

Statement of Faith: Summary

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

III. Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

VIII. The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.



IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth.

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

XII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

World Outreach Committee
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd
Suite 510
Orlando, Florida 32822

Dear World Outreach Committee,

March 4, 2024

Asian Partners International (API) is submitting our application to be considered as an Endorsed Agency with the EPC. We are a 30-yr old disciple-making movement and church-planting movement that has successfully planted the Gospel among Unreached and Unengaged People Groups (UUPG) across North India. Independent audits put the conservative number of new believers at 20 million.

We believe we are a good fit with the EPCWO Mission of “empowering Spirit-filled witnesses to make disciples and plant reproducing churches among those with least access to the gospel.” (<https://www.epcwo.org/about/>) Our movement that started among the Bhojpuri has catalyzed other movements globally and is recognized by the Lausanne Committee as an example for others to learn from. Please view the attached 1 min video from Lausanne to hear it in their words. For a deeper dive, you can read *Bhojpuri Breakthrough* by Victor John, our founder. The book provides “an inside look at one of the largest Church Planting Movements in the world – that is now breaking through to launch new movements across North India!” (cover endorsement from Dr. David Garrison)

API is a licensed US 501(c)3 that serves as the communication, accountability, and fund-raising arm for our partnering organization in India - Asian Sahyogi Sanstha India (ASSI). API is a lean organization, with only 1 ¼ staff, and a member of ECFA. API is not a sending agency.

ASSI is an Indian missions organization with Indian NGO status. ASSI is 100% composed of and led by Indians. ASSI has a vision to reach 100 million new Indian believers by the end of 2025.

Please note that our website is focused on community development, for security purposes. Our printed materials and personal conversation is how we communicate the “rest of the story” – the impact on and growth of the Kingdom.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this application. On a personal note, I am a Ruling Elder at Manoa Community Church and chair of the Missions Committee.

For His Kingdom,
Dan Crum
Director of Development
Asian Partners International
317.450.6662 (c)

Vision and Mission – Asian Partners International

The vision of Asian Partners International is to see over 100 million disciples of Jesus in North India by the year 2025. We believe that God will continue to accelerate the Church Planting Movement in North India as we partner with Him to reach the unreached with the Gospel.

The mission of Asian Partners International is to foster Church Planting Movements (CPM) among Unreached People Groups (UPGs) in restricted and limited-access countries. We desire the same thing that the Apostle Paul desired: "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation." Romans 15:20



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Havertown, PA 19083

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Rev. Stefan S. Bomberger
Manoa Community Church
153 N. Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083

EPC World Outreach
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd, Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

March 19, 2024

Dear EPCWO,

Dan Crum, a Ruling Elder at Manoa, presented Asian Partners International (API) at our last Session Meeting to make us aware of this incredible church-planting movement in North India. Dan is the Director of Development for API, working fulltime to raise funds and awareness of this Kingdom movement.

As Dan's pastor and pastor of Manoa EPC, trusting in his leadership of our Missions Committee, I wholeheartedly commend RE Dan Crum and Asian Partners International for EPC WO consideration. His presentation to Session about API demonstrated to all of us that the growth in India the last 30 years, with over 20 million coming to Christ, is a natural fit for any church in the EPC that desires to impact the unreached and unengaged people groups for Christ in that part of the world.

Blessings in Christ,

March 19, 2024



To whom it may concern,

153 North Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083

During the March 14, 2024 stated meeting of the Session of Manoa Community Church the following motion was made: P 610.446.8070
@manoa.org

- Dan Crum works with Asian Partners – spreads Christianity across northern India
 - Motion to provide an official endorsement of Asian Partners from Session as well as support them financially in the future
 - Motion made by RE Robin Zecca
 - Seconded by RE John Thomas
 - No further discussion
 - Motion passes unanimously

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David R Frank Jr', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David R Frank Jr

Clerk of Session

Manoa Community Church



The Movement in North India

1994-2024

www.apii.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Asian Partners International (API) and Asian Sahyogi Sanstha India (ASSI) have co-labored in catalyzing the disciple-making movement and church-planting movement that started among the Bhojpuri in North India in 1994. It has now expanded to well over 20 million new disciples across 12 language groups.

Primary strategies are these:

1. Equip and mentor new disciples to lead their own house churches and multiply themselves by mentoring their new disciples to do the same
2. Meet felt needs by establishing a Community Learning Center (CLC) in an unreached and unengaged community, leading to discovery of the person of peace that provides access to the community
3. Train new leaders in a scalable way to keep pace with exponential growth
4. Prioritize youth to engage urban areas and discover persons of peace, focusing on urban youth needs for counseling and practical skills to succeed in the modern workplace

The Global Learning Center (GLC) was opened in 2021 to enlarge the scope of leadership training. ASSI regional ministries operate from this campus and host groups from other parts of India and abroad to teach principles of this movement.

The pandemic offered an opportunity to engage communities by providing disaster relief through CLCs, bringing favor with local government and leading to new disciples in a time of crisis.

