

Multiplication Plan

Based on Materials provided by Mission India

Alfred was the slowest student in the history of his high school. He did not graduate until he was in his early twenties. His problem was math. Finally, however, he graduated. Years later, Alfred, in spite of his slowness with math, became a millionaire. One day he was met on the street one day by one of his former math teachers. “Alfred,” said the teacher, “You were the slowest math student in the history of our school, and now you are a business tycoon and a millionaire. Could you please explain how this occurred?” “Shucks, teach” Alfred replied, “it’s very simple. You see, I make this little thing for a dollar, sell it for two dollars, and that two percent just keeps on adding up!”

Well, Alfred may not have understood percentages, but that did not keep him from making money and understanding something about multiplication. We are in that same boat when it comes to God’s multiplication program. We may not always understand how it works, but that doesn’t stop us from using it!

God’s work is done in terms of multiplication. The Bhils tribe in northern India that had only thirty Christians in the early 1990’s. Mission India brought in its training program and trained some of them to be church planters. By the year 2000, the thirty baptized believers had grown to 28,000 gathered in some 240 churches. People came to know who Jesus is and put their faith in Him as their Savior because the Good News was shared with them. When the Gospel is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit works, and the number of believers is multiplied.

So we are going to hand out \$10 bills to you today! Mission India of Grand Rapids, Michigan has provided the seed money for each of you who chose to participate in a 12-week Multiplication Plan Project. By accepting this money you make a commitment to move forward in faith and try to “grow” the money for the Lord. During the next 12 weeks of this Multiplication Plan Project, participants will prayerfully “grow” this money for the Lord and trust Him to provide a return. You will learn valuable spiritual lessons about giving and trusting God while earning money for mission work in India.

WHY INDIA?

1. **One of every six people on earth** lives in India. India will soon be the world's most populous nation. If a world map were drawn by population, not geographic area, it would look like this: (**population map**)

2. Of the world's **6 billion people: 2 billion** call themselves Christians, 2.4 billion have heard and rejected Christ, and 1.6 billion have never heard the Gospel. For every dollar Christians give, worldwide, 96¾ ¢ are spent among the 2 billion Christians. About 2¾ ¢ are spent among the 2.4 billion. Less than ½ ¢ is spent to bring the Gospel to the 1.6 billion. India contains one fourth of the 1.6 billion who never heard the Gospel. Yet, worldwide, Christians give less than ¼ ¢ to reach these people.
3. **Christianity in India is exploding** in spite of vicious persecution. As the fires of persecution grow hotter, the passion of Christians to bring others to Christ grows stronger.

This is God's hour for India! He is transforming India to become a part of His eternal Kingdom!

WHY MISSION INDIA?

Most of you know that I went on a trip to India in January sponsored by Mission India, an interdenominational agency, working in partnership with hundreds of indigenous churches, including our partner church, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. Their goal is not to send missionaries, but to provide training and seed money to plant churches. Mission India believes that the Gospel is social and spiritual transformation. When people become Christians they begin a life of social and spiritual productivity. So they take a simple three-pronged approach.

- **Church Planter Schools** ("Institutes of Community Transformation") are two-year training programs that launch an Indian church worker on a lifetime of self-supporting church planting.
- **Adult Literacy** is a Bible-content program. While learning about Christ, students learn reading, writing and arithmetic. In addition, they learn about health, nutrition, childcare, and self-support.
- **Children's Bible Clubs** begin with an intensive, two-week summer program. Approximately half of the children are led to Christ and many then join a continuing, year-round program.

Today, throughout the land of India, God has released many rapidly, reproducing church planting movements. The Children's Bible Clubs that we will support will lead to churches being planted and the Gospel spreading with rapid reproduction. As you take this \$10 bill this morning, pray that the God who loves multiplication will multiply your \$10 in an amazing way in the coming three months.

God describes himself as a God of multiplication in his Word. Look at these passages.

