened many avenues in every direction to expand and extend the frontiers of our outreach in this country dur-

ing that period.

Before his death, my father's very last words to me were "Son, don't lose the vision!" I remind myself of these words afresh as I begin each day praying and asking the Lord to help me not to lose the vision. It is my present conviction that economically, socially, politically and religiously our country has come to the end of the line. Today, the hope of India rests in her response to the gospel and the claims of Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord for enabling us to convince many of this fact and help them turn to the Savior for salvation and peace. It is so rewarding not only to see individual lives touched and changed by the gospel presented through our ministry, but also entire communities and villages revolutionized as they turn to Jesus. Please pray with us as we endeavor to lift up the cross of Christ and bring men and women to be convinced of the words of the Lord declared through the prophet Isaiah: "Turn to me and be saved all the ends of the earth. For I am God and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE IN THE U.S.

Purpose Statement:

India Gospel League, North America (IGL-NA) exists to promote and establish the kingdom of God through the ministry of India Gospel League, India.

India Gospel League (IGL) is an indigenous missions organization with a primary purpose to bring the gospel and love of Jesus Christ to unreached peoples, and, through effective discipleship, extend God's reign over the nations.

India Gospel League's **headquarters** are located in Salem, Tamil Nadu, in south India. It has been in existence since 1948 and currently the outreach includes 21 of India's 29 states and a growing ministry in Sri Lanka. The ministry focus is on India and Sri Lanka's rural populations. India Gospel League has grown to include a relationship with 8,000 pastors who have helped plant over 40,000 churches.

IGL has always recognized the importance of establishing supportive relationships with churches and individuals in the United States, and has enjoyed support from the U.S. since the 1970s. In 1984 IGL established a mentored relationship with Project Partner For Christ, a U.S. based mission agency in Springboro, Ohio. The relationship helped introduce IGL to many new friends and churches.

After 10 years under Project Partner's guidance, IGL established India Gospel League, North America in 1994, as a 501(c)(3) corporation that would seek to represent the ministry officially in the U.S. In 2000, the ministry established an independent North America office in the greater Cincinnati area. In 2005, in conjunction with a re-evaluation of goals for the first decade of the new millennium, the offices were relocated to northeast Ohio under the

direction of Jim Colledge.

The mission of India Gospel League, North America is to raise awareness and encourage involvement and support among the people of North America for India Gospel League's evangelism, discipleship, church planting, education, agricultural assistance, economic empowerment, child care and medical programs that reach out to rural India and Sri Lanka. It provides information, raises financial support, establishes prayer coverage, sends training and medical teams, and secures U.S. sponsors for Children's Gospel Clubs, children, families, pastors, Bible students, villages and even entire regions where the Gospel has not yet penetrated.

India Gospel League, North America exists to support the work of the India Gospel League in India. A group of committed professionals comprise its Board of Directors, all of whom have visited India one or more times to see the missions work first-hand and to participate on a short-term basis. The staff in the U.S. office is kept purposefully small in order to maximize resources for the ministry in India. Each of the members of our team offer qualifications beyond the scope of their positions, but have chosen IGL because of their commitment to its purpose and whole-hearted dedication to the advancement of the gospel in India.

In addition to regular donations from its donor base of churches and individuals, IGL-NA has received grants ranging from \$50K to a 4-year \$900K grant from Christian foundations. The ministry is a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability, which serves as an indicator of the depth of our commitment to financial integrity, stewardship and accountability.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God:

We believe in One God, Creator and sustainer, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who in the Bible and in Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to be the living and true God. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from sin and death all who come to HIM through Jesus Christ.

Christ:

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, our Lord, the only Mediator between God and man who, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, fully shared and fulfilled our humanity in a life of perfect obedience. By His death in our place, He made a sacrifice for the sin of the world and by His bodily resurrection gained victory over death and the powers of evil. He ascended into heaven where He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all. He will personally and visibly return to the world to consummate His Kingdom.

Holy Spirit:

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came to renew our hearts, calling us to repent of our sins and confess Christ as Lord, thereby receiving the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life, being justified through faith in Jesus Christ. The work and gifts of the Holy Spirit

enable the believer to live a holy life, to witness effectively to the Gospel, and to serve responsibly in the world.

Scripture:

We believe that the Bible, composed of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, is the Word of God, the only infallible, absolutely trustworthy authority in all matters of faith and conduct. Scripture is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in obedience to the Lord, who speaks in living power through each book.

Man:

We believe in the dignity of man created in the image of God for fellowship with the Creator and to share responsibility towards the creation. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. All men are sinners by nature and by choice, estranged from God and subject to His wrath, depraved and apart from Grace, incapable of returning to God. All men are sons of Adam, made of one blood, and have equal access to God in the church of Jesus Christ.

The Church:

We believe in the Church, the universal Body of Christ, the new redeemed humanity which is being called out of the whole human race and formed in every culture and transforming every culture and which is summoned to worship

God and to serve Him by preaching the Gospel and discipling the nations by striving for social justice and relieving human distress and need. To enable the Church to fulfill these ministries, God gives gifts to the members of His Church for tending the flock and equipping the saints for ministry. We believe that proclaiming the Gospel to all people is the first priority in the mission of the Church between the Resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ.

Christ's Coming:

We believe in the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to complete God's work of redemption and Judgment. We believe that those who believe in Christ as Savior and Lord will rise to live and reign with Him forever in a new heaven and new earth. We believe that judgment and separation from the presence of God awaits those who do not believe. This motivates our service in expectation of Him who makes all things new.

Christ's Commission:

We believe in Christ's Commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). The supreme mission of the people of God in this age is to preach the Gospel to everyone.

INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE, SHARON GARDENS CAMPUS, SALEM

(for a closer look visit www.sharonworld.org)

Sharon Gardens

Sharon Gardens in Salem, south India, is the IGL's first mission base. The base is located on acreage in the serene and picturesque foothills of the Shevaroy range of mountains. When it was purchased by Rev. Rajah D. Stephens (founder, India Gospel League) during the late 1970s, the land was partly used for agriculture, but a large portion remained as wasteland. Over the years, Sharon Gardens has been changed into a beautiful paradise for those who come through its gates. It has become a haven of hope and a tangible evidence of the Kingdom of God in and around Salem. Today it stands as an outpost for mission work in the southern part of the country.

The Stephens' Home

Rev. Samuel Stephens, his wife Prati, and their children came to live on the Sharon campus during the early 80s. It has been their home ever since. The Stephens family members have been instrumental in the development of the campus, and they continue to maintain it. Their home is centrally situated, amidst all of the buildings and the activities that take place on the campus. As with the rest of the campus, the Stephens' home is abuzz with the sounds of the nine children who live there as well as the hundreds of guests who come to visit each year.

The Guest Facilities

Because of the increasing number of ministry teams coming to Sharon Gardens, there was a need to expand the accommodation facilities on campus. With prayer and support from friends, additional guest rooms were created through the building of a guest house just a few steps from the door of the Stephens' home. The guest rooms are spacious and air-conditioned with beds and bathroom facilities. There is also computer and phone access as well, though it may not always be available.

The Children's Home

The Sharon Children's Home began with 30 children who were mostly orphans from the surrounding villages. Over the years the number of children receiving care has grown from 30 to 300, with children coming from a radius of about 150 kilometers. Like the other IGL children's homes, the home cares for orphans, children of single parents, and children from destitute and struggling families. The children at the home are ages five through 15.

At the home, holistic development of each child is emphasized. Food, clothing and education are provided. Children are housed in dormitories, and they receive personal care of by trained Christian house parents and helpers. Other staff who support the work at the Sharon Home are cooks, drivers, a nurse, a gardener and a watchman. The spiritual care of children is addressed as well. They are raised in the love of Jesus as they learn about His saving grace.

The Sharon Home is mainly supported through sponsorship of the children. Presently a third of the children are sponsored. To better provide for the children, more sponsors are always needed.

The Primary School

The Sharon Primary (elementary) School was established on campus to fulfill the educational needs of the children who reside there. The school is recognized and aided by the government of Tamil Nadu. Apart from classroom education, the children are also encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities such as music, dance, gymnastics, singing and painting.