2024 will see a bigger footprint

- ASSI training of other organizations in the CLC strategy
- Systematic teachings on Generosity given to leaders
- Bible translation in 6 languages
- Business in-country to generate wealth for ministry
- Larger goals for new disciples, new churches, more leaders trained
- Funding to grow current programs, increase the number of CLCs to 500, and build out the GLC facilities

Dan Crum
Director of Development

Asian Partners International (API) exists as a catalyst to reach unreached and unengaged people groups in restricted access countries. As we share our story below, you may see it just as the story of Asian Sahyogi Sanstha India (ASSI). However, our organizations were formed with the other in mind, knowing we serve two different purposes under one vision. The story below is about both of us.

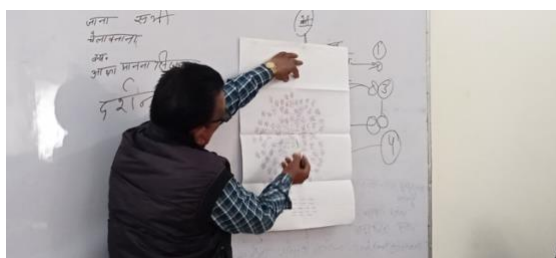
HISTORY

Our story, like many others, is a journey. A journey with many twists, turns, decisions, setbacks, growth, and learning. The journey of Asian Partners International (API) starts with Victor John. Victor has many experiences that have shaped his view of ministry that is baked in to the DNA of API. His early years of ministry included trips to Nepal, campaigns in India, serving on pastoral staff of a Swedish Baptist church plant in Uttar Pradesh, intense spiritual warfare, speaking at a conference, and racist actions toward him. All of these and more led him to a few key conclusions:

1. Western church structures are not designed to reach the lost in India. Many Christian organizations around the world had invested in north India as far back as 1826 with little to show for it, including his own denomination that had only 2000 baptisms over 80 years. North India was described as the graveyard of missions; many efforts there died.
2. Indian people are open to the gospel, but closed to western church strategies.
3. If you want to do something in North India, you have to work with North Indians and live in North India in order to reach the North Indians. Then the North Indians can reach the other North Indians.
4. No one can reach India alone. Work with people who want to cooperate in reaching the lost.

When API launched in the early 90's, these paradigms gave direction to Victor as he prayed and traveled across North India building relationships with churches and pastors and diving deeper in understanding Bhojpuri culture. This time also helped him see that growth would start slow, but he was convinced that his pursuit of new approaches to reaching the lost had far more potential than business as usual. Asian Sahyogi Sanstha India (ASSI) was formed in this time period, becoming the official Indian partner of API.

In 1994 a key meeting took place. The first Bhojpuri Consultation was held in Varanasi. 80 leaders from various churches and organizations came together to discuss reaching the Bhojpuri who had only 10,000 Christians at the time among a population of 100 million. Since then, ASSI has been implementing a Church Planting Movement (CPM) methodology that has been effective in spreading the gospel and planting churches. That methodology includes Biblical strategies applied to the Indian context.



STRATEGIES

MULTIPLICATION

The first key strategy of this Church Planting Movement (CPM) is from Act 4:13:

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. “

From early on it was clear that no pre-certification was needed for new believers to testify of Jesus to their family and friends. ASSI had eyes to identify, train and equip these new believers to lead their own house church and become church planters who multiply themselves by teaching other new believers to do the same. This has led to new churches that organically reproduce, a natural outcome of leaders who have been trained to reproduce themselves through intentional discipleship. This is very different from the western structures that had largely failed in North India.

This focus on leaders has produced a pioneering movement of church planting by multiplication versus the more common (and western) practice of church planting by addition. All of this is made possible by the commitment to training leaders in obedience-based discipleship where action comes quickly, organically and in relational accountability to one’s mentor. The outcome of this leadership strategy is rapid church planting – even in times of disaster or crisis such as the COVID pandemic.

MEETING FELT NEEDS

The second key strategy is from Luke 10:1-9, where Jesus sent out his disciples two by two to “every town and place” (v 1). They were to look for “persons of peace” (v 6), and told “Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’” (v 9) From these verses, the decision was made to start sending people in twos to unreached areas and meet felt needs of the community.

This meeting of felt needs was done through the simple set up of a Community Learning Center (CLC). This storefront rented space became the base camp for 2 CLC leaders to engage a community, address unmet needs identified by the community, and discover the person of peace who is led to the door of the Kingdom. The person of peace then follows the pattern described above, being mentored by the CLC leaders while also mentoring others within their relational network.



LEADERSHIP

The CLCs were implemented in 2008 not only to meet felt needs and reach the unreached, but they also addressed the organizational need for training of new leaders from the years of explosive growth, estimated in an independent survey to be 2 million believers by this time. ASSI had 5 regional training centers in 2008 but could only train 400-500 people a year. The CLCs could train far more leaders, closer to home. Within two years there were 450 CLCs operating each year and 200 new ones starting annually, allowing for 30,000 – 35,000 leaders to be trained on-site.

