Spring 2023



restoring the identity and dignity of people with disabilities

# ENCOURAGEMENTS THROUGH ADVERSITY

### STORIES OF HOPE IN TESTING TIMES

Through a turbulent three tears, Prabhu and Nancy have maintained their ministry focus. Working within the confines of lockdowns and travel restrictions they continue bring the Gospel to people with disabilities.

REPORT BY IW TRUSTEE SUE RELF.

Our partners based in India, Prabhu and Nancy Rayan, have been focused on home territory both during and after lockdown. Their invitation to visit Canada during summer 2020 had to be postponed due to the sudden arrival of the Covid lockdown. The world 'stayed at home' as we waited for the pandemic to pass.

During this time Prabhu and Nancy made use of the telephone, contacting their Indian staff and disabled friends, encouraging them, praying for them and encouraging them to start their own prayer networks. Once movements were allowed, they and their regional staff and volunteers took up visiting the streets, institutions and churches once again, introducing the gospel and their ministry to disabled people.

One of their staff, Umend Chhatuvedi from Chhattisgarh spoke to a local church: "Lord forgive us for our callousness towards people with disabilities," confessed the people after they heard me share from the Bible about the need to evangelise disabled people and said, "We will try our best not to pass them by, but to reach out to them and connect them to our church."

Another staff member, Premraj Nanda, now in Delhi, was converted in 1989. He came across an IFVH leaflet which he says 'opened my eyes and changed the course of my entire life. I dedicated my life to serve the the Lord among people with disabilities.' He started work in Odisha and by 2002 had trained up a successor, and so moved to Chhattisgarh. There he trained others and in 2011 handed the leadership over to them and moved to Delhi. In Delhi he has trained a further 25 workers to carry on the ministry all over the north. 1000 disabled people now attend church, and he has spoken to 5000 church congregations and 300 Bible Colleges. Praise God for such dedication and fruit. Staff workers Nasser in Kerala and Abhinaya in Odisha have similar stories.

The airways are now open again and the invitation from Murray and Florence Carter to visit Canada during July has been renewed. Rona Gibb has invited Prabhu and Nancy to visit the UK during June on their way to Canada. So, we are expecting visitors from India this summer!

Arriving in London on 1st June Prabhu and Nancy will stay with their friends in London for a the first week and then spend the next two weeks in Eastbourne. Then they travel north to stay with Rona Gibb near Harrogate. At the end of June they fly on to Canada where they will spend two months. At the beginning of September they return to the UK for a further three weeks. A detailed itinerary for them is being arranged.

Please forward your email address to: **info@inclusiveworldwide.com** to receive further news of this visit as it takes shape.

## SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE WORLDWIDE

Can you support the work of Inclusive Worldwide? To make a one-off donation or set up a regular standing order, please get in touch: Call **01323 638744** Email **info@inclusiveworldwide.com** or send cheques to **11 Coastguard Square**, **Barden Road**, **Eastbourne BN22 7EE**. Thank you.

## An unprecedented impact!

When Prabhu and Nancy Rayan extended the Ministry of India Fellowship for the Visually Handicapped (IFVH) to begin a new global ministry in 1990, little could they imagine the plans God had for them. This ministry, which became Inclusive Worldwide in 2017, has continued to grow thanks to their tireless work. Since 2010, the ministry has reached further than ever, continuing their vision to share the gospel with people with disabilities, and make churches inclusive of the 'third largest nation on earth'.



19

2,500

13,500

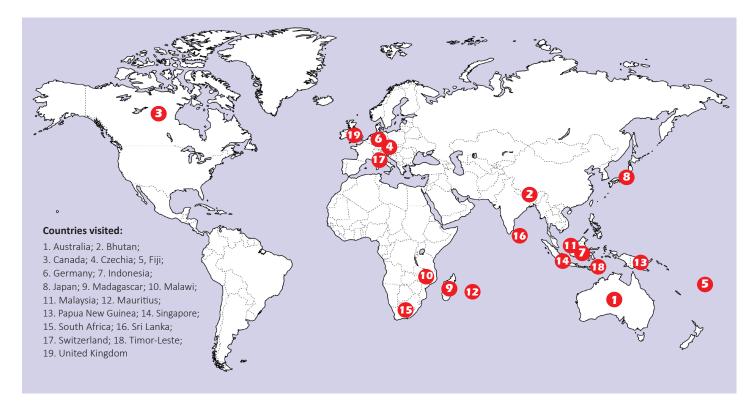
300

19 countries visited since 2010, 12 for the first time. Many visited multiple times.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ shared with 2,500 people with disabilities.

The vision of IFVH/Inclusive Worldwide shared with 13,500 people.

300 congregations captured the vision and have become inclusive churches.





#### About Inclusive Worldwide (IW)

Inclusive Worldwide is the working name for International Fellowship for the Handicapped, a mission to people who have the kinds of disabilities which cause them to be socially stigmatised. World Health Organisation statistics estimate that about 15% of the world's population is disabled, equivalent to the third largest nation on earth! However, people with disabilities are among the least evangelised and least included in church. IW aims to reach them with the good news of Jesus Christ, to involve them in the life of the church and society, and to raise awareness among the Christian Church of their spiritual needs.

IW seeks to recruit, train and support volunteers and workers to pioneer this work amongst the indigenous church and people with disability across the nations. IW has impacted over 80 countries, with Prabhu and Nancy having personally shared the vision for over 30 years.

### **About Prabhu and Nancy Rayan**

Prabhu and Nancy founded and pioneer the ministry of **International Fellowship for the Handicapped** (now known as **Inclusive Worldwide**) for 28 years. They have travelled extensively throughout the world sharing the Gospel with people with disabilities and encouraging churches to include and disciple them. Based in Chennai, India, they also run an Indian ministry, **India Fellowship for the Visually Handicapped**.