**Update from the Mondithokas, December 2015 to March 2016**

**It has been a long time since we have sent you any update.**

**We keep remembering and praying for YOU our friends and prayer partners. But with much happening all the time, we are not able to keep you updated regularly. I just finished a major project for HITHA recently and switched to another - preparing for teaching two courses. One of the (Level II Apologetics course) got started on the 22nd of March. So I thought I should write to you before I get too busy again.**

**Here is our update (you will know our situation and will be able to pray more meaningfully/specifically):**

**December 2015 was a very fruitful month of ministry for us - several hundred people responded to the gospel in medical colleges, among professionals, and  in other settings and many thousands of people came under the sound of the gospel for the first time (as we both spoke evangelistically in Christmas meetings in different cities and towns). PTL. We also had Prof. Moyer Hubbard from Talbot School of Theology who taught a course on "The Greco-Roman Background of the NT" at HITHA (we had 34 students and all were greatly blessed and challenged).**

**January 2016 was also a very fulfilling  month as we spoke in the Spiritual Conferences of UESI-AP and TS states (doing Bible Expositions) on "Planting, Projecting, and Progressing" (1 Cor. 3: 6). The Christian professionals and university students who attended in good numbers (600 in AP and 300 in Telangana - this is where I spoke) were greatly impacted by the word of God. Santhi had a very exciting time of ministering in the region where we both worked and ministered for a number of years (I spoke there last year).**

**I have been having some health issues for some months - I had to go for some expensive tests, go for medical consultations with some specialists, etc. However, more than a month ago, I stopped taking (by faith in the Lord's goodness and healing power - I was/we were prompted to do this - after all the tests and consultations with the doctors) some medicines that the doctors asked me to take and I took for some time. By the grace of the Lord I was fine while I was away in Kodaikanal (I got back on the 17th of February). But I returned with some other health problem - it might be because of some of the food that I ate at the hotel where we stayed and had the conference and for this problem I was on medication (anti-acidity medicine, stomach ache medicine, and one other medicine for some days and we prayed and waited upon the Lord). I got over that problem. Please do continue to pray for me/us - that we might enjoy good/consistent health.**

**I was away in Kodaikanal for 8 days and teaching for 5 days at the AIIE (All India Institute on Evangelism) of Dr. Haqq where I did five lectures/sessions on "Reaching Muslim Friends with the Gospel."  The Lord greatly blessed the teaching-training.**

**My outlines were as following:**

**I. Why Should We Care About Muslims? (Why care about Muslims??)**

**A. A Statistical Consideration –**

**B. A Theological Consideration -**

**II. A Basic Introduction to Islam: Understanding Islam​ - a key to confidence in witnessing​**

**III. How Muslims Come to Know Christ & the Significance of Apologetics in Evangelism**

**A.     The gospel is the power of God unto salivation:**

**B. How Muslims come to know the Lord Jesus Christ: Lessons we can learn about Evangelizing Muslim friends**

**C. Islam & Christianity – Some Points of Tension/Debate and the Role of Apologetics:**

**i) Belief in God – Trinity or Tawheed: What is the truth about God?**

**ii) Belief about Jesus Christ - The Biblical & Qur’anic Teachings about JC: What is the truth about Jesus Christ?**

**It was a matter of joy to teach and train some 65 people from all over the country along with Dr. Emmanuel Haqq (son of Dr. Akbar Haqq) and Dr. P. Manasseh. PTL that I enjoyed good health and the grace of God for this season of teaching​-training and many of the participants appreciated the teaching a lot and were challenged and equipped to some extent.**

**In February, we had Brian Gammil (USA) teaching a course at HITHA on "Discipleship and Culture" - a very relevant and much needed course with 22 students - this got over on Saturday, the 20th of Feb. It went well and it was a very specialized and much needed course. The students were all blessed greatly. Even I attended some classes and enjoyed a lot. Not many colleges/seminaries offer the kinds of courses that we offer at HITHA.**

**Here is the latest/more current update:**

**I just wanted to give you the most current update and also send you the praise and prayer points from HITHA, dear friends. Please do remember to pray, as much as you could.**

**Shamuel was down with fever and throat infection for several days and he could not go for the pre-final exams on three days. He got better and thankfully he has been going to school and finished the state conducted pre-final exams. For a couple of weeks now, he has been studying and preparing for the exams. Please pray for him - has his 10th grade final board exams from the 21st of March till the 4th of April.**

**Santhi (mainly) and I have been enjoying the teaching at the UPF (United People’s Fellowship) Bible College with 120 students - mostly Christians in the Marketplace and some from the full-time ministry stream (it is a weekly class of three hours). This started in September 2015. Santhi has also been doing a series of messages in the Lenten meetings on "The shadow on the Cross in the Old Testament" and the Lord has been blessing the ministry greatly. She finished this series and the blessing has been so much that people started asking her to write a book on this theme for the blessing of the body of Christ.**

**Some New Initiatives: Santhi has been leading a group of 10 women in a Lenten season women's Bible Study and Fasting Prayer at HITHA - she is building a ministry to serve women (encourage, equip, and build on the solid foundation of God's word) called "Women of the Word." The Lord is using her mightily for the blessing of people.**

**Even I am/have been thinking of a men's group tentatively called "CMAG" (Christian Men's Accountability Group)  or "Men of the Word" with some ten to twelve people in the near future for mutual edification, encouragement, and support and if the Lord wills these initiatives might spread to other places. I have shared the idea with some friends and they are all excited and I will be sharing with more friends this week and we will have the first meeting during the first week of April. Please do pray very specifically for these initiatives.**