- **Matthew 13:8** - In the conclusion to the parable of the sower, Jesus says that some seed bore 100 times, some 60 and some 30. He was talking about more people hearing the message and believing in Him as Savior. That's multiplication!
- **Malachi 3:10** tells us that when we bring our tithes to God he does not return an equal amount to us, or even ten fold. God's return is to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing *so great that we cannot contain it*.
- **II Corinthians 9:10** tells us that God supplies seed for the sower and he will multiply not merely the harvest but a new supply of seed. The \$10 Mission India is giving to you today is "seed." God promises not merely to add to it but to multiply both its harvest and the production of new seed.
- **Matthew 24:15** – Parable of the talents, God tells us He wants us to multiply what has been entrusted to our care, using what He has given us for Him and His kingdom.

It is essential that we, as Christians, cultivate a mentality that reflects the nature of our God. If God describes himself in terms of multiplication, then *we* should always think in terms of multiplication. Tragically, many Christians and churches are satisfied with "comfortable under-achieving;" a little growth here, a little stagnation there. At best, we tend to think of God in terms of "slow addition." At worst, we think of God in terms of division or subtraction! But God is, in his very nature, committed to multiplication!

What Will You Do?

The key in this is not to trust in your own ingenuity, but God's power. Ask Him to guide you and lead you to multiply this seed money.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

God's power is beyond our imagination. He can and will do tremendous things through us if we will allow ourselves to be His instruments. We have seen just how amazingly powerful our God is in the gift of His Son. In spite of who we are and what we have done and what we continue to do, God loved us enough to want to save us from the punishment our sins deserve. His love is so powerful that it led Him to send Jesus to this world to live the perfect life His Law requires, offer

that perfect life in our place on the cross, and pay the penalty for the sins of everyone. That includes your sin of complacency, sitting by and saying that someone else will take care of spreading the Gospel or funding the mission. All sins have been covered by the blood Jesus shed at Calvary. You have been forgiven. Your faith has latched onto that forgiveness. And now you need to make sure you are involved in spreading this wonderful message to those who have not heard.

Two activities suggested in this passage from Ephesians are “ask and imagine.” As you go into this experience of multiplying your \$10.00, I encourage you to **ask** God for his multiplying power and then **imagine** what might happen. Have faith and confidence that as you ask and imagine, God can do exceedingly, abundantly, immeasurably above all that fills your mind!

You may be wondering what you can do? The pastor I shared a room with on the trip sent me some of the things the people in His congregation have done:

- One lady made and sold cookies at her place of work. The cost was a dollar a cookie, 10 dollars for a dozen. She sold 159 dozen cookies and raised about \$1200!
- \$651 was raised in a weight loss challenge
- Some people sold things on Ebay or had a garage sale.
- A Bible class pooled their resource, had three bake sales and raised \$105.
- One guy used the \$10 to purchase wax and rubbing compound, then waxed and repaired scratches to raise \$50.
- One lady wrote “Since we don’t have a cafeteria at work I made sandwiches and sold them at work.” \$169 was raised.
- Another lady stitched Mothers’ Day pins and sold them.

Here are some suggestions of what others have done:

- Two students bought \$10 worth of trail mix and candy, bagged them, and sold the bags at school.
- A Sunday school class formed a baby-sitting service for church members.
- Two woodworkers pooled their money and purchased enough wood to make 52-piece children's block sets. They cut the blocks, sanded and finished them, wrapped them in cellophane and sold enough to make \$250 on the project.
- A pastor purchased shoe polish with his seed money. He polished the shoes of parishioners in exchange for contributions for India. It was his way of performing a "foot washing" for India.
- A little girl purchased leather and beads and made bracelets for friends.

- People have made the following: hand-painted greeting cards, painted clay flowerpots, computer-generated Christmas cards, artwork, ceramic refrigerator magnets, painted baby bottles, handmade jewelry, handmade dolls, doll clothing, cutting boards, fudge, egg rolls and cheese balls.

The possibilities are endless. If you want to participate, take a special Collection Envelope with **your \$10 bill**, which you return with your proceeds when the project concludes. Even if you aren't taking a \$10 bill, please support the efforts of those who are embarking on this mission project!

May God bless our efforts to support the proclamation of Jesus as Lord and Savior in India.