Since that time, CLCs have catalyzed and accelerated the CPM by providing the necessary ingredient – trained leaders. Every year these leaders multiply and churches multiply as the gospel spreads through testimony, teaching, meeting of needs and ongoing discipleship. Our history now shows that CLCs have the capacity to develop more leaders faster. This strategy will continue, **with a goal of 500 CLCs operating in 2024.**

URBAN

In 2011, a third key decision on strategy was made. Up to that time, most of the work of ASSI had been in rural areas. The cities needed more attention from us, so CLCs were chosen as the vehicle to engage a particular people group in the cities – Urban Youth, of any language. Using the Luke 10 model of meeting needs, CLCs were opened in cities to provide counseling for the urban youth. They were facing many pressures to get into the limited number of seats available in universities.

Facing discouragement and unsure about next steps, counseling centers provided hope and desperately needed guidance. As people came for counseling, or to see what this CLC was about, persons of peace were discovered and the process of discipleship began.

KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2016, another unmet need of Urban Youth was discovered. They were lacking certain skills to be hired for good jobs. The technology revolution was leaving many behind, even university students. Because of this, a next-generation CLC was needed to teach computer skills, better English, and familiarity with office settings for working in the modern world. The Knowledge Institute of Information Technology (KIIT) was born, first in Delhi (2016), then Kolkata (2018), Bihar (2022), and Uttar Pradesh (2023). As with other CLCs, persons of peace were discovered at the KIIT centers and urban churches were planted.



GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

Also in 2011 a vision was born to build a place where principles of this movement could be taught, leadership skills developed, and world religions studied. Property in Varanasi was purchased for the Global Learning Center (GLC) . Opened in 2021, these are the current programs and ministry offered on campus:

- CLC leader trainings for the movement, other groups within India and abroad
- Women’s sewing classes
- Shelter home for 50 children
- Regional administration offices
- Conference facilities, including for rental to generate income

With the goal of completing construction by 2025, the Global Learning Center will have multiple classrooms and full board lodging to accommodate small to large groups for training, conferences and international visitors.

2011 GLC property



2023 GLC property



DISASTER RELIEF

The years of 2020 and 2021 brought unexpected opportunities as the global pandemic wreaked havoc in India. The meeting of needs changed in only a few weeks, with all CLCs turning their focus to food relief, health and covid education. Desperate times brought ASSI into favorable positions with local governments as ASSI mobilized their network to meet needs through CLCs and house churches.



While the number of new churches planted were lower in the pandemic years, the number of new contacts through our campaign of covid relief reached nearly 1 million!

Other disaster relief we have provided were during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, 2015 Nepal earthquake, and annual response to flood-prone areas in North India.

TODAY 2024

Looking ahead we continue to pursue expanded opportunities for Kingdom growth.

- Training other organizations in the CLC model of ministry. Several groups from across India, Europe, and this year West Africa, have received training from our leaders and taken this model of community engagement back to their area.
- Systematic teachings given on Generosity to current and emerging leaders of the movement
- Bible translation work in 6 languages through the Church-Centric Bible translation approach
- Developing businesses in-country that will provide jobs and connect to community needs, while generating funds for the work.
 - A small silk business has just begun
 - Varanasi International School is in process of securing facilities and hiring staff to meet the significant need for an English Medium School. There is not enough room in current schools for all the students.
- Children's ministry – 3 shelter homes, 2 rural schools, 12 literacy centers for 1200 children
- Urban Youth
 - Sports Ministry leagues
 - KIIT is needed in one more city to complete our coverage

3-YEAR GOALS

Our leaders set these faith goals in early 2023, believing that each year's opportunities will produce these kinds of results:

	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
NEW PEOPLE TO BE REACHED	75000	150000	250000	475000
NO. OF DISCIPLES	30000	45000	75000	150000
NO. OF LEADERS TO BE TRAINED THRU' ALL TRAININGS	30000	50000	100000	180000
NO. OF HOUSE FELLOWSHIPS TO BE STARTED	10000	18000	30000	58000
LEADERS/BELIEVERS TO BE TRAINED IN SEMINARS & CONFERENCES	5000	10000	20000	35000
REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE	7500	15000	25000	47500
SPECIFIC ELITE GROUPS REACHING MUSLIM COMMUNITY (FAITH GROUPS)	7000	10000	15000	32000
	1500	2000	2500	6000

CONCLUSION

It has been 30 years since those 80 leaders came together for the first Bhojpuri Consultation. In looking back, we confidently say this movement is something only God could do. ASSI has made some course corrections and changes as noted above, led by the Holy Spirit as the leaders discerned together what each new season could be. The movement has been blessed with partners from around the world. Churches, foundations, organizations, and individuals have empowered the movement to expand. We give glory and honor to God. He will build His Church. We are trusting Him to help us reach our biggest goal yet:

The goal of ASSI is to plant churches in every community in this area of the world, and reach 100 million new Christ-followers by the year 2025.