**We started offering three courses from the third week of March - 1) NT Greek I with Kranthi, one of our adjunct professors, 2) A short summer course in apologetics - Introduction to Apologetics I, and 3) Introduction to Christian Apologetics II (being offered at HITHA for the first time and it starts from April 22) - I am/will be teaching these two courses (in addition to some other ministry). Please do pray for all this ministry (and a lot of other ministry as we do not get paid for the work we do here at HITHA and depend on what the Lord provides through our ministry in other contexts).**

**I was in Sakinetipally where I ministered from 25th (Thursday) February and the Lord blessed the ministry greatly - I did Bible Study presentations on the Holy Trinity (in the morning - two), then talks on "The Identity of the Church/God's People" (1 Peter 2:4-12) in the afternoons, and then two evening meetings (Gospel public meeting) in the Annual Meetings of the GDM Centenary Church.**

**The Study on "The Truth about God: the Holy Trinity" went really well and the people were greatly blessed as I took/answered questions also. I addressed issues like the arguments of JWs, Muslims, PD Sunder Rao, etc., and showed them how their arguments cannot stand and how the God of the Bible (the Trinue God) is the only True God. I addressed the issues of the divinity of Jesus Christ and the divinity of the HS and showed how questions and objections against these truths could be answered.**

**I returned on Sunday, the 27th Feb. (in the morning) and spoke (in the afternoon) to a Church (Zion Fellowship, Kukatpally) on "Reaching Muslims with the Gospel." There were over 150 people (professionals and students plus others) for the seminar and the Church came forward to sponsor a missionary to work among Muslims either in India or some neighbouring country. Many responded very positively to make reaching the Neighbours their priority. Praise the Lord.**

**Santhi spoke in two church services on Sunday (28th Feb. - one in the morning (Emmaus Evangelical Church) and one in the evening (UPF - Joy Cherian) and the Lord blessed her ministry in both the places. Even on Tuesday (29th Feb.) morning she ministered in a Lent Season meeting at UPF. On Wednesday (1st March) she had the weekly class at UPF Bible College. Sunday, the 6th of March was a very hectic day for her - she spoke in two churches and a special meeting in connection with the Women's Day. Even on 10th and 11th March she had some very fruitful times of ministry in a women's retreat with over 300 in attendance and a church meeting.**

**I have been having a pretty tight schedule throughout the past three/four weeks (I was working until 3 on a few days and most of the days I have been working really hard trying to catch up on some backlog work). The Lord is good and I have been managing well. PTL. Please do pray for consistent health for me/us.**

**Our Ph. D Studies: I am (and Santhi also) taking time to think and pray about my/our Ph. D study programs. We will write to you separately about this at a later date.**

**Possible trip to the US: We might come/go to the US this year (summer). We will let you know if the Lord guides and we decide to come. It will be a joy of us to come back to you all and we will certainly give priority. We have some invitation and we are working out plans now.**

**Here is a brief update as on today, 28th March:**

**Praise the Lord that I could speak in two settings/places yesterday (Easter Sunday, 27th March) and then travel to Kakinada to be a part of the Asalaina Prashna Sisalaina Jawabu program of Rakshana TV in Kakinada to speak and answer questions on 28th and 29th. These are big public meetings (many thousands come each evening). The focus is on the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**I spoke in the Sunrise Easter Service of the United Christian Fellowship of Meerpet (from 1 Cor. 15) on "The Fact, Faith, and Hope of Resurrection" - there were over 300 people and many of them came to me, thanked profusely for the message, and sought prayers and answers to some questions.**

**Then I spoke in the Easter Sunday Service of Sanath Nagar Baptist Church (from 1 Cor. 15) on "The Fact of Christ's Resurrection and the Hope of Our Resurrection" - there were over 400 people and many of them met me and told me that they heard a message that was very different from the messages they are used to hearing and that they were enlightened, challenged and moved to action by the power of the word of God. Praise the Lord.**

**Santhi also spoke in the Sunrise Easter Service of Emmaus Evangelical Church (Nanal Nagar) and then in the Easter Sunday Service of Christ Maranatha Church, Vanasthalipuram. The Lord blessed her ministry greatly in both the places.**

**Please also pray as I am preparing/writing a paper on "Christianity and Caste in India and the Influence of the Bible on Caste" for an academic conference in Delhi (13-15 April). I am also teaching a course at HITHA (Level II Apologetics). I need much grace from the Lord.**

**Shamuel has done well so far in five exams, as of today (Telugu two papers, Hindi, and English two papers) and please pray especially for his Maths exams (Tuesday and Wednesday - tomorrow and the day after). Telugu was his first challenge and he overcame and did well and his next big challenge is Math.**

**In April and May, I will be speaking in public meetings (two nights) and one pastors’ conference (one day) in the Chintalapudi area (April 26 and 27) – these meetings are arranged by the Church where one of my former SABC students is serving as a pastor. Then in May, both Santhi and I will be speaking at the Triennial Staff Conference of EFICOR (from 19-22) in Nainital (foot hill of Himalayas) on the theme: “to be the epistle of Christ” (2Cor. 3:3). Please do pray for these speaking engagements and the teaching at HITHA and UPT Bible College.**

**We had a wonderful board meeting of HITHA on the 26th of March and we will update you on some of the highlights soon.**

**Thank YOU very much for all your friendship, partnership and encouragement in the ministry of the Lord in His Kingdom.**

**Thanks a lot for reading this pretty lengthy update. This shows that you are really interested in us and what the Lord is doing through us.**