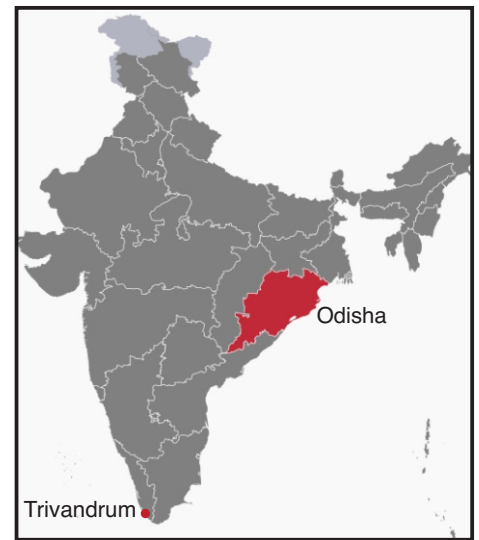




# ODISHA, INDIA

March 2023



Overseer Pastor's Jeba, Jose, and Sam with their families.

Odisha (formerly Orissa), an eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal, is known for its tribal cultures and its many ancient Hindu temples. Odisha is 1 of the 28 states in India. Population of Odisha approx. 42 million people. According to the 2011 Census, Christians make up about 2.77% of the population (about 1,160,000 people).



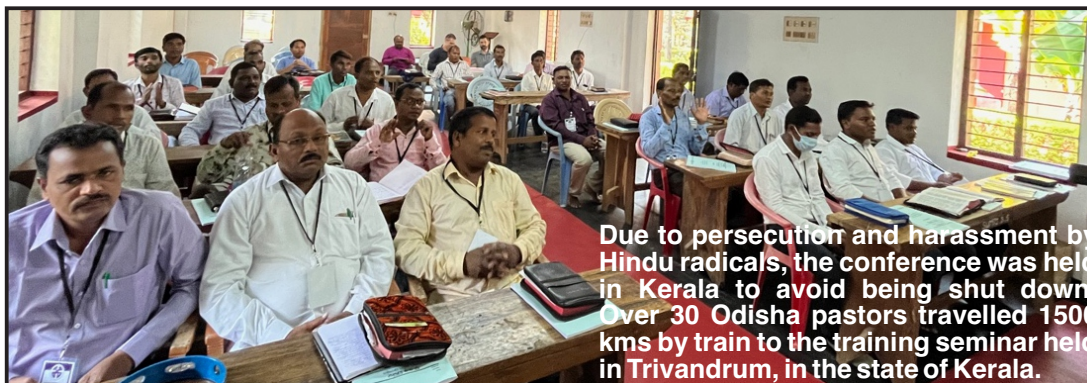
Pastor Cameron Wathen (CC Victoria) taught discipleship Scriptures.



Pastor Ed Hickey (CC Abbotsford) took pastors through the 2:7 Intensive.



Pastor Michael Cyr (CC Sunshine Coast) taught a number of the DTS sessions.



Due to persecution and harassment by Hindu radicals, the conference was held in Kerala to avoid being shut down. Over 30 Odisha pastors travelled 1500 kms by train to the training seminar held in Trivandrum, in the state of Kerala.

## Who does the Paul Initiative help?

- 1) We focus on training pastors and key leaders.
- 2) We travel to those who can not afford to bring us in. TPI pays for materials, travel, and the accommodations made possible by the support of TPI partners.
- 3) As pastors we are able to speak to other pastors in a way they can understand and appreciate.



Training the trainers: Pastors Ed, Michael, and Cam silently observing the 3 main Overseer pastors train the pastors in small groups.





Group photo of our “national missionaries”.



Discipleship Book 1 in Odia language for these pastors.



## MUST READ Persecution in Odisha

2008 Kandhamal Violence “According to government reports the violence resulted in at least 39 Christians killed and 3,906 Christian houses completely destroyed. Reports state, more than 395 churches were razed or burnt down, over 5,600 – 6,500 houses plundered or burnt down, over 600 villages ransacked and more than 60,000 – 75,000 people left homeless. Other reports put the death toll at nearly 100 and suggested more than 40 women were sexually assaulted. Unofficial reports placed the number of those killed to more than 500. Many Christian families were burnt alive. Thousands of Christians were forced to convert to Hinduism under threat of violence.” – Wikipedia



## SPONSOR A NATIONAL MISSIONARY

These pastors are in great need of our help. For \$35.00 a month you can support their ministry and help spread the gospel to the unreached. Go to [www.thepaulinitiative.com](http://www.thepaulinitiative.com) to support a “national missionary.”



Pastor Annand receiving the first translation of the 2:7 in the Kokborok language.

## Why is this ministry called The Paul Initiative?

As you look at the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts and his epistles, he did 4 things:

- 1) Evangelism
- 2) Disciple making (Paul-Timothy model)
- 3) Church planting
- 4) Leadership Training

The challenge for every disciple maker is, “Where is your Timothy?”

“I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.” ... ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’” Matthew 25:35-36, 40