



March 2015

## MISSION GRANT STORY

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN – INDIA      \$85,000**

As a church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a long history of mission work in India. India was the first foreign mission field of the LCMS, beginning in 1895. Many resources have been dedicated to spreading the Gospel in India over the years, resulting in the creation of the LCMS partner church in India, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC).

Even with 120 years of mission work in India, this is still a country desperate to hear the Gospel. According to 2001 Census data, the population in India is 1.21 billion people with 80.5% of the population being Hindu. Another 13.4% is Muslim. Only 2.3% of Indians are Christian.

Sharing the Gospel through children's ministry is a highly effective way to change the life of not only a child, but an entire family. As in the United States, Lutheran schools are a key player in ministry to students in India. The IELC has demonstrated a commitment to serving children through their network of schools. Today, the IELC operates 61 elementary and middle schools, 12 high schools, eight schools for the handicapped, four child

development centers, and five boarding homes. With an average national literacy rate of 61% (only 47.8% for girls!), with Christian educational resources, educational ministries have a key opportunity to strengthen not only the child's ability to read and write, but to grow and strengthen their understanding of the Gospel.

Through the *Christian Educational Support for Children—India* project, Concordia Gospel Outreach will support IELC educational ministries, including Lutheran schools and church-based children's ministries, with Gospel-based curriculum and related resources to strengthen the Christian education of Indian children. To accomplish this, Concordia Gospel Outreach will work through partnerships at the IELC to ensure that materials are received and distributed among educational ministries with the greatest need.

With the support of the LWML, Concordia Gospel Outreach can provide the curriculum, books, teaching tools, and other resources necessary to share the Gospel with thousands of children served in educational ministries of the IELC.