

GLOBAL MISSION

Frontline

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR PIONEERS | VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3

**Reaching
India for Jesus**



The Vibrant Life Medical and Wellness Clinic occupies four floors of a five-story building in an affluent neighborhood of Bengaluru, India. (Photo courtesy of Narendra Rao)



Dozens of people flock each week to the Vibrant Life Medical and Wellness Clinic in Bengaluru, India, which you helped fund. The clinic opened in January 2018 and is the first Seventh-day Adventist Church–owned Urban Center of Influence (UCI) in the country of 1.3 billion people.

While touring the four-story center shortly after it opened, Adventist Church president Ted N. C. Wilson and his wife, Nancy, marveled at its medical consultation rooms, exercise facilities, seminar hall, pharmacy, and lobby area with sharing tracts, as well as the plans for creating a café and health food store.

“This is a dream come true,” Wilson said. “It’s a miracle that should be replicated around the world.”

It’s a miracle that took three years to grow from a corner of the Seventh-day Adventist Medical Center, the only Adventist hospital in Bengaluru, to the cur-

rent site, said Dr. Narendra Rao, 63, who runs both the wellness center and the hospital.

Although the clinic had been open for only a few weeks, its medical team of 5 full-time employees and 10 consultants was already seeing 10 to 15 patients a day. Plans are in the works to increase the number of patients through advertising and the health food store.

“We believe that it is God who started the process, and it is God who will lead us through,” Dr. Rao said.



Drs. Narendra Rao, right and Daisy Rani Rao, left, with Adventist Church president Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, at the wellness center.



The Vibrant Life Wellness Clinic café and health foods store opened in April and is popular in the community.

Though the Adventist Church has about 1.5 million members in India, Dr. Rao stressed that affluent people remain largely unreached. He also noted that no medical facility exists in the upscale neighborhood where the wellness center is located.

His wife, Daisy Rani Rao, a lifestyle medicine consultant at the wellness center, said she was eager to see what the Holy Spirit would do as patients become healthier.

“Through wholistic care, barriers against Christianity are being broken down. They want to know, ‘What makes you guys like this?’” she said. “I believe the Holy Spirit is

working on the hearts of people,” she added. “Some are already picking up free literature.”

Wilson voiced hope that similar activities and wellness centers could be initiated elsewhere in India and beyond—and that they could become self-supporting.



“We are very impressed with what you are trying to do,” he said. “God wants to see this kind of center in every city.”

Tentative plans are underway to open three more UCIs in other Indian cities in 2019, according to Ezras Lakra, president of the Adventist Church’s Southern Asia Division, whose territory includes India.

“People are going more for health awareness now than before,” he said. “We have many health issues in our country, and they will be more attracted by this kind of wellness center.”

Global Mission has extended grants to about 60 UCIs, most of them over the past two years. Gary Krause, who oversees the ministry of Global Mission, said he was heartened by the positive reports about the wellness center in India.

“We’re so thankful for the many donors who make it possible for us to provide seed money to help kickstart Urban Centers of Influence around the world,” he said. “It’s richly rewarding to see them established and become self-supporting.”

“We praise God for His goodness and want to thank you for helping to make the Vibrant Life Medical and Wellness Clinic possible. Please pray that it will truly be an Urban Center of Influence for the glory of God and the hastening of His kingdom and that we can meet the health needs of our community.”

—Dr. Narendra Rao



Andrew McChesney,
Office of Adventist Mission



India is in the 10/40 Window and is a high priority for Global Mission, especially the northern part of the country. To get an idea of the immense challenges in the north, take a look at some stats of two of the largest states.

Bihar¹

POPULATION

113.5 MILLION ← Christians: **0.1%**

PEOPLE GROUPS

451 Unreached: **424**

In just one unreached people group called the Yadav (Hindu traditions), there are **13.8 million people**.

Uttar Pradesh²

POPULATION

230 MILLION ← Christians: **0.2%**

PEOPLE GROUPS

714 Unreached: **688**

In just one unreached people group called the Brahmin, there are more than **12.8 million people**.

1 "Bihar, India," The Joshua Project, accessed April 11, 2018, https://joshuaproject.net/states_districts/IN/IN34.

2 "Uttar Pradesh, India," The Joshua Project, accessed April 11, 2018, https://joshuaproject.net/states_districts/IN/IN36.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate

You can support the ministry of Global Mission pioneers and the establishment of Urban Centers of Influence that follow Christ's method in meeting needs, sharing the gospel, and starting new churches.



Pray

Please remember all our Global Mission pioneers and Urban Centers of Influence in your prayers.



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Help spread the gospel!

Millions of people around the world still don't know Jesus. Global Mission pioneers help start new groups of believers in unreached areas.

MOLDOVA

Alexandra and Oleg had almost given up on life. Alexandra was partially paralyzed and was getting weaker and weaker. Oleg was struggling with his health too. Everything seemed pointless, and they wondered whether anyone cared.

Then they met Ivan, a 64-year-old Global Mission pioneer. He was always looking for ways to meet people's needs in his community.

Ivan invited Oleg to a health seminar, where he was inspired to change his lifestyle. Ivan also bought Alexandra a new mattress to ease her pain and found a wheelchair for her.

Through Ivan's witness, Oleg and Alexandra discovered God's love for them and have now accepted Jesus.

Pioneers are changing lives with the love and hope of Christ, but they need your help to reach the unreached around the world.



POPULATION

**4.1
MILLION**

Christians: →
0.2%

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