

The purpose of the Mustard Seed Faith Foundation India is to reach disadvantaged people in rural communities of India for Christ, and to change their lives one at a time.

Mission Statement

MSFF India's mission is to strive to change the lives of rural communities one at a time. We design programs that engage the local rural communities in building viable, viable communities. MSFF programs and initiatives belong to the communities, so that they may derive a sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing that they can care for their own people.



MSFF India is dedicated to the improvement of these communities in providing opportunities for economic viability to people who lack

opportunity to break out of the cycle of poverty, which grips their lives. **MSFF India strives to "raise leaders, who raise families, who raise the Kingdom here on earth," and create conditions to empower them to become self-sustaining.**

Words from our Founder

Christianity is India's third-largest religion but constitutes just over 2% of India's population. The works of scholars and Eastern Christian writings state that **Christianity was introduced to India by, St. Thomas the Apostle**, who visited Kerala in 52 AD to spread the gospel amongst Kerala's Jewish settlements. Although the exact origins of Christianity in India remain unclear it is generally believed that Christianity in India is almost as old as Christianity itself and spread in India even before it spread to many Christian nations of Europe. Christians are found all across India and in all walks of life.

Many Christians in India are Catholic, however, since the 19th century, Protestant churches have also become present. The Christian Church runs thousands of educational institutions and hospitals contributing significantly to the development of the nation. Today Christians are most prevalent in the northeast, and in the southwestern states of Kerala and Goa. (Adapted from Wikipedia).



It is surprising to note that during these 2000 years of missionary movement, Christians experienced a growth rate of only 2 percent. This meager growth in India is a challenge to the Christian World and how we deliver the GOOD NEWS. Is it the same wine in new bottles? The Christian World needs to take a hard look at the way we do things in India. Yes, we have thousands who attend Churches and

revival meetings, but the lives of the teeming millions, especially those living in poverty, have not changed. Yes, most of us continue emphasizing the vertical approaches of delivering the GOOD NEWS neglecting the horizontal or the multidimensional and TRANSLATIONAL GOSPEL. **The Mustard Seed Faith Foundation India's greatest calling is to reach the uncharted areas where JESUS IS NOT HEARD, touching the lives of people one at a time. "We can't serve people if you don't love them, and we can't change people if we don't**

serve them." To accomplish this, we must become a movement to bring change in India. Join us in reaching out to the vulnerable millions in India who have not heard JESUS.

A Brief History of Mustard Seed Faith Foundation (MSFF) India

Since forming MSFF India, we have had a small glimpse of the vulnerable populations in India. We have seen pain and suffering along with joy and innocence. MSFF India was formed out of love for our fellow humankind. We know that the church is not just for us, it is meant for others who need it most. **Our goal is to go places and reach those who have not heard the name of Jesus at all.**

Here is a summary of our journey so far...

- MSFF India began on March 1, 2011 after MSFF India's local evangelist, Irwin Chebrolu, helped us begin seven churches in the Repalli Mandel area of Adhhra Pradesh, India.
- Dr. James Maddirala inaugurated MSFF India in Jackson-Madison, MS and began supporting existing pastors in the seven churches in Adhhra Pradesh.
- Dr. Francis Tuluri, Jackson State University associate professor, visited a few of our churches in March 2011.
- MSFF India distributed shoes to children in Kotipalli during a vacation bible school.
- MSFF India shared our mission statement with Bellwether Church.
- We started five MSFF India Learning Centers and began supporting another four churches in Vishaka area.
- MSFF India bought two bicycles for pastors, and a motorcycle for transportation to the Learning Centers.
- Five Bellwether Church members along with James Maddirala and Rajeswari Nittala and Bellwether Pastor John Hugh visited churches and Learning Centers in October, 2011.
- MSFF India inaugurated another Learning Center in Poram in October 4, 2011.
- The MSFF India Board of Executive Stewards was formed in December, 2011.



The Way Forward (Current Activities)

The MSFF India Stewards have begun the long process of establishing our fledgling foundation as a **501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization**. The first step is to register MSFF India with the Secretary of State's Office in Mississippi and begin the necessary paperwork. We will also navigate a similar process in India. This will require legal, financial, and business expertise. **As we work through this process, we need your prayers and financial support.** MSFF India Stewards are also working on a 5-Year Action Plan, which will outline the needs of the MSFF India-supported churches and establish a plan to meet those needs.

The First Annual Children's Christmas Dinner was a Great Success!

