



# Semi Annual Update 2015



But grow in the grace and  
knowledge of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory,  
both now and to the day of  
eternity. Amen.

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2 Peter 3:18

# From the Director

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What a year! It's been marked by growth and change. Through it all, our testimony has remained that God has equipped us, given us strength and made our paths straight.

This year we welcomed two new partners. The Great Exchange Microfinance Institute is seeking to change the face of Microfinance Institutes in India. Their desire is to develop a new model of microfinance that is both financially sustainable and truly has a transformational impact on the most vulnerable, rather than just bringing economic benefit. Other MFIs are already hoping to learn from them.

Rahham has developed an incredible model of engaging with the most vulnerable in the city of New Delhi. They host monthly fellowship times with various vulnerable groups—people living with HIV/AIDS, drug addicts, transvestites... Each group has about 30-100 regular attendees who come together to share a meal, worship, pray and listen to a sermon. Those who come are not Christians but are desperate for hope and community. Rahham ministers to their physical, spiritual and social needs, building trusting relationships along the way. The next step is to train and equip New Delhi churches to replicate this model of caring for vulnerable groups.

Just a few weeks ago I met with leaders in one of our TCT programs—humble men who have endured great suffering for the gospel. They shared testimonies of how lives are being changed, people are moving out of poverty, the gospel is being shared amongst unreached people groups, women are no longer facing abuse, and children are being educated (often as their parents build schools for them to attend). In talking with them, I was reminded that it is such a privilege to be involved in God's work, whatever role God ordains for us (my role has been peering at a computer a lot lately, so I really needed this refresher).

Thank you for journeying with us this year. You are part of offering vulnerable people opportunities to see God's transforming power. Your support, prayer and giving are immensely valuable to us. Thank you!

# Ashish - For The Differently - Abled

**Helping others see the blessing and potential of children with special needs.**

Ashish Foundation has a vision. We want society to see (not just hear) the foundational truth that *all people are created in God's image with value and potential*. It's a long process. Drawing out the potential of young people with autism is a journey of "long obedience in the same direction." There are no quick fixes. Shanti is a great example of slow and steady transformation. When she came to Ashish seven years ago, she refused to sit, fought with teachers and other students, and destroyed property. Today, Shanti is like a different person. She is no longer violent or destructive. She actively participates in group activities, pays attention during class and works hard. She likes to roller skate, run and dance. She also makes beautiful beaded jewelry in Ankur.

We celebrate the lives of students like Shanti, while we strive for a much larger vision—for truth to permeate all of society. We work with other centers that serve the differently-abled, Special Education (SpEd) teachers and teachers aids (TAs), families, and churches to teach the value and potential inherent in God's image-bearers.

To date, the Ashish Center has seen four new centers started by former staff, each one built on the truth that they learned while working with us. We have also trained eight other centers, and approximately 40 TAs, who have gone on to other institutions. This year we accepted 20 TA-trainees into our six-month course. We are currently piloting a program to challenge churches and other Christian organizations with truth about the differently-abled.



## Did you know...



of Ashish students receive a **NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP.**



**15**  
YOUNG ADULTS ARE SERVED IN OUR VOCATIONAL PROGRAM.

Approximately  
**400**

Special Education students are **IMPACTED** by **ASHISH-TRAINED TAs.**



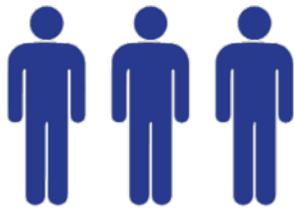
All people are  
created in God's  
image with value and  
potential.



# Wholistic Development Center

## This Year...

WE HIRED 3 NEW STAFF MEMBERS.



**26 students** started the 2-year course in **SEPTEMBER**.

Our students represent

**6 TRIBAL GROUPS.**



## *Equipping rural churches to move their communities out of poverty.*

At WDC, our calling is to invest deeply in a few students. Our 2015 graduating class was 21 students, several of whom came from unreached people groups in gospel-hostile areas. It was a privilege to walk alongside these students, and to help launch them into the next phase of life with a solid grounding in biblical truth and relationship with Christ. Nine students returned to their villages, while the 12 that planned to stay in the city all received job offers.

