

NEWSLETTER

CHURCH of  THE NAZARENE
INDIA FIELD



Transforming Lives

In the city of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra, the Child Development Center of the Church of the Nazarene has been quietly transforming young lives for the past fifteen years. The center focuses on supporting children from economically weaker families and helping them grow physically, mentally, and socially. Today many children regularly attend the center and take part in activities designed for their development.



Education is one of the main priorities of the center. Many children who study in government schools receive extra coaching at the CDC. They are supported in subjects such as Marathi, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The center also provides school materials like notebooks, pens, pencils, school bags, and geometry boxes for children who cannot afford them.

The center also cares for the health and well being of the children. Qualified MBBS

doctors regularly visit the center to conduct health checkups and provide medical advice and medicines. Children are also taught the importance of personal hygiene and cleanliness. In addition, the center provides nutritious food and clean drinking water to support the healthy growth of the children.



Children also participate in creative activities such as drawing, painting, craft work, games, and cultural programs. Special celebrations are held during Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Children's Day. These programs help children build confidence and discover their talents.

The impact of the CDC can be seen in the lives of many children. Rahul joined the center when he was studying in the third standard. With the encouragement and support of the CDC, he continued his education and completed his studies successfully. Today Rahul serves in the Indian Army and is currently posted at the border. He reads the Bible, prays with the children, and maintains a close relationship with the CDC leaders.



Another inspiring testimony is that of Akanksha. She was brought to the CDC when she was only five years old and was suffering from a serious heart condition. The CDC leaders prayed for her and helped arrange treatment. She underwent surgery in Bangalore, which was successful by God's grace. Akanksha later completed her twelfth standard and wanted to pursue nursing. When she did

not have money to buy books, the CDC leaders collected books from other students and helped her continue her studies. Today she is in the second year of nursing and is always among the top students in her class. Her mother is deeply thankful to the CDC and sometimes brings groceries to the center as an expression of gratitude.

District Assemblies - Time of Celebration

Sarah Dandge

Church of the Nazarene joyfully announces adding two more districts ie Himalayan District and Bihar District in India Field, now we have total of 18 districts. District Assemblies is not just a time of reporting but a time of celebrating what the Lord is doing in the district and the local church.

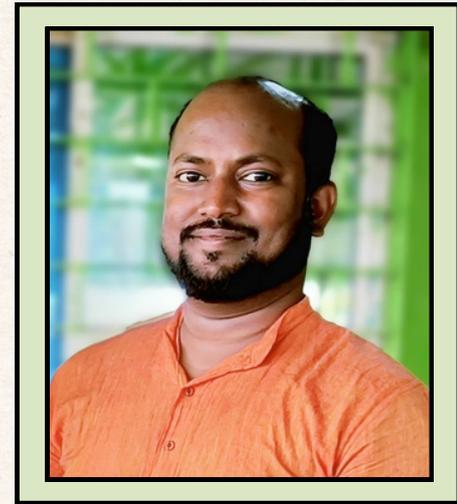
The District Superintendent shares the achievements and challenges in the report. The DS along with the District Advisory Board announces goals and visions for the coming year during District Assembly for the District. It is a time to pray for the district and understanding the challenges. District assembly is also a time of fellowship with co-pastors and delegates from the local church. We meet annually to share what the Lord has done in the past year and how the Lord has blessed the district, church and its congregation. It's a time to share how the spirit of the Lord is moving among the congregation and how they are impacting the community around them.

It's a time to celebrate new souls in the church, organization of new churches in the district. District Assembly is also a time to elect new board for the functioning of the district. During District Assembly we get to know how the district is functioning, where the pastors need to come alongside to support. It is a time of celebration and recognition of new persons coming for ministry and given district license. Recognizing contribution to the Global Church and extending appreciation to the congregation contributing sacrificially.

This year we are privileged to have Dr. Filimao Chambo as our JGS for next two years and it was a delight for us to have Dr. Samantha accompany Dr. Filimao Chambo. Dr. Chambo chaired six District Assemblies and conducted six ordinations. We were also able to hold two pastors' conferences, one in Delhi and another one in Pune at which Dr. Chambo was the main speakers. It was a blessed time of learning and also churning of heart from the topics addressed by speakers.

Sunday School to Serving Children

Sometimes a small invitation can change the direction of a life. For Rabindra Ram, that moment came when he was a child studying in Class III. Rabindra grew up in a loving Hindu family in Kolkata, West Bengal. One day, his neighbour, Mr. Ramesh Balmiki, invited him to attend Sunday school at the Church of the Nazarene Doctor Lane, located near his home. What seemed like a simple invitation became the beginning of a life changing journey.



At Sunday school, Rabindra was taught by Rev. Sunil R. Dandge and Mrs. Sara Dandge. They patiently helped children understand God's love and His Word. Week after week, Rabindra listened, learned, and slowly began to experience the love of God in a personal way. The church became a place where his faith was nurtured and strengthened.

Over the years, several pastors guided the church and influenced Rabindra's spiritual growth. Among them were Rev. Sudipta Behera, Rev. Amitava Chatterjee, and the current Rev. A. Ravichandran. Each leader played an important role in mentoring him and helping him grow in his faith journey.

Although Rabindra accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour many years ago, he delayed taking baptism because of his family background. However, in 2016 he had a powerful encounter with God that brought deep peace and clarity about his life's purpose. Soon after, on February 23, 2017, during the District Assembly (EID), he was baptized by Rev. Sunil R. Dandge. That moment became a significant step in his commitment to follow Christ.