In June 2003 the school opened its doors to all children from surrounding daycare centers that have been established by the IGL, thus ensuring that the children continue to receive quality education and

care throughout their lives. This step has given us a new opportunity to impact nearby communities with a Christian influence.

The Thomas Chapel

The Thomas Chapel, built in 1998, is one of the most beautiful buildings on the Sharon Gardens campus. The facility comfortably seats about 500 people. It is in constant use for various activities such as morning and evening devotions for the children, Sunday morning worship for the Sharon campus residents, Wednesday evening Bible study, fasting and prayer, women's meetings, regional pastors conferences, women and youth training programs, and other large gatherings such as weddings and community programs.

The Sharon Cancer Center and General Hospital

The Sharon Cancer Center and General Hospital, located on the Sharon Gardens campus, was established in 1992. The facility was completed and dedicated in October 2000, but the work of establishing the hospital began years earlier through the generous contributions of time and resources from the medical community in Salem.

This 50-bed facility stands amidst serene surroundings at the south end of the campus. Its landscaped interior waiting area accentuates the healing ambience of the hospital. Services at the hospital include surgical care, outpatient care, a well-stocked pharmacy and a fully equipped laboratory. The hospital operates with a skilled team of nurses, a general surgeon, physicians, a radiation oncologist, laboratory technicians, a pharmacist and a group non-medical staff that helps with maintenance of the facility. Several specialists from the local community give their time generously whenever it is needed at the hospital.

The hospital presently serves more than 50 villages in the surrounding area that have no access to medical care. It provides quality services that are cost-effective and subsidized, making excellent medical care at-

tainable for the majority who are living below the poverty line. The hospital also has several integrated programs such as a continuing education program, a nursing school, medical camps via the mobile hospital unit, and hospice care that provides pain and palliative care for terminally ill cancer patients.

The Sharon School of Nursing was established in June 1999 as an offshoot of the Sharon Cancer Center and General Hospital to provide quality training to young women in nursing and community health. Its two-year program is designed as an in-service training, thereby giving students the opportunity to be fully equipped to meet the challenges they will encounter as they go into the field of health care. The student nurses are not only trained to work at the hospital but also as community health workers. They assist the doctors and nurses during medical camps conducted in the villages. Since its founding the school has been responsible for graduating more than 50 students!

Medical camps and health awareness programs are an integral part of Sharon Cancer Center and General Hospital. The hospital has hosted many medical teams from the U.S., U.K. and Australia. These medical mission teams generally serve from one to two weeks at the hospital, helping with system upgrades to meet international standards, training staff, and working alongside Indian staff at medical camps in the villages.

An extension of the hospital, the Sharon Mobile Hospital became fully operational in August 2001. This mobile unit is on the road 20 to 25 days a month to treat people who are unable to reach urban hospitals. This clinic on wheels is taking medical care to people living in remote villages. A physician, a nurse and four nursing students work together as a medical outreach team. This unit contains emergency equipment and an array of supplies. It has a small aseptic theater where minor surgical procedures, examinations, and delivery of babies can be performed. It contains a

mini-laboratory, pharmacy, and oxygen cylinder.

The Industrial Training Center

A vocational training center, also located on Sharon campus, includes a metal shop, a wood shop, a concrete block production center and a paint shop. The objectives of this center are to provide practical and vocational skills that can be applied in daily life while improving general living conditions in a significant manner. The center emphasizes training unemployed men as well as young boys who have dropped out of school in order to meet family needs.

The vocational school is also a production center.

Woodwork and steel fabrication for the construction of IGL's village Life Centers and other IGL building projects take place in these facilities. It also processes some local market orders that generate resources for ministry on the campus.

The Dairy Farm

More than 80 percent of the people living in the villages in and around Sharon are farmers working for daily wages in the fields. These farmers are employed for only 3 to 4 months a year during the monsoon season. In order to make ends meet, these farmers buy cows or goats and sell the milk.

Before the Sharon Gardens dairy farm was established, they had to make these purchases through loans at very high interest rates. IGL has responded to the needs of the farmers through its animal husbandry projects as part of its rural development program. The model dairy farm at Sharon Gardens has been set up to address the challenges more specifically. The dairy farm offers the following benefits:

- ✦ Provides low-interest loans (2 percent per annum) to needy farmers. The loans are given through the self-help groups in the villages to ensure proper repayment and accountability.
- ✦ Provides training for farmers who have bought cows or goats. Training is carried out once every

month at the model dairy farm. Also, a full-time veterinarian conducts veterinary camps in the villages so the health of the animals can be monitored.

- ✦ Provides animal feeds mixed in right proportions to the farmers at a subsidized cost.
- ✦ Formed a milk co-op that allows farmers to sell their milk directly without working through an agent, thereby increasing profits.
- ✦ Established a model methane gas production unit as an alternate fuel source.

The farm's everyday milk and other dairy products are used to provide for the needs of children and staff on the campus.

The Carmel Convention Center

The first phase of the Convention Center, the main meeting hall, was dedicated in January 2003. It is located on an adjacent property within easy walking distance of the main campus at Sharon Gardens. The beautiful white stone center is two stories tall and has the capacity to accommodate 2,000 attendees in the main conference hall. The building also has meeting room facilities for breakout sessions for smaller conferences.

The Convention Center serves as a suitable facility for:

- ✦ IGL's annual pastors' conferences
- ✦ A large and adequate church building in Salem
- ✦ Generating rental revenue from local secular groups
- ✦ Other training and meeting events that will facilitate the growth of IGL
- ✦ The future home of the India Gospel League offices

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT INDIA

*Information in this section from www.worldtravelguide.net

India's vastness challenges the imagination, being home to one sixth of the world's population. Its intoxicatingly rich history can be traced back to at least 2500BC when the first known civilization settled along the Indus River.

There was an influx of Moghuls in the 1520s from Central Asia, who maintained effective control of the north until the mid 18th century. At the end of that century, as the Moghul Empire declined, the British took control of the entire subcontinent, and the whole of India was administered by a single alien power.

The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885, but made little progress on independence until Mahatma Gandhi began the policy of non-cooperation with the British. But the congress itself was split on the issue of Hindus and Muslims. The Muslims, under Muhammad Ali Jinnah, claimed a separate homeland and in August 1947 the independent states of India and Pakistan came into being. Since that time, India has been a democratic republic.

Such a rich history has spawned countless palaces, temples and monuments. The most frequently visited part of India is the Golden Triangle. The unfairly maligned great cities of Mumbai and Kolkata have a bustling, colorful charm, while the holy city of Varanasi or the awe-inspiring temples of Tamil Nadu are worthy objects of pilgrimage. For those who prefer more sybaritic pleasures, tackle the palm-fringed beaches of Goa. And for solitude, India ripples with mountains and hills, from the towering beauty of the Himalayas to pine forests, lakes and babbling streams.

One of the fascinations of India is the juxtaposition of

old and new; centuries of history rubbing shoulders with the computer age; and Bengaluru's (Bangalore's) "Silicon Valley" is as much a part of the world's largest democracy as its remotest village.

Location: South Asia

Time: GMT + 5.5

Area: 3,166,414 sq km (1,222,582 sq miles)

Population: 1.1 billion (UN estimate 2005)

Population Density: 347 per sq km

Capital: New Delhi

Geography

India shares borders to the northwest with Pakistan, to the north with China, Nepal and Bhutan, and to the east with Bangladesh and Myanmar. To the west lies the Arabian Sea, to the east the Bay of Bengal and to the south the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka lies off the southeast coast, and the Maldives off the southwest coast. The far northeastern states and territories are all but separated from the rest of India by Bangladesh as it extends northward from the Bay of Bengal towards Bhutan. The Himalayan mountain range to the north and the Indus River (west) and Ganges River (east) form a physical barrier between India and the rest of Asia. The country can be divided into five regions: Western, Central, Northern (including Kashmir and Rajasthan), Eastern and Southern

Government: Republic since 1947

Head of State: President

Head of Government: Prime Minister

Recent History

Indian foreign policy continues to be dominated by relations with Pakistan. The main cause of friction is the status of Kashmir, most of which was awarded to India in 1947. Both sides claim the entire region. Historically, the USA and China had backed Pakistan

while India had close relations with the Soviet Union. The demise of the Soviet Union has not however, damaged India excessively. China has long viewed India as a rival; nevertheless the two governments have signed a major trade agreement and relations are steadily improving.

