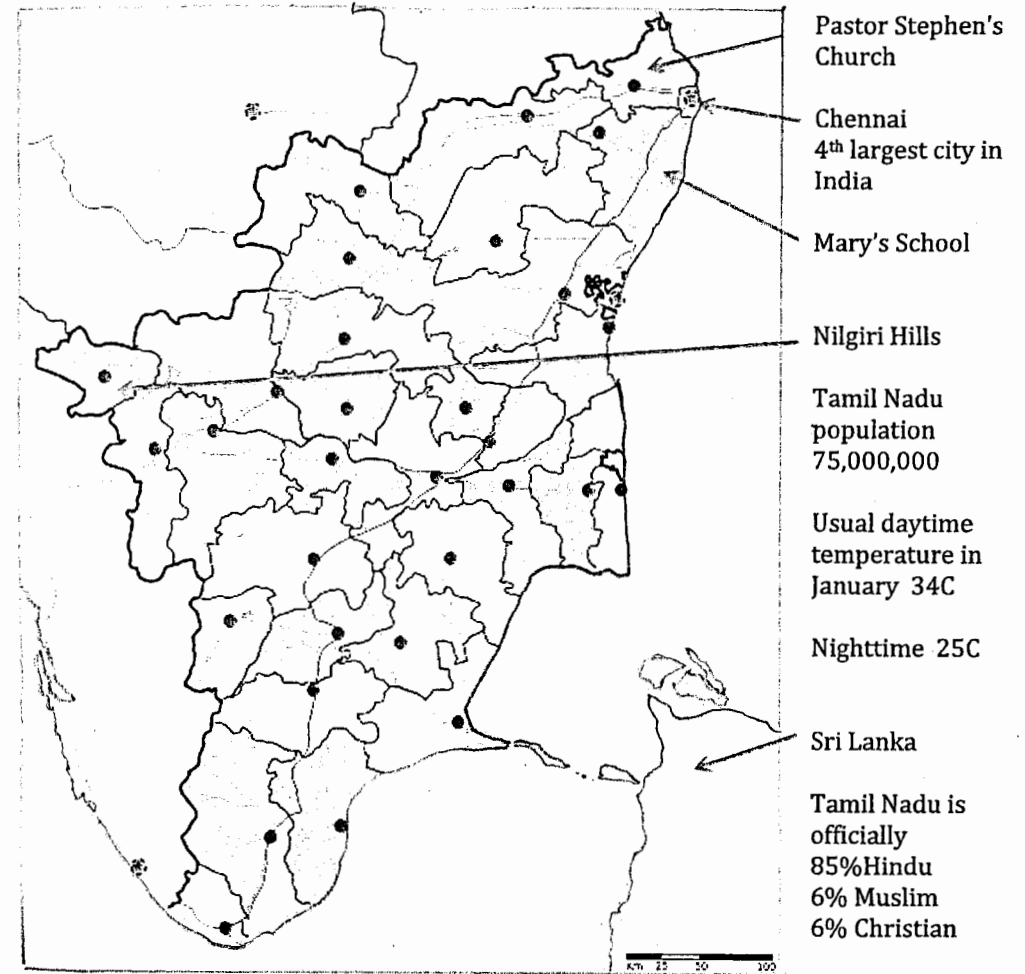


Poynton Parish Church Home Group Extra Jan/Feb 2015

India - our direct mission partnership with Christian leaders in Tamil Nadu

This month Rob has gone to South India to visit our partners in mission, Pastor Stephen who is the leader of the Cornerstone Church in a little village called Mukkurambakkam, and Mary (Stephen's sister) who set up and leads a primary school in a small village south of Chennai. Rob has also gone to help reassess our partnership with an intention to look at whether there are more faithful and effective ways of our resources being used in India.

1. Why might a direct partnership (like with Mary's school and Hugo Vergara in Argentina) be more effective for Christian mission than support through a mission agency (like CMS or Crosslinks)? Under what circumstances and commitments?
2. Does anybody in the group know the story of how we first connected with Pastor Stephen? Can you tell it?
3. Rob first went to lead a preaching conference in 2002. The aim is to train independent pastors in expository bible teaching, in order to seek to improve some aspects of their rather haphazard use of the text of the Bible, and to help address false teaching and unhelpful emphases. Could you explain 'expository preaching' in three sentences?
4. In 2006, we had an appeal to help Mary buy her school building and grounds before the landlord forced its closure. We raised £12,000, the property was bought and a trust set up. The school has grown and flourished despite a harder climate of government interference. Can you remember any of the story of the progress of Mary's school, enabled by our partnership?
5. Now Mary's school building is well appointed, the World Mission sub of the PCC is wondering whether our partnership in Tamil Nadu could be redirected a bit. Part of Rob's brief is to look for suitable needy mission fields where our partnership might be extended. We have given to Mary's school for 10 years. In order that such work does not become dependent on outside support, is it not a good thing to stop our regular support and suggest the season is coming towards an end?
6. What do you know of Madras (or Chennai)? Why is it a good place for us to have a direct link?
7. Did you know there is a hill in Chennai where many believe that Thomas the apostle met a violent end after bringing the gospel to South East Asia?
8. The season of Epiphany reminds that the Lord wants the good news of Jesus to reach all nations. If doubting Thomas knew it and did it, why not us?



When is India predicted to take China's place as the most populated country on earth? Isn't it good to be involved in Christian mission to the place where so many people live?

Indian Christians are often from the lower castes in Indian society and suffer unfair treatment in all sorts of ways. Isn't it good to partner our hard-pressed fellows?

Indian Christians are renowned for their good work in education and health. Indian Christians are less than 5% of the population yet own and run 25% of the primary schools. Isn't it good that we have helped Mary's school stand tall and thrive?

Tell one another what you know of the story of Mary's school and our timely help.