

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters:

Happy and blessed New Year! We are thankful for you and mention you in our prayers. Your guidance, support, and prayers have helped us step into another year with hope and determination. Please continue to pray for the challenges of persecution, but also rejoice with us for the incredible work that continues to unfold in His great name!

WISHES FROM OUR PASTORS

On behalf of the pastors serving in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab—and especially from our lead pastors, Pastor Bira (Punjab), Jagmol Singh (Haryana), and Yunnus (Himachal Pradesh)—we extend heartfelt wishes for a Christ-filled New Year!

We look forward to welcoming a new batch of students for training in 2025, equipping them to serve with dedication and passion. At the same time, we celebrate placing our 2024 graduates in new mission fields, trusting that God will use them mightily.

CELEBRATING SEWING GRADUATION THIS DECEMBER

We celebrated a joyous milestone with our sewing center girls during their graduation ceremony. The event was filled with laughter, hope, and gratitude as certificates were handed out to these young women who worked tirelessly over the past months. Their radiant smiles reflected their pride and excitement, testifying to their dedication and hard work. Thirty-four girls graduated, and we look forward to welcoming even more girls in the future, offering them the same life-changing opportunities.



One girl, Aradhana, exclaimed, “I want to be a fashion designer,” as she joyfully rejoined her friends. Another graduate, Reet, carried the scars of a past accident that left her feeling unwanted and inadequate in a world that often values superficial beauty. Despite these challenges, she found dignity, purpose, and Christ’s redeeming love through Muskan’s daily Bible studies and the welcoming atmosphere of our sewing center.

Reet is just one of many girls who have found hope and renewal here. Our sewing center in Amritsar has become a beacon of Christ's love for vulnerable young women, offering them skills training, spiritual counsel, and a new sense of worth.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

At our mission campus, we shared the story of Christ's birth and His boundless love while distributing blankets to those in need. This simple act brought warmth and joy to many and opened doors to share the Gospel.



We
were
also
able to

distribute blankets to pastors and their families along with DMs and their families, both new and old. Thank you so much for this.

Our team visited nearby villages and hut communities, singing carols, sharing the Gospel, and spreading the joy of Christ's birth. We also offered free chai and sweets to industrial workers, expressing appreciation for their hard work and creating opportunities to share Christ's message of love.



Christmas caroling and celebrating at Patalia Church

REFLECTIONS ON GROWTH AND CHALLENGES

Despite facing ongoing persecution and ridicule for our faith, we are witnessing undeniable evidence of Christ's work in India, especially in Punjab. Churches continue to grow, and the Gospel is being preached, even amid challenges. This is a reminder of the promise in Scripture: "Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Official news reports and credible government sources previously indicated that Christianity in Punjab comprised only about 1.5% of the population. However, recent statistics reveal remarkable growth, with Christians now representing approximately 15% of the demographic. While this is incredibly encouraging for us, critics, extremist groups, and anti-Christian factions have attempted to discredit this growth by alleging it results from illegal, forced, or manipulative conversions. Of course, the enemy becomes desperate. Despite such accusations, this expansion of the Christian community is a significant milestone and a testament to the power of the Gospel in Punjab.

For Christmas, we recently took the children of NICM shopping for shoes and clothes, followed by a joyful lunch at a local restaurant. While many admired our efforts to care for these underprivileged children, some criticized the breaking of social boundaries. This contrast reminded us of the persistent societal divides, but we remain committed to loving unconditionally and affirming the dignity of every child. The joy on their faces assured us we are on the right path.

On a short and encouraging note, NICM was honored at a local Christian ceremony, receiving recognition for the impact of our ministry over the last couple of decades. While this brings us immense joy, we want our brothers and sisters to know that your unwavering support has helped us inch closer to becoming a force to be reckoned with in the communities of Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. Your partnership with us has enabled us to receive this honor and get recognized by the local believing as well as non believing community around us. As a lady, too, this is encouraging for me personally as well as all the ladies within NICM and among our readers who can take solace in the fact that God empowers women to do great things!

MOVING FORWARD

- As you read this, we urge you to consider the growing challenges faced by Christians in India. Despite increasing persecution, Christ's love continues to prevail, touching lives across Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

- As IDES plans to make a trip this February, pray for their safe journey, as they join us in the inauguration of the 16th Church and community center
- Pray for supporters to join us in recruiting more students for ministry training, funding graduated students for full-time ministry and generally supporting our pastors in their work.
- We thank BGNI for the motorcycles they provide, and we continue to need more and more two wheelers for the commuting of our ministry workers. Motorcycles cost around \$800. Pastors need around \$250 minimum per month to function full-time.
- Pray that we will be able to raise the resources for more medical camps, funds for a missionary vehicle (around \$45,000) and ambulance (\$31,000) for our medical ministry and medical camps (\$500 per camp per day).
- As time goes on, we have many poor children in need of help through our mission school and evening school programs, and many elderly and women in need of sewing training and other skills training. The cost of a sewing machine is around \$300. It costs only \$19 to fund the education of a child every month at our campus, and it costs around \$7 to support a child's evening school education per month.
- Hunger will continue to be a problem, and our partners work with us through our Hot Funds program, which we are grateful for. Pray that many vulnerable members like lepers will come to Christ as a result of kindness to them in his name. We want to raise funds in the future to care for lepers more fully for about \$120 per leper per month. Their situation is horrible.
- Phase 2 for the re-construction of the backside of our campus is still pending, and we continue to raise funds for the transformation of our mission school. Huge thanks for all that we have raised, and we continue to pray that God will bless us more.

Your prayers and partnership strengthen our work and ensure that God's kingdom continues to grow. Together, we can reach the unreached and bring the transformative power of the Gospel to even more lives.

In His Service,
Simmi, Suraj & Team NICM