Language

The main language is Hindi which is spoken by about 30% of the population; English is also enshrined in the constitution for a wide range of official purposes. In addition, 17 regional languages are recognized by the constitution. These include Bengali, Gujarati, Oriya and Punjabi which are widely used in the north, and Tamil and Telegu, which are common in the south. Other regional languages are Kannada, Malayalam and Marathi. The Muslim population largely speak Urdu.

Religion

About 81% Hindu, 12% Muslim, with Sikh, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Buddhist minorities.

Electricity

Usually 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Some areas have a DC supply. Plugs used are of the round two- and three-pin type.

Weather: Hot tropical weather with variations from

region to region. Coolest weather lasts from December to February, with cool, fresh mornings and evenings and dry, sunny days. Really hot weather, when it is dry, dusty and unpleasant, is between March and May. Monsoon rains occur in most regions in summer between June and September.

Southeast: Tamil Nadu experiences a northeast monsoon between October and December and temperatures and humidity are high all year. Hills can be cold in winter.

Passports

Passport valid for at least six months required by U.S. travelers.

Visas: Required for all U.S. travelers

See next page for details about the Visa application process. Contact our office for more information or visit:

<http://travel.state.gov>

www.worldtravelguide.net

VISA COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

To enter the country of India you must have a valid passport along with an India Visa. The Visa is a sticker that is attached to your passport. To obtain an Indian Visa you must fill out an application and submit the application along with your actual passport, payment, and two passport photos. Note: Passport must have a minimum validity of six months from the date of application with at least two blank visa pages. Last 2 amendment pages are not acceptable.

You may use the place of your choice to obtain your India Visa but we highly recommend using Trivisa Outsourcing (www.travisaindia.com). If you have ANY questions, please contact our office. It is crucial that this application be filled out in a certain way to secure your Visa in a timely manner. It is an IGL requirement that these instructions are followed completely.

Please contact our office with ANY and ALL questions before submitting your application.

Name and address of reference in India:

Samuel Stephens
48 Chairman Chinniah Rd
Salem 636 007
Tamil Nadu
Phone: 011-91-427-241-9966

Name and address of reference in applicant's country:

YOU MAY USE PERSON OF YOUR CHOICE

---OR---

David Rice
1521 Georgetown Rd. Ste 305
Hudson, Ohio 44236
330-650-5900

Application Prompt	Your Response	Notes
Type of visa	Tourist	No matter what team you are with
Object of journey	Tourism	
Places you plan to visit	Salem	If you are traveling to other parts of India, you may include cities like Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, etc. DO NOT LIST INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES
Period of visa	6 months	You may apply for longer if you plan to take frequent trips to India
Profession	If you are a pastor, put TEACHER	Keep details to a minimum.
Employer name	Pastors: abbreviate church name.	le: Hudson Community Chapel would be HCC
Are you traveling on behalf of a company?	No	
Port of arrival	In most cases, Bangalore	The city in India where you will arrive
Expected date of departure from U.S. and expected date of arrival		May be different dates. Check your flight itinerary.

PREPARING FOR A TRIP

Preparing Spiritually

IGL works primarily with Hindus in rural areas. These people are very religious, worshipping literally millions of gods with beliefs that affect all aspects of their culture. Though the caste system has been abolished, you will see continuing evidence of its impact everywhere. Prayer is one of the most important ways that you can prepare for this short-term experience.

- ✦ Pray that you will be teachable, submissive to authority and eager to serve.
- ✦ Pray for your team leader and the other members of your team.
- ✦ Pray that you will demonstrate love toward the people you meet.
- ✦ Pray for the people you will be serving.
- ✦ Pray for humility – that you will be sensitive to the amazing spirit of the people of India.

Prayer should be regular and specific for your upcoming trip. Remember the needs of your team, team leader, hosts in India as well as the people you will meet.

Your team leader may prepare a series of devotions or lessons in order to equip you for your time in India.

Being spiritually prepared for this journey is of the utmost importance. We highly recommend each team using this book to offer insight and direction in preparing for the trip:

“Foreign to Familiar” by Sarah A. Lanier

Another great resource:

“Before You Pack Your Bag Prepare Your Heart”

by Cindy Judge

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:3-11

Preparing as a Team

The decision to participate in a mission trip is often a life-changing choice. The trip will hopefully change you in ways that you cannot imagine. It is our hope that your faith will be challenged and strengthened and that your relationship with God and others will grow and deepen.

The relationships that travelers form with their fellow team members may be some of the most unique and wonderful bonds. It is a clear demonstration of God's intention that we go out into the world to minister in teams. Teams are also the most effective tool to deliver meaningful ministry to the field.

Most travelers who participate in a trip to India will be a part of a team. It may be a team comprised of people from your area or a team of complete strangers unified by one purpose. Whatever the circumstance, the team will require travelers to participate in team dynamics that are necessary on every trip. Each person must be committed to becoming an active and helpful member of the team.

IGL offers a variety of ways to serve and experience India. These are a few examples of the different kinds of trips:

- ❖ Eyewitness Trips: an opportunity to witness the breadth and depth of IGL's ministry
- ❖ Medical Trips (including veterinary medicine): an opportunity to offer medical care and training
- ❖ Men's/Women's Teaching Trips: an opportunity to be a part of conferences and teaching sessions to help train and empower the men and women of India

You are uniquely made and have been given special gifts from God. It is important to know yourself, your gifts and how you work in teams. This knowledge is especially important under the stress and strain of a mission trip. The team leader will need to know

important information about you and your gifts. If you are traveling with team members from different parts of the country, any information you can gather and send about your personality and giftedness will be helpful to the leader as the team is assembled and assigned.

We can all continue to learn more about ourselves, our gifts and how to be sensitive to the others on our team. Team building exercises and time spent together as you prepare for the trip are an invaluable tool when it comes to learning about yourself and the others on your team.

Following are some keys for being a successful member of a team:

- ❖ Flexibility is important for all team members. Situations encountered in the field will cause stress and can severely affect the effective workings of the team. The ability to deal with situations with humor and grace will insure a productive team and a rich experience.
- ❖ A servant's heart is another key to being a good team member. Each traveler to the field needs to arrive in India with the desire to serve the ministry there and not to look for individual accolades or praise. The team works best when all members of the team have a focused desire to be as helpful as they can to the ministry they are serving.
- ❖ Communication is another key. It is very important for each team member to communicate with the leader before, during and after the trip. The team member must seek to keep the leader informed of their thoughts and concerns. The team member must also be intent on hearing and acting on the information received from the leader and the ministry.

It is a challenge and a privilege to serve on an IGL ministry team. It is also the source of lasting friendships and life-changing experiences. Go prepared to have a great team experience!

The Greatest Story: Sharing the Gospel

It can be daunting to witness to others – even to one other person. However, keep in mind that you are sharing the most important and exciting part of your life – your faith in Jesus Christ. By testifying to your conversion and sharing the gospel, you are responding to Christ in obedience, and He promises to honor that decision. The following guides are just that – guides – and can be embellished without deviating from the Word. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you and empower you to participate in God's plan for salvation. Finally, pray for those to whom you will witness, that God will call them to Himself.

In India, you will be faced with the special challenge of the language barrier. You will therefore need to communicate your testimony through an interpreter. Avoid elaborate phrasing, and pause between each sentence to give your translator a moment to catch up. Be sure to focus your eyes on the person with whom you are sharing and not the translator. Be patient as you learn to communicate through a translator and be thankful for your translators and the work that they do to help serve the team.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" Hebrews 4:12

For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45

Preparing a Personal Testimony

Paul's testimony in Acts 26 offers suggestions:

- ✦ Lead in (vs. 2-3)
- ✦ Life before conversion (4-11)
- ✦ How he was converted (12-20)
- ✦ Life after a commitment to Christ (21-23)
- ✦ Conclusion (24-29)

Helpful hints for preparing your testimony:

- ✦ Maintain a conversational tone
- ✦ Use informal language.
- ✦ Share rather than preach.
- ✦ Focus on what Christ has done in your life.

Your time in India will include experiences and opportunities that are unforgettable. People will choose to respond in different ways to capture these moments. You may choose to journal, take pictures, listen, observe or reflect. Each person is created in special ways. Whatever you do, connect with the people there.

YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

GENERAL TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Documents

Make 3 copies of your passport (just the photo page), your visa (the page where the visa is affixed) and your driver's license. **Also have a copy of the address and phone number of the IGL office in India as well as any hotel information.** Give one set of copies to your family at home. Pack the second set with you in your carry-on luggage, but in a place that is separate from your actual passport. Give the third set to your team leader if he or she requests.

Jet Lag

Because there is such a time difference between the US and India, you may have a problem with jet lag because sleep patterns will be disturbed. Many travelers feel the symptoms can be reduced by the following:

- ✦ During the few weeks prior to the trip make sure you have proper nutrition and good sleep habits.
- ✦ Avoid caffeine, alcohol and nicotine beforehand and during the flight.
- ✦ Stay well hydrated with caffeine-free beverages during the flight. Water is best...use it liberally.
- ✦ As much as possible, abide by the time of day in your destination when you land. If you must take a nap, make it short and then stay awake until it is bedtime in your new time zone. Some travelers go so far as to gradually get themselves onto the new time zone over the last few days while they are still at home. They find it easier to stay up all night and sleep all day in an environment that is familiar. If you bring your own food and water so you are not dependant on the flight attendant's schedule, it is much easier. An eye mask works wonders when you don't want to be disturbed as well!

You will want to check with your physician to see how you should handle any jet-lag problems.

At the Airport

During your trip to India, you should secure your passport, visa, personal identification, tickets, and itinerary on your body. These important papers should remain with you at all times.

Please remember the following as you travel:

- ✦ Make sure you keep every ticket that you are given along the way, even baggage claim tickets. You may have to show them at some point.
- ✦ Use the restroom on the plane before you land as it may be difficult to find one in the airport. If your IGL drivers offer restroom stops along the way take advantage of these as you may not have another stop for quite some time.
- ✦ Just prior to disembarking the aircraft, have your passport and disembarking pass ready for inspection by an immigration agent. Make sure you have a pen with you to fill out forms while on the plane.
- ✦ After you deplane, you will travel through customs and immigration at the airport. This can be a lengthy process. Please comply with authorities and exercise a humble attitude.
- ✦ Answer all questions honestly but do not volunteer additional information when speaking to an immigration agent. You may be asked how long and why you will be in the country and where you will be staying. Respond that you are a tourist.
- ✦ Be prepared for a luggage inspection either before or after passport control.

- ✦ Once you have passed through customs, someone from the IGL office or the hotel where you will be staying will be there to meet you. (The IGL office will secure all of your arrangements from the time of your arrival until your departure from India.) They will be waiting for you at the airport with a sign that says either “IGL” or your team leader’s name.
- ✦ As soon as you pass through the baggage area, you will open onto an area that is a sea of people as you look for the IGL representative holding this sign. Keep a tight grip on your luggage and stay together. There will be many people who want to help you with your luggage. Do not let them – as soon as they touch it, they will want to be paid and there will be a swarm of people around you. Just say “No” very firmly but politely and repeat it as often as necessary. Watch for pickpockets as well.

Being a Good Guest

As IGL trip participants, we are guests in India. As in any environment, there are some parameters within which we must function. While on IGL trips the following must apply to all IGL trip participants:

- ✦ Guests will comply with all rules established by the team leader en route to and while in India.
- ✦ Guests will remain with their group.
- ✦ Guests will conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the cultural situations of India as determined by India Gospel League, including appropriate dress.
- ✦ Alcohol consumption is not permitted. The use of tobacco is permitted but discouraged.
- ✦ Guests are asked to notify IGL-NA of any food restrictions, allergy issues, or personal health concerns so that the needs can be addressed.
- ✦ Guests are asked to refrain from giving out ANY personal information (phone, email addresses, etc.). Communication with someone you meet should be conducted only through the IGL-NA office.

Culture

With more than 1 billion citizens, India is the second most populous nation in the world. It is impossible to speak of any one Indian culture, although there are deep cultural continuities that tie its people together. English is the major language of trade and politics, but there are fourteen official languages in all. There are 24 languages that are spoken by a million people or more and countless other dialects. India has seven major religions and many minor ones, six main ethnic groups and countless holidays.

Religion is central to Indian culture, and its practice can be seen in virtually every aspect of life in the country. Hinduism is the dominant faith of India, serving about 80 percent of the population. Ten percent worship Islam, and five percent are Sikhs and Christians; the rest (a good 45 million) are Buddhists, Jains, Bahai and more.

Greeting People

Western handshakes are widely used, but more conservative women prefer to greet visitors with the traditional greeting, Namaste. Indians always shake with their right hand, never their left since it is used for hygiene purposes.

At the IGL campus, you may be greeted with flower leis. It is appropriate to accept them, but remove them and place them at your side or another convenient location soon after they are placed around your neck. It is a cultural sign of humility and respect.

The suffix “ji” after someone’s name is a mark of respect. Using first names only can be taken as overly familiar, so it’s best to address new acquaintances as Mr, Miss or Mrs., or simply “ji.”

Older people, particularly grandparents, are treated with great respect, and younger relatives often greet them by touching their feet. Your host will not expect you to do the same, but a courteous greeting in any form is important.

Indians will think nothing of asking you very personal questions within minutes of first meeting you, so don’t take offense if a relative stranger asks you how much you earn or whether you are married. Such questions are seen as nothing more than taking a normal friendly interest in a new acquaintance.

Body Language

The feet are considered to be the lowliest part of the body and shoes are treated as unclean. People will usually take their shoes off before entering a house. Putting your feet up on the furniture is considered bad manners, as is touching someone inadvertently with your feet. If you are sitting on the floor, as is often the case, try to keep your feet tucked underneath rather than stretched out, and avoid stepping over people.

The head, on the other hand, is thought to be a person’s spiritual centre. An older person may bless some one younger by touching his or her head.

Living in close quarters with family and neighbors gives Indians a different sense of personal space than many Westerners are used to. If you find yourself crowded or jostled, particularly while traveling, be as tolerant as you can, since space is often at a premium. You should also be aware that public displays of affection between couples are frowned on in Indian society. It is not uncommon for male friends to walk arm-in-arm, hold hands, or with arms around shoulders as an expression of affection.

Bargaining

Bargaining is a way of life in India. Exchanges can be heated, but it is not necessary to be aggressive. Firmly state what you would like to pay and walk away if the shopkeeper does not agree. The prices in larger shops and government emporia are usually fixed.

Eating Indian Style

Eating with your fingers can take a bit of getting used to, but it is the best way to enjoy traditional Indian food. If in doubt about how to eat a particular dish, don’t be embarrassed to ask. It is considered impolite to use your left hand for eating. Sitting on the floor for meals is common and, in the south, banana leaves are often used instead of plates.

Tipping

When traveling with IGL, your designated team leader may help take care of tipping situations for your group when traveling together. When you arrive at the airport in India, you will be bombarded with people wanting to carry your luggage, etc. Always say “No,” politely but firmly. If they get the chance to touch your luggage, they will want a tip. Hotel staff and hotel drivers should be tipped appropriately. Please honor these policies. It does not make it easier for the IGL to function if we are giving out gifts of money and articles where it is not appropriate. You do not need to tip the IGL staff or drivers. It may be appropriate to give them small gifts in appreciation for their help during your stay.

Gifts for Hosts

There are many wonderful people who help make your stay possible. The Stephens family and the Sharon Gardens staff are gracious hosts and take great care in making sure you have the best possible experience. If you would like to thank them by bringing a small token of appreciation that is fine, but not necessary. Because of the sheer number of adults and children you will see, it is often difficult to assess the proper number of gifts to bring and when to distribute them. In whatever you decide to do, please be sensitive to the fact that there are hundreds of children and workers on the campus at Salem, and it makes it very difficult if you do something for one and not for the others.

Visiting your Sponsored Child

If you are a child sponsor it may be possible for you to visit your sponsored child while in India. Please be certain to alert the IGL-NA office well ahead of time to see if arrangements can be made. This is not always a possibility depending on time of year and location in India.

Beggars

As a foreign visitor, you may come across beggars, especially in the city. They can be very persistent. You must be very firm and very consistent, saying “No,” ignoring them and continuing on. Watch very carefully for pick-pockets while this is all going on. If necessary, complain to a nearby policeman.