Before fully surrendering his life to Christ, Rabindra often felt an emptiness within. He pursued education and career opportunities, hoping they would give him meaning and direction. Yet something was always missing. Through his relationship with Christ, he finally discovered hope, purpose, and direction for his life.

Rabindra's professional journey began in 2006 when he served as a part time community volunteer with World Vision India while he was still a student. After completing his graduation in 2010, he entered the corporate sector. However, he soon realized that his heart was not in corporate work. In 2016, he made a bold decision to leave his job and return to the NGO sector so he could serve people and communities in need. But he felt that God was inviting him not only to serve communities but also to serve in His mission.

In March 2025, Rabindra heard about a vacancy in a Nazarene Compassionate Ministries project through a church announcement. After several rounds of interviews, and by God's grace, he joined Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in November 2025 as the Zonal Coordinator for the North region. Today, he serves children and families through the ministry, helping them grow in education, values, and hope for a better future. His journey from a Sunday school child to a leader serving communities reflects God's faithful guidance over the years. He remains deeply grateful to God for transforming his life and directing his path. He also expresses sincere thanks to the pastors and leaders of the Church of the Nazarene who have supported and guided him throughout his spiritual journey.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

T. Varaprasad

Sometimes the most beautiful stories of transformation are not only about receiving help but about giving back. The Child Development Centers of the Church of the Nazarene in Andhra Pradesh are witnessing such stories. Children who once came to the center in need are now growing into young adults who remember the support they received and are becoming a blessing to others. The journeys of Prakashraj and Suneetha reflect how the ministry of the CDC is shaping lives and inspiring gratitude.

Prakashraj grew up in a small house with his parents, Mr. Babu and Mrs. Ammulu. His father worked as a driver and the family depended mainly on his income. Life was difficult and the family struggled to meet their basic needs. Because of these challenges, Prakashraj could not attend school regularly. His parents often moved from place to place in search of work, and his father worried deeply about his son's education and future.

Everything began to change when Prakashraj joined the Child Development Center. Through the support of the CDC, he started attending school regularly. The center provided nutritious food, school materials, and regular tuition classes that helped him focus on his studies. He also participated actively in games and cultural activities at the center.



With encouragement from the CDC and his own hard work, Prakashraj completed his twelfth grade with good marks. He later joined Siddharth Institute of Engineering and Technology in Puttur to study Civil Engineering.

After completing his degree, he returned to serve at the CDC as a teacher for some time, helping younger children. In 2021, with the guidance of the CDC coordinator, he went to Bangalore for Java training. By God's grace, within three months he received a job at Tata Consultancy Services in Bangalore. Today his family is living happily. Prakashraj often says, "CDC did not only help me study. It shaped my future."

He also expressed his gratitude in a meaningful way. When the church began constructing a new church building, he supported the work by providing iron and cement bags from his own salary during the basement work. Through this simple act of generosity, Prakashraj truly became what the CDC ministry hopes every child will become one day, blessed to be a blessing.



When the Cross Redefined

My Calling

I am Jivan Vinay Gaikwad, grew up in a pastor's family. I never took God seriously until I failed in my first year of college because life was good and I always had what I needed. When I failed, I went through depression, and at that time, I committed my life to God. I asked God what His will was, and He showed me that I should enter ministry and pursue my theological studies. So, I pursued MDiv from APNTS, Philippines.



When I was pursuing my theological education, I never thought I would be a volunteer. I always wanted to be a youth pastor or do youth ministry, but God had different plans. In my last year of MDiv, God called me to be a volunteer. As I was learning about the process and doing volunteer training, God was preparing my heart to sacrifice all my desires like Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins. Jesus became a servant for us and came into this world. Jesus served us by making an eternal relationship with the Father possible through his own life, death, and resurrection. And therefore, I chose to sacrifice my comfort zone and become a Volunteer in North East India.

When I came here, there were many challenges. Still, I always reminded myself that Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). When I arrived in the field, I truly understood what it meant to take the cross. Taking up the cross means giving up our desires and still rejoicing in the sufferings as Jesus Christ himself did. And I also learned that when we take our cross and surrender ourselves, we are not alone, Jesus Christ is with us in the form of the Holy Spirit, guiding us in our every step, and moreover giving us God's peace that the world cannot give. (John 14:27).

In this Lent season, let us look to Jesus as He took the cross for our sins. Let us take up our cross, deny ourselves, confess our sins, repent, and follow Jesus.

Welcoming Our New District Superintendents



Rev. C. R. Anitha



Rev. Balu Waghmare



Rev. Ajay Prakash Lal

Announcement

The Church of the Nazarene receives a special offering on Easter Sunday. Kindly announce this in the church and encourage members to prayerfully participate.

Prayer is not asking God to do what you want, but asking God to help you want what He wants.



Billy Graham



1. **Pray for** many hearts to be touched by the message of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection during the Lenten season, Good Friday, and Easter services.
2. **Pray for** students across the India Field during this exam season, that God will give them wisdom, peace, and success.
3. **Pray for** all pastors and clergy of the Church of the Nazarene worldwide.
4. **Pray for** FSC and all District Superintendents of the India Field and their advisory boards, as they play an important role in extending the Kingdom of God.
5. **Pray for** all coordinators and their teams in the India Field as they spread the Word of God in different parts of the country.



If you have any news or stories to share - please get in touch at

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