



Years of Planting Multiplying Churches in India

2009 - 2019



LORD, WE NEED AN ARMY

By Eli Maga
S. Vice President of Crossover Global

I remember how overcome I was with emotion the first time I visited India 12 years ago. I heard countless stories of how exotic the country was, the beauty, the miseries, but nothing prepared me for what I witnessed. On the winding and dusty streets, the car that drove me dodged people, cows, goats, trees planted in the middle of the road, and small Hindu temples - all under the indistinguishable sound of the car horns. Many, many people walking through the streets, working in the fields, inside shops, on top of buses, on top of cars, always looking with curiosity at the white foreigner who was feeling like he was on another planet. My home country of Brazil has three times

the land mass of India, but India has five times the number of people in Brazil. What I experienced in some of the most populous places in Brazil, in India was the reality of every small town. However, the biggest difference I noticed — there were no churches.

I searched everywhere and I couldn't understand so, I asked the Indian pastor who was with me. "There are no churches here," he replied repeatedly. We passed through dozens of cities and the answer was the same, "There are no churches, probably no Christians." I remember crying that whole week over the spiritual darkness everywhere I looked. I do not cry easily, but that week it was hard to not cry over what I saw. I felt like Nehemiah before the broken walls of Jerusalem, realizing that no one cared that they were like that. In Curitiba, my city in Brazil, it is difficult to cross a few blocks without seeing a church nearby. We have a lot of access to the gospel but I saw no access in India!

On my first visit to India I began to pray, "Lord, we need an army here. An army of church planters, of intercessors who commit themselves to this overpopulated spiritual desert. An army of investors so that we can change this reality. Lord, we need an army of holy and committed people!"

God gave me the vision to work with local Indian leaders and empower them so they could plant churches. If I were to plant them myself, it could take more than 20 or 30 years to plant one or more churches there. But if I worked with Indians, who already speak the language, know the culture and are accepted by their countrymen, it could go much faster. After all, Jesus had done the same when he came into the world, evangelizing and establishing 12 disciples, equipping them for ministry and sending them back to the unreached to do the same thing he did.

In 2010, I started to travel to India periodically to implement this vision. Since then, we have held evangelistic events, trained leaders, sent workers, opened a theological school, made mistakes,

learned, got it right, suffered, and rejoiced. In 10 years, 2010-2019, since we started planting churches there, we have seen the gracious hand of God leading and blessing.

But there is still a lot to do. In the 10 years we have been in India, we have planted 1,300 churches, which today represents about 30,000 people who have been baptized, and more than 20,000 who attend these churches and who will likely be baptized soon. There are many reasons to rejoice! But my heart still breaks because there are about a billion people in India who still do not have access to the gospel. Without the gospel there is no hope, there is no salvation, there is no dignity. Without the gospel, God is not glorified at all. This is why my prayer remains the same: "Lord, we need an army!" Will you pray with me?





10 YEARS BY THE NUMBERS

By Ken Katayama
S. Vice President of Crossover Global

During the last ten years, the Lord has been good and gracious to us. We found favor in His sight and the work that started as a dream has grown to a house-church network of 1,260 gatherings. We have an average attendance of over 50,000 people meeting in these local house-churches, of which 28,258 have been baptized.

India is a huge challenge. According to the research group at Joshua Project, one-third, that is 2,445 of all the unreached people groups, are found in India. Crossover Global's work has been focused in the northern part of the country where the majority of the population is Hindu. This focused work has allowed us to plant churches among 67 unreached people groups in India (See list on page 7). While I was in the country, I remember having mixed feelings about India. In my journal I wrote:

The people are great. The harvest for the Kingdom is greater!
The situation is sad. People give more respect to monkeys and cows than they give to people from a lower cast.
The spiritual darkness is physically displayed. The temples are loud and full of incense burning and the food offered is rotten.
There are beggars around the temple. People sleep on the floors and on the sidewalks.
Very hard on me. Praying.

India reminds me of the passage in 1 Corinthians 8:5-6 that says:

For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

So, it is the work of Jesus in some of the darkest spiritual places I ever visited that we are celebrating. Here are some of the reports by numbers showing how vast a Kingdom impact we have witnessed among Hindus in Northern India.