Photography

Taking pictures of women, tribal communities and places of worship can be sensitive issues and it is best to ask before using your camera. Photographing security-sensitive areas such as railway stations, dams, airports and military installations is prohibited. Notice boards are posted where photography is not allowed.

Public Toilets

Although few in number, those known as “sulabh Shauchalayas” located on city roads are a great civic invention. Attractively designed, they are easy to spot, extremely clean and charge a nominal fee for use. They are, however, of the Indian squatting variety and can be difficult to use if you are not used to them. Some hotels allow non-residents to use their toilets. It is always a good idea to carry your own toilet paper with you, just in case. When you are staying in an IGL selected hotel or on the grounds at Salem, your bathrooms will have flush toilets, but you may still want to bring toilet paper with you.

Pharmacies

Most big cities have pharmacies, or chemist shops, as they are called. They will not carry the brands that you are used to buying in the US. You should bring all the medications that you will need, both prescription and over-the-counter types, with you in your carry-on.

Indian Currency

The main form of currency in India is the Rupee (Rp). \$1.00 U.S. is equivalent to 40 rupees, although the dollar has devalued in recent months. It is advisable to visit your local bank to determine the exchange rate and see if an exchange can be made before your trip. The IGL-India office is also capable of exchanging U.S. dollars to rupees during your stay. Currency notes are available in denominations of Rs5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000. Be careful not to mix up the 100 and 500 rupee notes as they look very similar. Beware of accepting torn or damaged notes, as shops and even banks are often reluctant to accept or exchange them. Banks often give notes stapled together in large packs. Ask them to remove the staples for you as you will find it difficult to do it yourself without tearing the notes.

Money Matters

Traveling with IGL you will not need much cash with you. One credit card is also a good idea. You will need to alert your bank that you will be traveling abroad and will be using your credit card in a foreign country. The credit card is the better way to make purchases, as it will give you the best exchange rate on your purchase. MasterCard or Visa are the accepted credit cards in India. It is wise to either visit the international department of your bank a few weeks prior to your trip or visit the Thomas Cook window at the airport to change \$30 to \$50 into Rupees so you have it when you reach India. Do make sure that you keep some U.S. small bills on you for your runs to the snack shop in the airports in the U.S. Do not take home a lot of foreign currency with the intention of exchanging it in the US. You will be charged a hefty service charge to change it back into US currency.

Some Notes About Purchases

- ❖ Never change money on the street.
- ❖ Make sure you know the exchange rate you are being charged before you make credit card purchases. It is the best way to buy things, but you do have to make sure you check on the particular vendor's exchange rate ... especially in smaller shops.
- ❖ Keep all your credit card receipts for reference once you return home.

Traveler's Checks

We do not recommend bringing traveler's checks.

Will we be able to communicate with family and friends?

Regular personal communication with people at home is often difficult in India due to the time difference (10-12 hours, depending on where you live in the US), the busy team schedule, and access to the Internet. It is possible however, to send and receive important email and phone messages.

It is advisable for each traveler to check with their mobile phone provider to see if any international calling options are available. Exercise caution as roaming rates and charges may apply internationally even if no longer charged in the U.S. Access at Sharon Gardens may be available, but it is very limited. Mobile phone signals are often weak.

The following information should be given to one or more key contact persons for use in getting a message to you in the event of an emergency:

IGL office in India:

48 Chairman Chinniah Rd

Salem 636 007

Tamilnadu, India

Phone: 011.91.427.241.9966

Email: iglindia@eth.net

Websites:

www.iglworld.org

www.sharonworld.org

U.S. Embassy and Consular Locations in India

Mumbai (Bombay): Lincoln House, 78 Bhulabhai Desai Rd. 400 026

Tel: 91.22.2363.3611

Chennai (Madras): 220 Anna Salai, Gemini Circle 600 006

Tel: 91.44.2811.2000

New Delhi: Shantipath, Chanakyapuri 110 021

Tel: 91.11.2419.8000

Some teams choose to register with the US embassy prior to their departure. This is a matter of team preference and is strictly up to the team to determine relative to its own needs/desires. Please visit www.usembassy.gov for more information.

Some simple Tamil words you can learn for your trip

Hello / Common Greeting	Vonacum	(Vonacum sounds like Vonadoom)
Praise the Lord	totrum	
What is your name?	Un- pa- year- enna?	
My name is ...	Yen payer	
What?	Enna?	
Where?	ngay?	(sounds like enga ... barely hear the “y”)
Where is the bathroom?	Bathroom engay?	
Let’s pray	Jabee –ka –noom	
How are you?	Nalama?	(“a” sounds like the “a” in raw)
I am fine	Nalam	
Thank you	Nundri	(barely hear the “d”)
Water	Tanee	(Ta – knee : “a” sounds like the “a” in raw)
Food	Sopaadu	(sop –a –du)
Father	Appa	ap –pa (accent the “pa”)
Mother	Amma	am – ma (accent the “ma”)
Come	Vonga	for a small child : “Va”
Go	Polam	for a small child: “Po”
Shall we go?	Polama?	(same as “a” in raw)
Yes	Ama	
No	Ellay	(barely hear the “y”)
I’ve had enough (food, drink,etc)	Podum	Po –doom
I want	Vendum	Ven –doom
I don’t want	Vendaam	
Stop	Neel	(sounds like knee)
Young boy or brother	Tombee	
Young girl or sister	Tonga-chee	
Older brother	A –na	(accent on “na”)
Old Sister	A –ca	(accent on the “ca”)
Traditional greeting:	Namaste	Pronounced “namastay”:

*Used when meeting or parting, the palms are pressed together, raised toward the face and the head is bent slightly forward.

FINANCES & FUNDRAISING

What does a trip cost?

The cost of a trip ranges from \$2,800 to \$3,500, depending on trip length and cost of international transportation, which vary. Your team leader will let you know the final cost of the trip once the itinerary has been finalized. The trip cost includes all travel expenses, room and board, insurance and administrative fees.

These are the personal expenses you may encounter in preparing for your trip:

- ✦ International airfare
- ✦ IGL in-country costs (room, board, lodging, transportation)
- ✦ Passport
- ✦ Visa (please visit www.travisaindia.com or contact our office for more information)
- ✦ Immunizations
- ✦ Medications
- ✦ Tips
- ✦ Travel insurance
- ✦ Administrative Fee
- ✦ Meals in transit
- ✦ Travel to airport (in U.S.)

An important note about travel insurance:

As a matter of precaution for its travelers and to limit the liability of IGL, all trip participants through India Gospel League are required to pay for a travel insurance policy. This policy covers costs of medical care and transport in unusual medical emergency situations and is unrelated to reimbursement of travel costs in the event of trip cancellation often associated with travel made through an agency. If you desire that type of travel insurance you may purchase it on your own. It does not however, waive the traveler's requirement to purchase the insurance plan through IGL.

The only acceptable waiver is proof of a similar policy, typically available to churches and other ministry groups, very often through Brotherhood Mutual. Unless proof of such a policy can be provided, the insurance fee will be an included charge as a traveler cost.

Who makes the flight arrangements?

We direct team leaders to a local travel planner of their choice or suggest one that has worked with IGL a great deal in the past. Please do not make flight arrangements until you have confirmed your trip dates with the IGL, NA office. We will remain ready to answer any questions the travel planner has about your trip. We also highly recommend that you consider purchasing flight trip insurance in case there are any changes to your travel plans. This is separate from your travel insurance policy.

Airports in India

There are four main airports in India that are frequented by most travelers. They are: Bangalore International Airport, Chennai (Madras) International, Mumbai (Bombay) International, and Delhi International. Please contact the IGL-NA office before you make your arrangements. The airport selected for arrival and departure will depend on your trip details.

Payment Schedule

The complete trip cost is normally paid in two installments:

- ✦ 2 months before departure:
 - 25% of the costs for your travel and stay within India are due to IGL *
- ✦ 1 month before departure:
 - Balance is due IGL for all costs for in-country travel in India, room and board, insurance and administrative fees.

Note: Your team leader will notify you of the payment schedule for your international airline ticket.

*It is critical that the money needed for the first payment is received 60 days before departure, as these funds may be used to secure transportation services and lodging in India. A delay potentially drives up the cost of the tickets and increases the cost of the overall trip.

