

Who/What is VOCM-AMERICA? VOCM is the acronym for Valathi Outreach Church Ministries, an Indian church planting ministry. VOCM-AMERICA is partnering with VOCM to assist them in reaching the villages of southern India that do not have a Gospel witness. Valathi is the name of the village where this ministry was launched.

What is the purpose? “. . . to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named . . . (that) . . . ‘those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand’” (Romans 15:20-21).

What is the goal? To establish a Christian witness and plant churches in the villages of India that do not have a Gospel witness.

What is the strategy? The villages of India need Christ, but they also have many other needs. The church planting strategy of VOCM effectively includes spiritual, educational and social work.

What constitutes a village? A village is a small settlement usually found in a rural setting. It has between 500 and 2,500 inhabitants, and at least 75% of the male labor force work in agriculture. It is estimated there are currently 600,000 villages in India.

How did VOCM start? In 1975 a single British missionary woman, Betty Shelton had a flat tire in the village of Valathi. Stranded there for three hours, she, and the students travelling with her, shared the gospel in story and song in the coffee shop of the headman of the village. During this time, they observed the great spiritual and physical needs of this village and from this came the idea of Valathi Outreach Church Ministries, a church planting ministry to bring the good news of Christ and the hands of Christ to those who have never heard of Him.

How did VOCM-AMERICA start? During a visit to the home of Arputharaj, director of VOCM, in Valathi, Daniel Grell was reading God’s call to Moses to deliver His people from bondage (Exo. 3:7-12 and 4:10-12). As he read, Daniel sensed God’s call to partner with VOCM to rescue village dwellers from the Kingdom of Darkness and transfer them to the Kingdom of Light.

How will VOCM-AMERICA assist VOCM? VOCM-AMERICA will provide financial assistance for remodeling a Bible training school; for the construction of one-room ministry buildings in villages; and for the purchase of milk cows for church plants which provide funding for their ministry. We will assist with finances for church planters on a three-year decreasing scale and will provide an annual soul care conference for village workers.

How can I learn more about VOCM-AMERICA? Write to Daniel Grell, Executive Director of VOCM-AMERICA at vocm.america@gmail.com for more information on the history and work of VOCM, the work of VOCM-AMERICA, and “14 Ways to Assist VOCM.” Daniel is also available to share with you by phone or in a zoom meeting. You can visit the web site at <http://www.vocm-usa.com>.