



## REACH KOLKATA MARCH 2018

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Dear Pastor and Mission Leaders,

Greetings in Christ. This past month I had a chance to talk with Gus Peters. Gus is the city team leader for ReachGlobal in Kolkata, India. He has a great vision of reaching this city for Christ. Please read his article on Reach Kolkata and see if here is a partnership for you. He is looking for anchor churches willing to commit to a partnership for three years with a commitment of \$250 a month.

### **BRINGING GOSPEL HOPE TO KOLKATA BY BUILDING A COALITION OF PARTNERS THAT ARE COMMITTED TO MULTIPLYING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCHES.**

#### **WHY KOLKATA?**

- **One of the least reached cities in the world**
  - Kolkata has a population of over 14 million people but only 0.88% Christian.
  - The city's population density of 63,000 per square mile makes it one of the world's highest densities.
- **Poverty**
  - Almost a quarter of the population live on less than 27 rupees (equivalent to 45 U.S. cents) per day.
  - Poverty is a pull factor that causes vulnerable young girls to choose the sex trade.
  - The total number of slums in Kolkata number 300,755 with a total population of 1,409,721. This is around 31.35% of total population of Kolkata city.
- **Source, transit and destination point for human trafficking**
  - *The porous borders make trafficking of girls from Nepal and Bangladesh very easy.*
  - *40% of all sex workers in India are Bengali*
- **Sizeable population of children –at- risk**

Kolkata is in the state of West Bengal and children represent 35 per cent of the state's total population. The state is home to 32 million children, of whom 73 per cent, or 23 million, live in rural areas and 27 per cent, or 8.7 million, live in urban areas. Factors such as the lack of proper education, poor health and hygiene infrastructure and lack of development services are push and pull factors which make the children most vulnerable to trafficking.

#### **REACHGLOBAL PRESENCE IN KOLKATA:**

- Church planting and church planting training with national partners.
- Global Fingerprints child sponsorship
- Women's empowerment projects
- Apex teams
- Growing network with other ministries

## **CORE STRATEGIES:**

- Vision casting with key leaders
- Leadership development
- Holistic initiatives aimed at Church planting
- Intentional discipleship
- Multiplication of transformational Churches

## **VISION 20/20 - 20 TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCHES PLANTED**

- At the end of the year 2018 we would like to plant 10 churches planted. We have 5 Churches already planted in the year 2017.
- By the end of July 2018, we would have identified 5 strategic locations and Church planters, within the city that would be our focus.
- Equipping the Church Planters with basic tools such as Bible Pathways and providing them with resources like Gospel tracts and literature
- Other tools such as Global Fingerprints Child Sponsorship and CHE would be used to reach the community.
- Monthly review meetings to encourage and track the progress that is being made.
- The desire is to see these Church plants reproduce themselves in other unreached areas.

Blessings,  
Steve Austvold