Seeking Financial Support for a Short-Term Missions Trip

Let your daily prayer times be permeated with the sense that you are looking primarily to the Lord to provide your finances. Everyone should be seeking the Lord's direction for prayer partners. For team members who are seeking those who will partner with them financially as well, we have included several helps below. Look them over and see what tips you can pull from them that will work for you.

Where to begin ...

Make a list of individuals and churches who you can share your vision and call them to set up a time you can talk with them. Make sure you are able to speak from the heart about why you feel God would have you participate in this missions trip.

Some contacts you may want to include:

- ✦ Your church missions committee or council
- ✦ The church where you grew up
- ✦ Churches in your district
- ✦ Friends and acquaintances at each of these churches
- ✦ People at your work place (current and summer work)
- ✦ Acquaintances outside your normal church circles (neighbors, for instance)
- ✦ Alumni from your school

- ❖ Friends involved in other Christian groups and ministries
- ❖ Friends and contacts of your parents
- ❖ Relatives
- ❖ Christian contacts at your university (professors, administrators, staff)
- ❖ Christian parents of your friends
- ❖ Your close friends

Once you have made your list, prayerfully consider how best to approach each one. Some may best be handled by going out for coffee with them, some best approached by a letter, and for others you will need to make an appointment to attend a missions board meeting at the church. Make sure you start this process early – no one is impressed by someone asking for funding at the last minute! Other creative options are team car washes, team work days, etc.

Funding Follow-up

If funds are sent directly to the IGL-NA office we will provide a list of donor names and addresses for acknowledgment purposes, typically without reference to dollar amount.

All funding should be followed up by:

- ❖ A thank-you note when the funds are received – you can include how the team is progressing with plans for the trip.
- ❖ A letter telling the person all about the trip should be sent soon after you return. It is a wonderful way to let the donor know all the joys and challenges of your trip and let them know the work that the Lord is doing in India!

Guidelines for Support Letters

- ❖ Send your letters out promptly so that individuals have a chance to respond before the money is due for your trip.
- ❖ Include a response card with each of your letters.
- ❖ Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with each of your letters ... results over the years show that you will get a much better response if you include the envelope and the stamp.
- ❖ See wording on the next page. It must be included in the body of your letter due to IRS regulations.

Check out the following things about your church's policies:

- ❖ If a deposit is required for your trip (to be paid by you before your support comes in), will it be treated as tax-deductible? (Note: Are deposits refunded to participants if full support is received by the church in excess of your deposit?)
- ❖ If the church receives more than full support for your trip, the additional funds are generally applied to general expenses of the trip or other trips.

Wording which must be included in any form letter which goes out asking for missions trip support:

“If you are able to assist me financially for this trip, please fill out and return the enclosed Response Card with your donation to _____ Church (or the IGL-NA office as established by your team leader). Please do not write my name anywhere on the check, as this voids the tax deductibility of your donation. The response card will insure that the money is applied to the account established for this trip. A receipt will be mailed for all donations.

If donations are received which exceed the anticipated cost for my participation in this trip, the remainder of the money will be applied to general expenses of this trip or other similar trips.”

Sample Insert Card

Yes, I wish to support _____ in:

- Prayer
- Financial support
- Both

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to India Gospel League, with “India trip” entered on the memo line. Please do not write individual names on the check as it voids the tax deductibility of your donation. If an individual receives more donations than needed for the trip, the additional funds will be applied to general expenses for this trip.

For tax purposes, a receipt will be mailed to you.

If donations are received which exceed the anticipated cost for my participation in this trip, the remainder of the money will be applied to general expenses of this trip or other similar trips.

Say thank you to your supporters

Yes, we know we are repeating this information but it is so important. Upon your return, be certain to write a brief letter to all of your supporters sharing some of the experiences of your trip and expressing appreciation for their sacrifice. Include a few pictures if you can, and be sure to keep it personal. We hope that you will also want to share, with excitement, the work that you see God doing in India and how they might partner with us in the future!

TRIP AND TRAVEL APPLICATIONS

Team Member Application

Name (as it appears on passport):

Gender:

Home address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Passport #:

City issued:

Exp.:

Birthdate:

Name of church now attending:

Address:

Pastor's name:

Phone:

Any regular medications/Allergies/Special medical needs? If so, please explain:

In case of emergency, notify:

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell phone:

E-mail:

Business phone:

Primary Care Physician Name:

Address:

Phone:

Signature:

Date:

Team Member Profile

Your hosts in India have requested the following information about you as a means of getting to know you and helping you have the best experience possible.

Name:

Gender: Age:

1. What is your highest level of education?
2. What church or organization are you traveling with?
3. Describe your current or past involvement and any leadership positions:
4. What is your profession?
5. How long have you been at your present job?
6. Describe the nature of your job and responsibilities:
7. What are your special gifts/skills/talents/areas of expertise?
8. List any specific areas of interest:
9. What would the purpose of your visit to India?
10. How would you like to be used on your trip and what in your opinion would be most fulfilling?
11. What is the extent of your exposure to India Gospel League?
12. Please list the name and contact information for a reference:

PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby grant permission to India Gospel League (hereinafter IGL) and India Gospel League, North America (hereinafter IGL-NA), its agents, or employees to use any and all photographs taken of me, with or without using my name and affiliation, resulting from my participation on this mission. I understand and acknowledge that the photographs or video may be used in IGL and/or IGL-NA publications, both printed and electronic, and may be published in any manner, including advertising media, periodicals, gift cards, calendars, postcards, Web site, or as deemed appropriate by IGL and/or IGL-NA.

I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or printed or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive the right to any royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the photograph or video material.

I hereby agree to release, defend, and hold harmless the IGL and IGL-NA, its President, Board of Directors, Officers, Agents, or Employees, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the finished product in whole or on part, whether on paper or electronic media, from and against any claims, damages, or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs, including but not limited to any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction, or production of the finished product, its publication, or distribution. It is the discretion of IGL and IGL-NA to decide whether to use any images.

I am 18 years of age or older and I am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions regarding this release by submitting those questions in writing prior to signing, and I agree that my failure to do so will be interpreted as a free and knowledgeable acceptance of the terms of this release.

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio. I understand and acknowledge that this release shall have no expiration date.

Event and Location of Photo(s):
(tentative trip dates and location)

Date:

Name: (please print)

Signature or Signature of Guardian (if under 18 years of age):

Street Address:

City, State, Zip code, and Country:

WAIVER OF LIABILITY RELEASE

I, _____(Printed Name), the undersigned, desire to travel to India under the auspices of India Gospel League (IGL) and India Gospel League-North America (IGL-NA). I understand that such travel may be hazardous and involve the risk of injury, sickness and possibly death, as well as damage to property, when traveling to and from and/or within India. I understand that I may need to travel and live in very primitive areas, risk violence from crime, war, terrorism, political unrest and other dangers, and may be exposed to food and water-borne diseases and to disease from other carriers or while at the IGL Mission Base. I understand that some diseases may not produce symptoms during the actual trip, but may occur after the trip. I understand also that medical facilities in India may not be of the quality of medical facilities in the United States. I understand that I may be injured if involved in a construction project, or infected, particularly in medical ministry.

I understand that there may be delays and sudden change of schedules and/or cancellation of schedules. While reasonable care will be taken in selecting transportation, I understand that breakdowns and delays may occur. I understand that circumstances may arise such that I might be asked not to go on this mission or to return early, and that only those monies refunded to IGL or IGL-NA or still in the possession of IGL or IGL-NA will be refunded to me.

I acknowledge that I am in good physical condition. I understand also that the journey may involve strenuous physical activity, including, but not limited to, long walks and hiking in hills and or/mountainous areas.

I understand and acknowledge that while IGL and IGL-NA may take reasonable steps to insure my safety during travel and while participating in IGL and IGL-NA sponsored activities while in India, that these precautions are merely made in good faith and do not warrant acceptance of liability, nor guarantee that actions undertaken will demonstrate and/or constitute non-negligent performance therein by the organization, its agents or assignees.