The first Children's Christmas dinner was held on Sunday, December 11th at The Auditorium. Over 120 guests attended the dinner, which featured an elaborate menu of authentic Indian dishes – **all home cooked by our own MSFF India Families**. John Hugh Tate, lead pastor of Bellwether Church, lead the opening prayer. The delicious meal was followed by a presentation of the MSFF India vision and goals by Dr. James Madirala. The event closed with the singing of *Silent Night*. **Everyone left full, but with an appetite for helping the children of India.** The first Children's Christmas dinner was held on Sunday, December 11th at The Auditorium. Over 120 guests attended the dinner, which featured an elaborate menu of authentic Indian dishes – **all home cooked by our own MSFF India Families**. John Hugh Tate, lead pastor of Bellwether Church, lead the opening prayer. The delicious meal was followed by a presentation of the MSFF India vision and goals by Dr. James Madirala. The event closed with the singing of *Silent Night*. **Everyone left full, but with an appetite for helping the children of India.**



MSFF members prepare for the Children's Christmas Dinner.

Using funds raised from the dinner, Christmas celebrations were held at Kotipalli on December 13, 2011 and at Poram on December 22, 2011. Proceeds from the dinner provided food, gifts, and some clothing for the children. There were about 300 children and 60 adults in attendance at Kotipalli, and 300 children and 100 adults in attendance at Poram. **This was likely the first Christmas Celebration for the majority of the people of Poram.** One Poram woman stated *"Jesus never passed by that village for her to know of Him"*. MSFF India is breaking the barriers in places like Poram, and we need to invoke His blessings on these vulnerable populations so that they may shout aloud the name of Jesus with us! What a joy for them and for us.

Become an MSFF India Supporter

Won't you please join us in MSFF India as we strive to support Churches and Learning Centers. There are many ways to help, and we ask you to prayerfully consider your contribution.

- Make a one-time contribution of \$100 or more. Investing in MSFF India means that you will be a part of furthering God's Kingdom in rural Indian villages.
- Pledge to provide monthly support to one of our MSFF India Churches. A pastor's salary is currently 1,500 Rupees per month (the equivalent of \$30).
- Pledge to provide monthly support to the MSFF India general fund. This fund allows us to provide the necessary ongoing support to all Churches and Learning Centers and ongoing needs for the Children

and Pastors. It also allows us to continue to reach out into areas that currently do not know Jesus.

- MSFF is seeking partnerships with other churches to join our movement to bring radical change in India. Please talk to your church leaders about joining us. All questions about this can be directed to Dr. James Maddirala (maddiralaj@yahoo.com or 601-898-3979).
- Pray for MSFF that we will be a blessing to those we serve by making wise choices with the time, resources, and talents that God has given us.

All contributions to MSFF can be mailed to Mustard Seed Faith Foundation, 132 Windsor Hills Dr., Madison, Mississippi 39110. A system for online contributions is currently under construction.



About Andhra Pradesh

The MSFF India churches are located in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh, located in the southern part of India, is the fifth largest state in India, with a population of over 84 million. While urban Andhra Pradesh is educated, cosmopolitan, and leads the way in consumerism, the rural areas are still remarkably poor. Poverty is widespread in India, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor. According to a 2005 World Bank estimate, approximately 26% of the total Indian population falls below the international poverty line (this is the equivalent of \$1.25 a day). **The illiteracy rate among adults in India is approximately 33%.**



The Indian State of Andhra Pradesh is highlighted in red on this map. Throughout its history, religion has been an important part of the culture of India's culture. Religious diversity and religious tolerance are both established in the country by both law and custom. This is especially true in Andhra Pradesh, where almost 85% of the population is Hindu. In the northern parts of the state, especially in and around Hyderabad, there is a significantly large population of Muslims. **Christians comprise only 2% on the population in Andhra Pradesh.** There are some Jain and Buddhist groups also. (Jainism is an Indian religion that prescribes a path of non-violence towards all living beings.) Although it contains several large cities (**including Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, and Vijayawada**) the state is mostly rural. Andhra Pradesh is crossed by several rivers, most importantly the Godavari and Krishna. The rich soils laid down by these rivers are highly fertile when irrigated and have made Andhra

Pradesh one of India's leading agricultural areas. The state being the largest rice-grower in the country, and is known as "*Rice Granary of India*". **The cuisine of Andhra Pradesh is one of the spiciest of all Indian cuisines.** There are many variations to the cuisine (all involving rice) depending on geographical regions, caste, and traditions.



A selection of hot and spicy dishes from Hyderabad.

