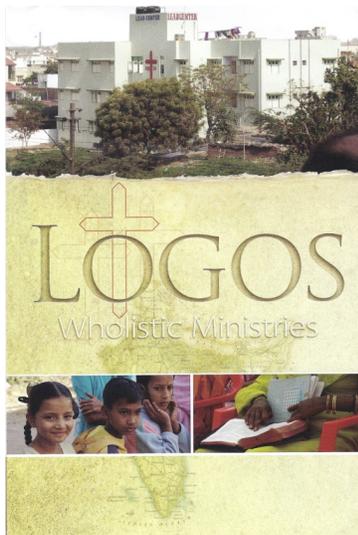


STAGE 3	ASIA	Ahmedabad, INDIA	CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENT IN WEST INDIA
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Pastor B. lives and serves in Ahmedabad, in the Gujarat Province of India. Ahmedabad is the largest city in Gujarat and the seventh largest city of India, with a population of 4.8 million. This area is the least evangelized of India (about 5% Christian) and used to be the center of the Mughal (Muslim) Empire. God has given Rev. B. a BIG vision: To plant 20,000 churches and equip and train 2,000 key leaders and share the gospel with 50 million people by 2020.

This vision was not something he dreamed up himself. Before the year 2000 his vision was local but when a terrible earthquake killed 150,000 people in Dahod, a city about 120 miles to the West, his vision expanded. He shares that God asked him: “Who is responsible for all these people (to take the gospel to them)?” He responded, “I am responsible.”

Pastor B. had been mentoring and encouraging some local pastors. After receiving the understanding that his vision must not be parochial, but as big as the heart of God, Pastor B. began to share with the others his desire to reach the lost and plant churches throughout Northwest India. Several of them joined him to form Logos Wholistic Ministries with a four-fold strategy: 1) multiplying healthy, biblical churches, 2) Training workers, 3) Compassion ministry, 4) and medical ministry. Thirty-seven churches joined together in 2001. Initially they used a mobile Bible college to begin their equipping ministry. In 2008, they received a gift that enabled them to build a Training Center Facility that could serve 200 people at a time.

Regional leaders are gathered several times a year to receive training which is then reproduced at different levels (State-wide, regionally, and locally). They bring in a few carefully-selected residential students called “Timothys” to the Wholistic Ministry Center. They are then sent home to train others. Each trainee is challenged to reproduce the training with 40 others in their local region and expected to plant 3 house churches. When this happens, the net kingdom gain is 120 churches per quarterly training. It doesn’t always happen, nevertheless God has blessed, and the movement has expanded from 37 churches in 2001 to over 500 churches in 2010, and over 1000 in 2015. Pastor B.’s son heads up the ministry and coordinates a team of regional trainers/leaders. This vision and training has expanded the ministry from the State of Gujarat to 12 States in the West and North of India.

When we speak of 1000 churches people assume they are small house churches. In reality, they are congregational churches, subdivided into smaller communities, for the purpose of discipleship and multiplication. Each church has on the average 3 house churches and each

house church on the average 2 cell groups. Here's how multiplication takes place. Each worker is responsible for an area 10 kms in radius from their meeting place. So, a newly trained evangelist gathers a group of Christians and leads them to share the gospel with each family within their 10 km-radius. By the time each home has been reached a least once, new disciples are trained to expand into other 10-km harvest fields. Thus, multiplication occurs at the local level.

The medical and compassion ministries go hand in hand with church planting. They serve to demonstrate God's love in action. This is a very unique multiplication ministry that comes from a special man of God with a unique vision. They seek to plant 20,000 churches, equip 2,000 key leaders, and share the gospel with 50 million people by 2020. They can't do it alone and receive help from short-term teams, pastors who come to do training, and churches who contribute to the equipping of new workers and compassion ministries. Recently they have sensed the need to strengthen the training by setting up a more complete and consistent curriculum. ReachGlobal is partnering with Logos Wholistic Ministries to improve the training. The partnership is a natural fit since the EFCA's Mission statement is "to glorify God by multiplying healthy churches among all peoples" and Logos Wholistic Ministries seeks "to glorify God by planting gospel-centered, disciple making, and reproducing healthy churches."