I voluntarily and personally assume the risk of any and all consequences of my travel with IGL and IGL-NA and those partnering ministries and organizations selected by IGL or IGL-NA to provide travel. I expressly waive my right and the right of any of my heirs, legal representatives and assigns to sue or otherwise collect damages of any kind from IGL and IGL-NA, its officers, personnel or volunteers, or from my church, its officers, personnel or volunteers, resulting from any cause whatsoever including but not limited to sickness, personal injury, property damage, delay, and change of schedule, wrongful death, theft or loss of property.

In the event any term or provision of this WAIVER OF LIABILITY is found to be unenforceable or void, in whole or in part, then the offending term shall be construed as valid and enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the balance with this WAIVER OF LIABILITY shall remain in full force and effect. This WAIVER OF LIABILITY shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

I, the undersigned, have voluntarily and without duress signed this WAIVER OF LIABILITY form. I assert that I have read and fully understand the above WAIVER OF LIABILITY, and that I agree to accept the terms of this WAIVER OF LIABILITY in full.

Application Submission Information

Please provide:

- ✦ Application
- ✦ Team member profile
- ✦ Signed photo release
- ✦ Signed waiver of liability release

Please email, fax or mail these to us as soon as possible.

Email them to: emily@iglworld.org

Fax them to: 330-650-5911

Mail them to:

India Gospel League, NA
1521 Georgetown Road Suite 305
Hudson, OH 44236

Please feel free to contact us at:

330.650.5900

888.352.4451 [toll-free]

igl@iglworld.org

MEDICAL INFORMATION

PERSONAL MEDICAL PREPARATION FOR TRAVEL TO INDIA

Immunizations

IGL does not give medical advice regarding immunizations. Accurate answers to questions most travelers have about this area of preparation are dependent on the following:

- ✦ Exact destination within India
- ✦ Season of the year – travel dates
- ✦ Nature of the trip (medical, dental, veterinary, teaching, etc.)
- ✦ Personal medical history & immunization record, including any side effects from previous immunizations

At this time, there are no legally required immunizations for travel to or from India. However, IGL highly recommends that you consult both your personal physician as well as a travel medicine clinic, so that you will be well prepared to make this important decision. The bulleted items listed above are the details your medical provider will need to know to evaluate your individual immunization needs. In order to allow adequate time to receive any immunizations that you determine are necessary, we encourage making an appointment with your medical care providers at the earliest possible date. Many immunizations require several doses over extended time periods.

Taking the above information into consideration, you can expect to discuss the following immunizations with your health care provider: (these are common considerations – and not meant as an exhaustive list)

Tetanus	Hepatitis A	MMR & DPT or DT Booster
Typhoid	Hepatitis B	Other childhood immunization boosters
Polio	Malaria Prevention	Japanese Encephalitis

IGL encourages you to complete your own research regarding immunization preparation with the assistance of your qualified medical care provider as you prepare yourself physically for service in India. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov/travel) is also a resource for more information.

IGL is not able to issue tax deductible receipts for the cost of immunizations. We advise that you consult a qualified tax advisor for determining situations that may allow for tax deductions in this area.

Food & Water

Although IGL staff consistently provide the best possible care for all guests of the ministry, food and water consumption can occasionally be unpredictable. On rare occasions, food will be prepared for your visit in local villages. Partaking of those types of experiences will be a personal choice. Regarding water, factory sealed, bottled water is our only recommendation, in addition to the purified water taps available at some of the IGL mission bases.

On rare occasions, traveler's diarrhea may need to be treated. Include this question at your recommended medical appointment, and plan to pack an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal, such as Immodium AD. You may

also consider asking your medical care provider for a prescription medicine, to be taken only if needed, such as Ciprofloxacin or the like.

Other medical preparation considerations for travel to India:

- ✦ Sleep aid, such as Tylenol PM (benedryl) or discuss a prescription remedy with your medical provider
- ✦ Team or personal First Aid Kit
- ✦ Personal Rx & over-the-counter medications – which should be packed in your carry-on luggage.
- ✦ Insect repellent (25 – 30% deet or a similar product)
- ✦ Sunscreen with a high SPF rating. 30 SPF is good, but 45 – 60 is better. (Limiting the use of scented personal hygiene products may reduce biting insect issues.)
- ✦ Benedryl Cream & tablets; Hydrocortisone Cream
- ✦ Antacid remedy, such as Pepto Bismol or a similar product
- ✦ Feminine hygiene products
- ✦ Over-the-counter analgesics & cough and cold remedies

Know that drugstores are not easily accessible. For your comfort, include whatever products you determine are necessary for the length of your stay.

PACKING AND TRAVEL TIPS

Safety first

- ✦ Check with your team leader regarding hotel safety procedures. It is advisable to stay with your group.
- ✦ Once you reach Sharon Gardens, you are free to be out on the campus. Please let your team leader or another member of your group know where you are if you go out by yourself.
- ✦ Jewelry is allowed but please be advised that even something inexpensive may appear expensive and be a target for theft.

Personal Hygiene and Bits and Pieces

- ✦ Drink only the bottled water provided by your hosts or team leader. The Sharon campus has two purified water taps available for guests.
- ✦ Don't put ice in your drink.
- ✦ Use bottled water for washing your face or brushing your teeth—no tap water.
- ✦ Do not eat any raw vegetables or fruits unless they have been washed with purified water and peeled with clean hands.
- ✦ Don't buy food from street vendors. Your IGL guides will have selected hotels for you as you are traveling to Salem where the food is safe to eat (we still would caution against ice, etc.). Once you are on Sharon campus, they exercise great care in preparing the food in a safe manner for you. When you are not in one of these two situations, the CDC rule is "boil it, cook it, peel it with clean hands or forget it!"
- ✦ Never antagonize animals or insects. Rabies is widespread in India and animal bites, especially from dogs and monkeys, are possible culprits.
- ✦ Do not wade or swim in fresh water. Troublesome parasites that live in bodies of fresh water can enter your body through the skin.
- ✦ Wash your hands often, and especially before you eat. (Make sure you wash under your nails also!) When you are away from the bathrooms, use anti-bacterial hand wipes or liquid often. Good hand-washing is one of the main defenses against intestinal distress.
- ✦ Carry individual wipes or a small bottle of antibacterial gel with you on the plane and for the airports.
- ✦ Anti-bacterial soap for your daily shower is a good idea.
- ✦ Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times.
- ✦ Now is a good time to look ahead toward the job of gathering your clothes for this trip. We'd like to encourage everyone to take enough clothing for the whole trip. The women at Sharon Gardens will ask if you need laundry done, but they have plenty to do with all the children, etc. Unless it is an emergency, please don't ask them to do laundry for you.
- ✦ If you tend to have allergies to grass, dust, trees, etc. make sure you have medication along. You may want to ask your physician for something a bit stronger than your usual medication – the Sharon campus has a great deal of vegetation!
- ✦ Drink lots of water. You'll need twice as much as you would need at home. If you're not drinking enough, you may notice concentrated urine, constipation, dizziness, and inability to tolerate the heat, to name a few. The heat is very draining so we have to replenish the body's cooling system. Learn to drink it lukewarm before you go on the trip.
- ✦ Use sunscreen. You will need to apply it often, making sure you don't forget to protect the places most people forget (the back of your neck, the back of your arms, scalp, etc.)

- * If you have contact lenses, bring your lens care kit as well as a pair of glasses. Wash your hands with bottled water before handling your contacts.
- * You may want to pack your stuff in plastic bags ... it keeps them dry and helps you put one day's clothes together, etc. Two gallon plastic zip-lock bags are just the right size.
- * The current in India is 220 – 240 volts, 50 Hz. The power supply can be very erratic during the summer months with low voltage, fluctuations and long power cuts. The power outlets take triple round-pin plugs.
- * Mosquitoes are the carriers for malaria and many other diseases. Apply your insect repellent with DEET each day according to directions.
- * Many travelers have found that bathing with peppermint soap is a very good deterrent for mosquitoes and flying insects.

This information references Sharon Gardens. If you are taking side trips that involve other areas, you will want to talk with your physician about more involved measures to control mosquitoes, such as mosquito coils, mosquito netting, etc.

A note about GI distress:

It is not uncommon to experience GI symptoms related to changes in food and water when traveling internationally. Consult your physician regarding the best ways to prevent or treat symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Bananas, rice, applesauce, and toast (no butter) are four foods that are non-irritating to the GI tract so they will give you some nourishment while not making diarrhea worse. These foods, or some form of them, are all typically available whether we are in the airport, hotel or on the Sharon campus.

