

Date: 02/07/09

Justin Hoover  
P.O. Box 120208  
St. Paul, MN 55112

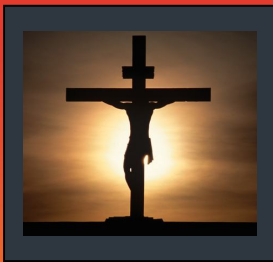
Phone: 651-274-6921  
Email: psalm6211@yahoo.com  
Follow my blog of India at  
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### India Statistics

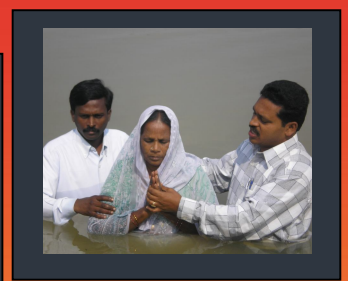
Population: 1.15 billion (2001)  
Hinduism : 80%  
Muslim : 13%  
Christian : 2%

### Persecution In India

Over the past two years, India's Christians have faced some of the greatest persecution in the world. In August of 2008, 115 believers were killed and more than 50,000 were displaced in the state of Orissa. Last month, government authorities in Orissa shut down relief camps forcing thousands of Christians to be displaced. They cannot find jobs, return to their homes, or even feed their families. Jesus said in Matthew 5:11-12, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." Please pray for our brothers and sisters in India.



## India Mission Trip



(Brian Tabb, Marshall Segal, Jason Calcote, Tim Becker, Tom Steller, Justin Hoover)

I'm so thankful to the Lord for you. I hold you in my heart and it is a great joy to intercede in prayer for you. I am confident that Christ is continuing to fill you with His grace, truth and love. May He increase in our lives more and more as we seek His face.

I'm writing to you because I have a special request. I need your help. A few months ago, I was praying and asking the Lord to use my life to reach the nations with the Gospel. As I finished praying, I glanced at my desk and noticed a brochure outlining the mission trips that our church will be involved with over the next year. In the brochure there was a plea for pastors and bible teachers to minister in India. One of our full-time missionaries, Vija, works with pastors in India to equip and train them. Some of these pastors receive as little as 40 days of Bible training. Many of them face severe persecution, banishment from family, loss of work, homelessness and even death (visit [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com) for more info). Vija has been praying and pleading with our church to send a small group of pastors to help encourage and teach these pastors.

Beloved, I have no doubt that this is an opportunity that God has placed before me. To be honest, a part of me would love to stay home where it is comfortable and safe. But then I'm reminded of the Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." For the sake of the Gospel, I must go. Like Esther, I believe that God has prepared me "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). It breaks my heart and brings tears to my eyes when I think about ministering to the persecuted church. This is an incredible blessing and a serious calling. Words cannot express how thankful and excited I am to be going.

Six of us will be flying out of Minneapolis on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and arriving in Mumbai on the 21<sup>st</sup>. From there we catch another plane to Hyderabad. From Hyderabad we travel by train to Vijaywada. From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a pastor's conference in the city of Vijaywada (population 2 million). We will be preaching and teaching through the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians. My focus will be on evangelism. After the conference, we will be spending the remaining time traveling from village to village preaching the Gospel. Lord willing, we will be returning home on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

How can you be a part of this mission? First, I need prayer. The Apostle Paul tells us to "keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:19). **Pray**

1. **For Jesus' Name to be known, treasured and worshiped in India**
2. **For the pastors to be encouraged and strengthened to endure hardship**
3. **For the Holy Spirit to give our team wisdom in preparing**
4. **For protection from Satan's attacks (Ephesians 6:11)**
5. **For many people to come to Christ as we preach in the villages**

Second, I need to raise \$2300 before I leave. This includes all of my traveling expenses. Please pray and ask the Lord if He desires for you to give to this ministry. I see God's hand upon this mission and I have no doubt that He is going to "supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

I'm so thankful for you and I'm excited to partner together to bring the name of Jesus to the ends of the earth. His name "is the name that is above every name, so 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 2:9-10).

In Christ's love with prayers,  
Justin Hoover