



# VOICE *of* SHALOM



## JESUS IS THE FOUNDATION

**Sarah Thalathoti**

I've gone on three of these PPMI trips, but this is the second time I have gone to the villages. I felt a completely different vibe this year than I did before. I've always been the type of person that is aware of my surroundings when I'm in a new environment. I always saw the kids sing and sit quietly and listen to the sermon. But this time, I saw this joy in their faces that I've never seen before. It's was a joy that I have wanted to feel in God for so long. The young adults and kids all would come and sit up in the front. They had their Bibles and were so engaged in the service. Sometimes I worry about the future of the church in America because I don't see teens very engaged in what's going on. But I have no concern about the church in India. Despite the persecution that the church faces there, the kids are on fire for God.

There was one village we went to where everyone started dancing with the worship music. It reminded me of singing in the Dock touring choir and dancing to the song, Jenga.

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## SUPPLICATION AND REPENTANCE; A PRAYER IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE

**Kendra Good Rittenhouse**



*Who am I to pray for her?  
I know nothing of her pain.  
Who am I to pray for her?  
I want for nothing in my privilege.  
Who am I to pray for her?  
I have so far to go before I reach the end of my resources?*

*Can I pray if I don't need faith to survive?  
She has faith.*

*She has faith enough for both of us.*

*As she flings her arms around me,  
Weeping on my shoulder,  
She softens me.*

*I hold her tightly and weep too.*

*I realize that nothing I possess has any value.  
Only love acted on in faith has value.*

*Thank you for this woman, God.*

*Thank you for creating her in your image.*

*Give her what she needs.*

*Give her hope and encouragement.*

*Give her food and shelter.*

*Give her faith as a well that never runs dry.*

*Thank you for bringing her to this fellowship of believers.*

*May she be nurtured to grow in your spirit.*

*Fill her with your spirit O God of love and light.*

*Displace any darkness within her.*

*Illuminate her with your presence.*

*Use her to draw people to you  
and build your kingdom now on earth  
Amen.*

*That's all I have. Desperate words for a desperate woman.*

*Who am I to pray for her?*

*Who am I not to pray for her?*

*God have mercy.*

**GOOD FOOD**  
*for a*  
**GOOD CAUSE**

The Annual  
Fundraising  
Banquet

September 30

6:00pm

Souderton

Mennonite Church

- Please pray and plan to attend, and also invite your family and friends to join us. We ask that you purchase tickets ahead of time.
- Please reach out to Anya Williamson at [anya.williamson@gmail.com](mailto:anya.williamson@gmail.com) or Sumatha at 267-210-8947 for tickets and other details.



## WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED

*Dawn Derstine*

Having the privilege of participating in the PPMI women's conference in 2016 was truly a blessing and inspiration. I feel that even though I was a part of the resource team, I received much more than I gave that week. It was evident that the women who participated had love and complete devotion to serving the Lord. They exemplified to me their desire to learn about the scriptures and to deepen their faith in Jesus, so they could share that love with those in their community. For, "Where two or three are gathered, there I am also."

# Women in



# ministry



## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

*Kendra Good Rittenhouse*

"Life is challenging on a regular basis for our Indian women friends, the pastors' wives. With that in mind, I tried to give encouragement and hope with the message of God's redemptive story in Paul's letter to the Galatians. As I reminded them to look for the good in others, to nurture spiritual fruit in others, I too saw goodness in them. I saw kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, peace, and joy that comes only from the Spirit.

Through these sisters I saw that these spiritual fruits are more important than anything else. These are what builds the community of faith and God's kingdom."

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

*James L. Rittenhouse, Treasurer*

Women provided funds for Jesus's ministry (Luke 8:2). Jesus was not financially wealthy but he communicated with a wide variety of people. At this summer's PPMI Conferences held in India, we discussed some of the important financial roles women had in funding Jesus's ministry. That led to discussions about personal accountability and budgeting from a personal as well as a congregation. Can a rich man enter the kingdom of heaven? Are you wealthy when you earn approximately \$100 per month? Compared to whom?



PPMI provides support and perspective to nearly 40 pastors and their spouses whom are part of the PPMI Christian ministry. The people are real. Their questions are real. Their needs are real. Thank you for continuing to partner with us in sharing the love of Jesus with these dear pastors and their neighbors that live in these rural villages. While the needs may seem to be overwhelming, we are grateful for the support given to PPMI and the testimonies of lives transformed made possible by generous people like you.

# THE FUTURE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

*Sharon Swartzentruber*



Frequently I am impressed by the competence, respectfulness, and cheerfulness of the younger generation. I am encouraged to interact with these wonderful people.