Snack ideas to take with you:

You may want to bring along some high-protein energy bars to keep with you. Meals are usually more than adequate, but boosting your protein may assist you in obtaining the extra energy needed to function well throughout the day and into the evening.

RESPECTING INDIAN DRESS

What women should wear:

Color:

- ✦ Light colors will help in the heat

Fabric content:

- ✦ 100% cotton or linen ... avoid polyester

Skirts/jumpers:

- ✦ conservative, mid-calf length minimum
- ✦ full, loose-fitting
- ✦ lightweight but not see-through
- ✦ consider light cotton interlock knit shorts under your skirts to help with sweaty legs

Shirts:

- ✦ no sleeveless, cap sleeves, tank tops, etc.
- ✦ may wear tank top underneath a sleeved shirt if the sleeved shirt is always on
- ✦ lightweight but not see-through fabric
- ✦ T-shirts may be worn without logos
- ✦ Sports bra may be more comfortable than underwire bra

Casual:

- ✦ Shorts are not appropriate
- ✦ It may be acceptable to wear capris or pants on your international flight as long as you change into a skirt when you arrive at your hotel.

Medical Teams:

- ✦ Scrubs are fine while out on missions or at the hospital during the day. When not “on duty” the dress code above should be followed. Shoes with closed toes should be considered when working to protect the feet.

Eyewitness or Teaching Teams:

- ✦ You may wish to consider borrowing, purchasing or making a Punjabi or Salwar Kameeze. This typical Indian attire for women is perfect for both cultural acceptance and tolerance of hot weather. Ask your team leader if this choice is suitable for your team.

Other:

- ✦ It is also a good idea to bring more formal wear for dedications and speaking engagements.
- ✦ Please make sure to bring one pair of comfortable, sturdy shoes or sandals.

RESPECTING INDIAN DRESS

What men should wear:

Color:

- ✦ Lighter colors will help in the heat

Fabric content:

- ✦ 100% cotton or linen ... avoid polyester if possible

Shirts:

- ✦ Loose fitting dress shirts with sleeves
- ✦ Polo shirts are acceptable (may have golf club logos, etc. if they are small)
- ✦ No T-shirts for ministry outings
- ✦ A necktie is appropriate though not required for speaking/teaching sessions or church dedications

Pants:

- ✦ Khaki style casual dress pants are permissible for men

Medical Teams:

- ✦ Scrubs are fine while out on missions or at the hospital during the day. When not “on duty” the dress code above should be followed. Shoes with closed toes should be considered when working to protect the feet.

Casual:

- ✦ Jeans are not acceptable.
- ✦ Knee-length shorts are only acceptable at certain times and only on the Sharon Campus.

Other:

- ✦ It is also a good idea to bring a more formal outfit for dedications and speaking engagements.
- ✦ Please make sure to bring one pair of comfortable, sturdy shoes or sandals.

Sample Packing List

(These are only suggestions. Please feel free to add/delete items according to your personal needs.)

Medical supplies:

Recommended:

- ✦ Anti-malaria medication as prescribed by your physician*
- ✦ Sunblock
- ✦ Hand sanitizer
- ✦ Anti-bacterial hand wipes*
- ✦ Insect Repellent with DEET
- ✦ Basic First Aid kit

Optional:

- ✦ Peppermint soap to discourage insect bites
- ✦ Over-the-counter or prescription medicines as discussed with your doctor for: sunburn, insect bites, respiratory or skin allergies, menstrual cramps, simple aches and pains, nausea, and basic acid indigestion. You may also want to discuss your need for sleeping medication to assist with long flights as well as the time difference.

General supplies:

- ✦ Important documents—passport, visa, other identification, address and phone of IGL-India office
- ✦ Water bottle
- ✦ Snack items
- ✦ Earplugs, eyemask, neck pillow if you desire for the plane ride
- ✦ Compression socks for plane ride to help with swollen ankles
- ✦ Limited spending money / credit card
- ✦ Camera
- ✦ Bible
- ✦ Pen and journal
- ✦ Sunglasses
- ✦ Hat to protect face and neck from the sun
- ✦ Watch
- ✦ Mirror
- ✦ Deodorant
- ✦ Mesh bag for shower items
- ✦ Towel and washcloth (optional)
- ✦ Body powder [unscented] or Gold Bond powder
- ✦ Comb / brush
- ✦ Basic toiletries without scent / toothbrush / toothpaste / toothbrush holder
- ✦ Feminine hygiene products
- ✦ Antibacterial shower soap or shower wash
- ✦ Toilet wipes if desired
- ✦ Water purification tablets if you feel you want to have them along, in case
- ✦ Bounce fabric softener sheets in your luggage may help reduce bugs

Clothing:

Traveling clothes for international flights

Everyday clothes:

- ✦ Comfortable sandals or lightweight shoes w/ back-up pair
- ✦ Lightweight socks
- ✦ Lightweight khaki pants (men)
- ✦ Lightweight skirts (women)
- ✦ Lightweight short sleeved shirts
- ✦ Comfortable cotton underwear
- ✦ One pair flip flops
- ✦ Cotton PJ's (A/C may get cool at night)
- ✦ Lightweight blanket or sweatshirt—for sleeping or for A/C in van rides
- ✦ Sturdy umbrella or heavy poncho in monsoon season
- ✦ Scrubs (medical teams)

Final Potpurri

- ✦ Pack a few extra plastic bags to bring dirty items home.
- ✦ Pack basic toiletries (as the airline allows) and one change of clothes in your carry-on. Check airline regulations for sizes and packing of liquids and toiletries.
- ✦ If possible, purchase items without scent so the bugs can't find you and so you don't make things difficult for another team member who may be allergic to them.
- ✦ If you don't have an old suitcase, etc. consider visiting an Army-Navy store for purchasing duffels or parachute bags. They are especially well suited to packing things in plastic zip-lock bags.
- ✦ If you are a frequent traveler to the tropics and want to invest in clothing that helps you keep cool in very hot weather, travel catalogs such as TravelSmith www.travelsmith.com and Magellans www.magellans.com have a wide selection of clothing that can keep you much cooler than regular fabrics, is wrinkle resistant and has a very long life span.
- ✦ Make sure you have all important documents with you—including addresses and phone numbers of IGL-India locations and hotels.

RETURNING FROM INDIA

Returning from India – What's Next?

First of all, welcome home! Sending teams to India is a significant part of the purpose of IGL-NA, which is to build missions awareness and partnerships here in the U.S. What God develops in the hearts and lives of team members during the months and even years after returning from India is exciting and fruitful for the ministry.

Every trip is unique, with its own special blessings and unexpected challenges and outcomes. A typical response from team members is a feeling of receiving more than was given and a need to take the “next step” in serving the Lord. A positive first step for most people is to share their experiences with others.

Here are some suggestions:

- ✦ Sign up for our weekly prayer newsletter and become a prayer partner, and encourage others to do the same
- ✦ Write an article for your church or local community newsletter sharing your insights and experiences.
- ✦ Offer to speak in Sunday School classes, small groups, and even local Christian schools.
- ✦ Set two short-term and two long-term goals that are next steps for you as a world Christian. Share them with your prayer partners for the trip, and ask for prayer that God will lead you and enable you to fulfill these goals.
- ✦ Write an article about your experiences or assemble several excerpts from your journal that give us a glimpse into life on your trip for possible use in IGL publications. It is wonderful to see the world of India through your eyes! We also welcome pictures of your time in India and encourage you to send us a CD with your article.
- ✦ Become an ambassador—representing IGL locally or regionally. For more information contact our office.
- ✦ Think and pray about the things you have seen and experienced and consider if there might be a project or program you would like to help support financially
- ✦ Suggest that your church considers as possible goals: sponsoring a pastor, building a LifeCenter or even adopting a village
- ✦ Gather a team of your own and return to India to help introduce them to the work there

It is IGL's hope that everyone who participates in a short-term trip will establish a deeper ministry involvement, both with IGL and other overseas ministries. We would love to share many of the opportunities that IGL has to support the children in India and the work God is doing there. Call us anytime ... we have programs, both big and small!