We had several new initiatives this past year. Our coffee shop has been a success both in providing good hands-on training for the girls and in earning a small profit to help support the program. We also started a mushroom house, which is making profit. Growing mushrooms could be a great income-generating skill for those who will return to their villages after graduation. In the midst of all of these

vocational opportunities, our focus remains providing a warm and nurturing environment for students to grow in their faith. Through daily Bible study, opportunities to teach Sunday school, and mentoring relationships with staff, we seek to wholistically disciple each student to bring every area of life under the lordship of Christ.



# Truth Centered Transformation

**Equipping rural churches to move their communities out of poverty.**



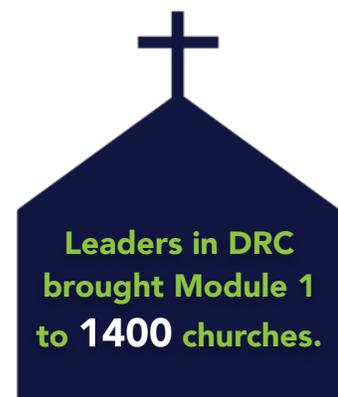
This year has been all about growing by multiplication. It began with the conviction that God wanted us to say “yes” to those who approached us asking for help to launch TCT in their own contexts. Then, as He tends to do, God overwhelmed us with the enormity of His plans and purposes. TCT began the year operating in three countries in Asia. As the year draws to a close, we have expanded to five new projects in three new countries, with more potential partners being trained later this year. We have expanded to Africa, and expect to help partners launch projects in Latin America in the coming year. We are also preparing to expand to hundreds more churches in one established TCT program.

As we grow, God has been reminding us again that our calling is **wholistic discipleship—teaching God’s people to live EVERY area of their life in obedience to God**. Even small revelations of truth and seemingly insignificant acts of obedience can begin the process of transformation. Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) face the greatest risk of gender-based violence and oppression on the planet\*. Within DRC, Tshikapa is known as one of the worst cities for women. When a group of men in Tshikapa learned about the value of every human life during a TCT training, they decided to invite their wives to attend the training with them the next day. One lead pastor doubted that anyone would come back. But the next day they did come, along with their wives, who expressed great joy at being included.

Obeying in EVERY area includes being a good steward of everything that God has provided. One community in Northern Uganda had waited for years for someone to come build them a church. After learning through the TCT program about stewarding all the resources God has given us, the people realized that God had given them soil, rich with clay, that could be used to make bricks. For years they had waited for outside help, when they actually had the resources for their church right under their feet! With some water, soil, and their own hard work, the people were able to make 5,000 bricks in three days. Enough to build a church and a school for their community!

## In 2015...

TCT launched in **DRC, CAMBODIA and INDIA.**



**3** new key staff were hired to support growth.



## TCT, Continued

Another aspect of wholistic discipleship is helping Christians understand their biblical responsibility to love others, challenging them to do **Acts of Love**. Even in areas that receive extensive government or international aid, God can use the simple loving actions of His people to bring transformation. In one community where sanitation was very poor, the government had repeatedly cleaned out the drainage systems and encouraged people to use latrines. But the people simply didn't see a reason to change. After beginning TCT training, the church began doing Acts of Love to clean up the community and promote hygiene. In a few short years, this church ended up doing what the government could not—changing people's mindset and transforming their community into a clean and healthy place to live.

*\*According to UN reports.*

Acts of Love—  
projects planned,  
resourced and  
carried out by local  
churches to show  
love to their  
community.



# Ending Gendercide

## **Building a movement to see the end of gendercide in India.**

Changing the beliefs of a nation take time. Ending Gendercide (EG) seeks to see the end of all forms of violence against women. It starts with confronting the lie that women have less value so they don't deserve respect. It starts with small changes that collectively bring cultural change.

One couple that exemplifies that change is Rajen and Antara\*. Before marrying Rajen, Antara had a successful career. But in Indian culture, a bride must conform to the expectations of her in-laws. Rajen's family has very conservative beliefs that a woman must remain in the home, so Antara quit her job and confined her activities to household chores. However, after attending our Gender Issues seminars, Rajen was convicted that God has gifted his wife with talents, potential, dreams and desires of her own. Antara, meanwhile, learned that gifts and talents are given by God and meant to be used for His kingdom. She has since begun overseeing their church's finances and volunteering with other ministries, with the support of her husband. Most importantly, their relationship is now marked by mutual respect and love.

