



Grace Life | *ministries*



Merry Christmas from Grace Life Ministries

As most of you know, since 2002 GLM has brought ministry to hundreds of children and thousands of families in the slums of Visakhapatnam India. The former railroad slums were taken over by the government because the land was needed to expand the rail services. It was almost impossible to describe the slum. It was a cesspool with a large contaminated pond. During monsoons as much as a foot of water could run through the pathways between their makeshift homes. The residents had occupied the slum for 60 years, which was convenient for doing coolie work in the surrounding perimeters, but the lack of hygiene was dismal. Much sickness spread through the community.

Grace Life set up a daycare in the slum and our main leader, Karuna, provided oversight to hundreds of the daycare children. Eventually the railroad required the land for its own use, and the residents had to move to tenements set up by the government outside the city. These were very simple apartments but at least the sewage was no longer a problem. Nevertheless the move caused hardship to family life since the parents now had to travel long distances early in the mornings, coming home late at night to their children. To protect the children in their parents' absence, GLM set up childcares to feed them, gave them constructive activities, and provided safety for them. Over the years we have become close to many of the people living there. During Covid lockdowns GLM fed over 400 families for a full 2 years, an incredible financial miracle. GLM also made Christmas a special time for them with music, skits, gospel stories, and treats. The families greatly enjoyed our presentations and came out in large numbers. Eventually GLM moved the Christmas celebration to the Shining Trust centre where the daycare children and their parents enjoy a feast of chicken biriyani (the traditional Christmas celebration). We also provide gifts to the children, daycare teachers, and staff. Our leaders show the love of Christ and all have a great fun time, something very special to look forward to break up the mundane they face during the year. This Christmas we are again challenged to repeat this tradition and we offer the opportunity to you, our sponsors and donors, to help make this possible, as you have so faithfully done in past years.



Christmas in Odisha



One of the particularly enjoyable aspects of this ministry is providing gifts of saris, blankets, scarves, jackets, etc. to the village families. Christmas is a perfect time for this. It always brings much blessing and joy to the Odisha villagers. Some of you may remember the report of the huge gathering we had at the passing of the father of three of our main leaders. We had close to 900 people gather at his funeral. All kinds of government officials, families from far away villages, friends, and many political leaders overseeing many villages were included in this number. Also participating were both high and low caste Hindus. It was a very special and unusual event! Our leaders gave a great feast and shared the love of Christ with the crowds from early morning to late at night. All were amazed. Over the meetings there was a wonderful cloud of favour and a strong sense of the Lord's presence. Great friendships were cemented, family ties once again established, and the miracle of seeing over one hundred villages opened up for ministry. Our leaders now have an open invitation to over 130 villages. We want to keep these doors open and invite all the surrounding villagers to a large gathering to celebrate Christmas and the new year. We want to bring the traditional biryani feast with treats and snacks, plus at this time of year we want to bless our many workers with bonuses, as well as the many widows whom we look after with gifts. It will be an incredible time of sharing, fellowship, fun, and bringing the ministry of the love of Christ. With your help and involvement we can again put this special event on. We will need many to give to make this possible.

An Update from Lorri and Myself.

We are still fully involved in the ministry and no one is backing off. We love our India family and are called to bless them.

Several times a week I am in contact with our leaders, strategizing and encouraging them. They are our family and we are committed to them for life!

Our new Board members have connected with our India team online and they are slowly getting to know them. Lorri and I need to be fully involved to pass on what we know. Since we started all this under God's direction, our work is to share His vision. The team and new Board members are planning to visit in March 2025, which will be an exciting time for both them and our India family.

In the mean time, besides our weekly Grace Life responsibilities, Lorri has written and published an easy-to-read, fully illustrated e-book entitled War of the Seed which can be viewed online at our Grace Life web site - gracelifeministries.info - by clicking on MORE > FREE E-BOOKS.

We have been in front line ministry for over 50 years now, spending the last 30 years in the poorest, darkest and sometimes the most dangerous place in India. Our call has been to bring God's grace to His loved ones in India (Grace is the ability God gives to take the weak and make them strong so that they can accomplish God's tasks). It has been an absolute privilege to serve such an amazing God in this way. Please pray that God would show His glory to us and His church, and pray for all our leaders and our new Board. It is a great blessing to work with so many of you for such a long a time.

Thank-you ALL for your love and generosity! Have a wonderful Christmas!

Blessings from the India and the Canada team of Grace Life Ministries!