During our women's conference we were privileged to have one of these competent, respectful and cheerful young women in our midst. Hannah, a teen daughter of one of the pastor couples. She shared her knowledge with the pastor's wives by teaching them how to make a sari blouse. Hannah did a thorough job of explaining and demonstrating how to take measurements, mark and cut the fabric.

I was grateful to get acquainted with Hannah. I pray that God will continue to use Hannah, and other young people like her to further God's kingdom.



## DANCE OF FAITHFULNESS

*Pastor Jenifer Eriksen Morales*



I greatly appreciated worshipping with my brothers and sisters in India. My first year at the Women's Conference, the pastor's wives taught me a dance to a popular praise song, "Rajah." I have to admit I had a blast even though I had not danced for years and felt a bit awkward. It became one of my favorite memories of my time in India.

When I returned the following year, my Indian Sisters remembered the fun we had and quickly pulled me outside during a break to dance with them. While some of the women sang and clapped a beat, others taught me dance steps to a new song. It was hot, well over 100 degrees and although I was moving, I was not feeling the song... just the heat!! I took a break. Yet my sisters continued to sing and dance their hearts out. The interpreter came out and told me the words to the song. "God is faithful, in the storm, God is faithful."

I watched the women sing and dance with joy claiming from their inner being that God is faithful. Their lives were not easy. They worked hard and struggled to care for family and the church community while their husbands ministered. But as they danced I remembered the stories they shared earlier that day about the past year. One woman saw God heal when she prayed. God provided food for one sister's congregation to share with the community each week after worship. Through PPMI, God supplied sewing machines so they could use for their family, a drill pump so a congregation and community could have water, and bikes for transportation and outreach. God provided a child for one of the couples. A new church was started and windows for a church building were donated. From one year to the next I could see that the pastor's wives were joining with their husbands in ministry more often. They were bonding as a group of women and beginning to support each other between conferences. They had a mentor and coach through Sister Sumatha Thalathoti and were blossoming as leaders and women of prayer. "God is faithful, God is faithful," they sang. And I knew it was so as I rejoined the dance.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Dr. Paulus Thalathoti**



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Another example of being on fire for God is a small family in a village near Guntur. A young man, his wife, and his mom were Hindu. The mom had a disease in her leg and didn't have the money to pay for more surgery. She finally had no other option, and went to the pastor to pray for her. She was miraculously healed. Once his mom converted to Christianity, him and his wife did as well. The pastor changed their names to Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Boaz then became the elder of the church. When I was talking with his wife, we learned that not only did she have a one year old baby, she was also 18. I was shocked because I knew that some kids get married young but this is the first time I met a young couple that already had a baby. It opened my eyes to how she's 18, has a kid, and is growing in the Lord, yet here I am, the same age, and complain about getting up for Sunday school. It was really evident that the Lord is working in the lives of the young people there.

Last year, the PPMI team was fortunate to have my second cousin, Gideon, tag along. He helped out a lot with pictures, phone calls, getting stuff done, and translating when we needed it. This year we had Gideon, and my other second cousin Rohan along with us. I had a great time hanging

out with them

and they soon became as close as brothers to me. Even though the team probably got annoyed of us joking around all the time, it was truly a blessing to see two young men interested in learning more about God and helping us with what we needed.

This trip was honestly the best trip I've been on and if you know me, you know I've been on a lot of trips. I got in touch with my Indian culture and fell more in love with it then before. The trip also opened my eyes to the young people in the church and how important it is to encourage the young people to have a voice and share their talents in church. The adults are teaching the young adults to keep God as their foundation, so that once they grow up, they will be able to lay down the foundations for generations to come.

Brothers and sisters, our burden and call in Christ is for those who have been in the clutches of darkness, who long for the "peace that passes all understanding". It's a blessing to remember the words of Paul in Romans 10:14-15a, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news

of Jesus Christ to the people of India through the Word and deed!

We have been seeing God's work bear fruit through the teaching, training, and provision of the pastors' wives associated with PPMI. Through the provision of sewing machines, care for basic needs, and the loving investment by our dear friends, these women are empowered to share the love of Jesus to those around them! We thank God for His faithfulness and thank each one of you for partnering with us through your prayers, affirmation, and generosity since 2011.

**Thank you for your Generosity** to all our donors and supporters all these years. Your prayers and financial support is helping us to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and plant churches in the name of Christ in the interior rural communities.



## PPMI Board of Directors

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## PRAYER ITEMS:

- You can help! Some churches need doors, windows, roofs, and side walls. Please pray and consider giving.
- Continue to remember to pray for the pastors and their wives as they serve Jesus in their challenging and volatile mission fields.
- Pray for the safety of the pastors and their wives during their outreach ministries.



PEACE PROCLAMATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
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