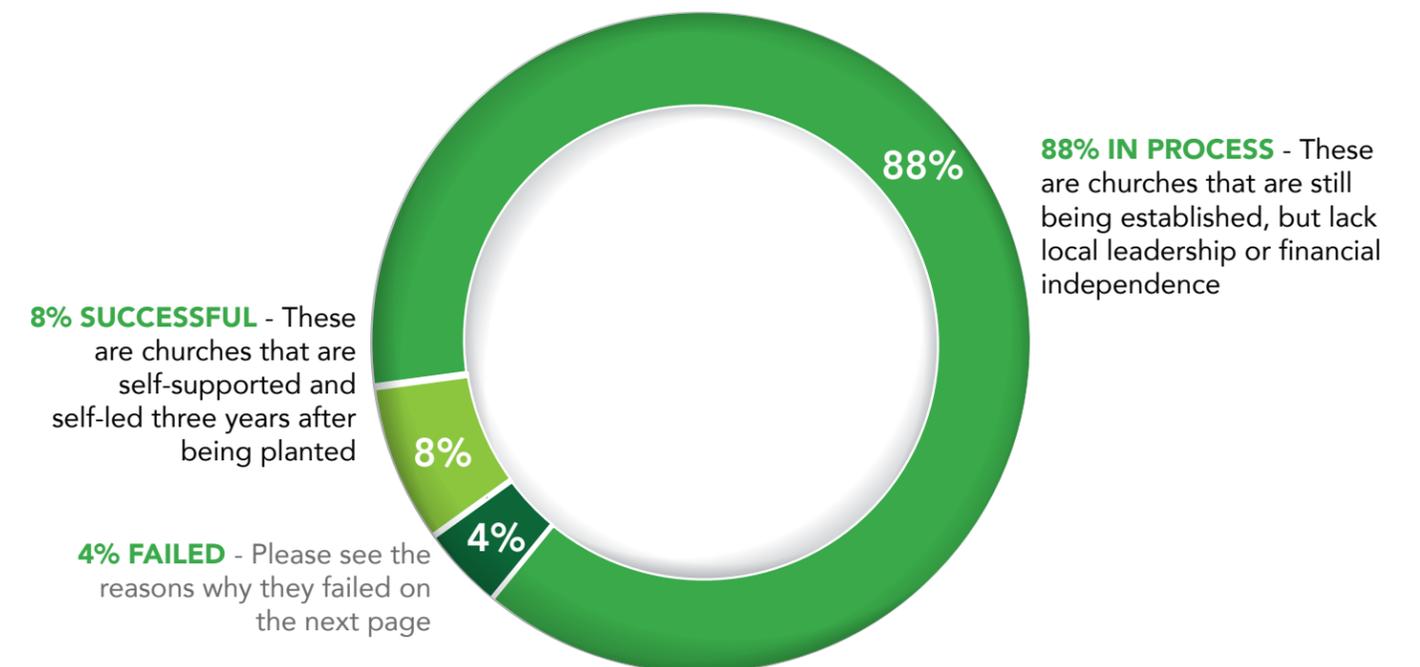
CHURCHES PLANTED PER YEAR

It took our team three years to cultivate the soil and sow the seeds of the gospel. In 2013, we started seeing fruit and 12 new churches were established. In this graph you can see the number of churches planted by year. The accumulative total of churches planted in the last ten years is 1,260.



SUCCESS RATE OF CHURCHES PLANTED

Crossover Global considers a church plant successful if, after three years of its launch, it is led by a national pastor and financially supported by the members of the church. Currently we have 88% of our churches in process. We are committed to walking with them to help them grow into healthy churches and we will continue to report on them as they reach their 3-year mark.



LESSONS LEARNED

As you can see, out of the 1,260 churches started, 8% of them successfully made the 3-year mark and beyond. We have a majority of churches within the 3-year mark in the process of maturing to become self-led and self-supported. I would like to address what we have learned in the last ten years from the 4% of 53 churches that started, but are no longer operating. Here are the top four reasons why they failed.

1. LACK OF TEACHING

Many of our church planters were new believers themselves and their lack of biblical knowledge left them ill-prepared for the pressures and false teaching that came from their relatives.

