



**October 2007 Story**  
**Building Ten Churches in India**

In Indian piety, it is very important to have “sacred space” in the village/community. Often non-Christians welcome such a place for the “blessing of the Christian god.” However, if believers/seekers meet in a home in one part of the village, people of other castes cannot come.

Chapels must be built in locations that are not identified with any caste so that people of all castes can gather there. LCMS World Mission would like to build 10 churches in strategic locations to reach out to all and exclude none.

Pastors, probationers (vicars), evangelists, deaconesses, and lay people of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) are very active in planting churches. How often our Lord has blessed their evangelistic ministries and people have come for baptism!

However, they have not had the funds to help the new believers purchase a piece of land and put up a chapel. Pentecostals do have the funding; and they purchase the land and claim the congregation. People are still won for the Kingdom, but this is discouraging to IELC church workers. We want to help our hardworking brothers and sisters in India, so that congregations that God raises up through their efforts are kept in the Lutheran fold.

Here is an important fact: there are as many as 50 sites that could be bought for new congregations raised up by God through the ministry of the Word in IELC. Our prayer is that the God will encourage provision for all 50 sites! Wherever one chapel is built, many more from the village/community come forward for baptism, being assured that the church is with them to stay.

For this project, LWML has partnered with LCMS World Mission to provide 10 sites. Land and construction costs differ between rural and urban locations, but on average the land and some help toward the construction of the chapel is \$10,000. We can expect new Christians and nearby congregations to contribute both money and labor.

Give God thanks for His strong presence in India! Give Him all credit due for this opportunity to go forward in mission response to the *Ablaze!* goal of reaching 100,000,000 souls by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation!

***Praise, honor, and glory to God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ!  
Amen!***