Seminars like the one Rajen and Antara attended reached 24 churches this past year. The EG team has also been mobilizing and equipping university students through on-campus awareness events, a music festival, a comic book, and service opportunities. We engaged eighteen student interns over the summer, completely filling our limited spaces.

*\*Names have been changed.*

## Did you know...

*Signature*

**1066** people have signed cards pledging not to inflict any form of violence against girls and women.



We have hosted 25 showings of a documentary about **GENDERCID** at

**15** UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

# The Create Commission

**Creating art to give a voice to the marginalized and to disciple a nation.**

What does it mean to be a Christian artist? How do we use art to disciple a nation? These are questions that The Create Commission seeks to answer.

One way we've sought to disciple our nation this year was working together with Ending Gendercide to create a comic book. The Bindi Man comic uses art to talk about the many issues related to gender-based violence that females face in Delhi. It's been a great opportunity to open doors to important conversations.

We also had the opportunity to work with Christian art students to help them think through what it means to be a Christian artist. These students were sincerely attempting to reflect their faith by adding crosses to their paintings, with the result that their professors did not take their work seriously and the messages they wanted to communicate were lost. We taught a two-day seminar for these students, helping them think through the powerful role that art can play in causing us to see things in a new way or receive a message that might otherwise be rejected. This year we will teach another one week course for this group, guiding them to explore these ideas further.

## Did you know...

Each month we hold art-making workshops for about **70 MARGINALIZED PEOPLE.**

**18** artists participated in our **INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY** Program.

*Bindi Man* episode one has received more than **3,300 VIEWS** so far.





2:10

**Equipping the church to reach the vulnerable with truth and love.**

One significant development for our program is that we changed our name from TCT-Local to 2:10—a reference to Galatians 2:10 and Ephesians 2:10. The heart of our program is that we, the Church, would be compelled into good works that love the poor well.

"FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP,  
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD  
WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED  
BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK  
IN THEM."  
Ephesians 2:10

In September 2015, 2:10 launched several new initiatives. The first is Sent Saturday—an all day immersion experience. Participants will be given an opportunity to be put face to face with the vulnerable while learning valuable principles of how to love them. We also posted our new Sent Small Group Study.

In New Zealand, we taught a Vision Conference in Auckland for 40 pastors in November 2014. From there we have seen doors starting to open and are planning to pilot the project at one church. We also have had opportunities in partnership with YWAM to teach the TCT materials.

As a program we have a tough task of taking people from the cultural tendency to seek comfort and control to seeking relationships with the vulnerable. Only the Holy Spirit can bring that transformation. We have been encouraged to see how The Spirit is already moving in the hearts of God's people. One couple felt led to become foster parents. And a service group called Men of Action sprang up as a collaboration of several churches. The group has responded to various needs in their community, including a flood that affected some neighborhoods in Sioux Falls.

# Nepal Relief and Rehabilitation

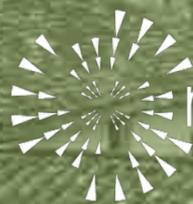
On April 25, 2015, a 7.9-magnitude earthquake occurred near Kathmandu and Pokhara, Nepal. Several major aftershocks followed. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless, with entire villages flattened across many districts of the country.

While much relief aid flowed into Nepal in the days after the earthquakes, many people in the villages around Kathmandu were still living amidst mountains of rubble in makeshift tents for months afterward. **God used the Nepalese churches as one of the most highly-relational, servant-hearted and consistent relief providers in these areas.**

The churches went to the hardest-to-reach villages with food and other relief supplies. With funding from Reconciled World and Disciple Nations Alliance, our Nepalese partners provided construction materials for more than 400 families to build new semi-permanent homes (meeting long-term housing needs for an estimated 2,000 people).

In Taplejung district, rainfall and aftershocks triggered a serious landslide in July. Because of rain and fog, even rescue helicopters were unable to reach the villagers in need of relief. In response, two pastors crossed the border to India to purchase relief supplies (since it was very difficult and expensive to get any near Kathmandu at that time). Members of a church near the affected area carried the supplies, along with rice they donated themselves, to the villagers on foot.

Praise God for the faithfulness of His people in Nepal to show the love of Christ to their neighbors! Please continue to pray for them and for complete restoration of this beautiful land.



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