2. LACK OF PASTORAL CARE

In their zeal to plant more churches, many of our church planters did not adequately train up pastoral leadership for each of the churches planted.

3. LACK OF CONTINUOUS GATHERING

The local churches that were planted did not truly grasp the importance of meeting together for encouragement and strength. This caused them to be irregular in their gatherings and the pressure became too much.

4. HIGH LEVEL OF PERSECUTION

Due to both village and governmental persecution, many of the church planters and pastors were afraid to gather together. This persecution caused many churches to close because of the fear of meeting together.

Most of the church failures happened in the earlier years. We learned that besides persecution, all the other top reasons could be resolved with intentional biblical teaching. So we did just that! For instance, in the last three years, we have held 42 trainings for 1,422 local church planters and church leaders. The number of failures has reduced to 17 churches in 2018 and only 4 churches in 2019.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Even though the number of churches planted in the last ten years is great and for which we are thankful, the task at hand is greater still. We have just scratched the surface! In addition to the opportunity to continue to provide Gospel access among Hindus in India, we have started plans and training to extend our church planting efforts among the second largest Muslim community in the world living in India, as well as, deploying former Hindus church planters to neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Please join us in praising God for the incredible harvest that we have seen among Hindus in Northern India. Also, pray for our teammates there who are committed to communicate the transforming message of Christ to all unreached peoples of India in the years to come.

THE 67 UPGs

IMPACTED BY CROSSOVER
GLOBAL'S CHURCH PLANTING
EFFORTS IN INDIA



1. Ansari
2. Badhai
3. Bania
4. Barhai
5. Bari
6. Beldar
7. Bind
8. Brahman
9. Chamar
10. Choudhary
11. Dhanuk
12. Dhobi
13. Dhudha
14. Dom
15. Dusad
16. Ganda
17. Gauda
18. Gautam
19. Ghasia
20. Halwai
21. Joshi
22. Kahar
23. Kamkar
24. Kandu
25. Kewat
26. Khatbe
27. Kohar
28. Koiri
29. Kumhar
30. Kunjra
31. Kurmi
32. Kushwaha
33. Lohar
34. Mali
35. Mallah
36. Mestar
37. Mochi
38. Monia
39. Mushar
40. Nai
41. Napit
42. Nat
43. Nomia
44. Noniya
45. Nut
46. Pal
47. Pandit
48. Pasi
49. Paswan
50. Patel
51. Raidas
52. Rajbhar
53. Rajput
54. Rana
55. Rawat
56. Santhal
57. Shankhwar
58. Sonar
59. Suri
60. Tanti
61. Teli
62. Thakur
63. Thapa
64. Tharu
65. Vishwa
66. Viswakarma
67. Yadav



Celebrating

10 Years of Church Planting in India

In February of 2020, Crossover Global workers in India held a celebration ceremony commemorating the 10 years of planting multiplying churches in India. Below are pictures highlighting the event. Join us in praising the Lord for His faithfulness over the last ten years and ask Him to continue the work that He began. To God be the glory!



LEADERSHIP IN INDIA

I am thankful to our Lord for choosing me to serve with the anointed and committed Crossover Global team the past ten years. I have spent time and learned from Eli Maga, Senior Vice President of Crossover Global, since his very first visit to India.

Because of the direction I have received from Crossover Global, we have been able to train many Indian people. Over the last 10 years, 2010-2019, more than 1400 of God's people from many people groups of India have been trained in church planting and learned the biblical way to serve the Lord. Because of these trainings, Indians have developed a desire to reach all the unreached people groups and train many in South Asia.

I truly appreciate being a part of the Crossover Global team. I have witnessed from the leaders and fellow laborers their hard work, loving nature, committed, sacrificial lives for His kingdom and the pure Love of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a blessing and encouragement to me.

May our Heavenly Father use us more and more for His Global Glory.

Soloman Ghosh
Strategic Coordinator, India
Crossover Global



IN INDIA THERE ARE

**1.3
BILLION
PEOPLE**

**2,445
UPGs**



**THEY ARE WITHOUT
ACCESS TO THE GOSPEL
OF JESUS CHRIST**

 **CROSSOVER
GLOBAL**

We are committed to providing Gospel access to unreached people of the world.

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