



Ministry in Malayalam Marches On

By C.V. Vadavana and Kim Pettit

C.V. Vadavana was a Roman Catholic monk prior to leaving the priesthood and founding his own organization, Sathyam Ministries, to spread God's Word. He is the author of numerous books and tracts and has a passion for evangelism.

"I dreamed of publishing the Bible in a vernacular language," says C.V. Vadavana, director of Sathyam Ministries [www.sathyam.org] in Tiruvalla, Kerala, India," and now my dream has come true."

Vadavana's organization, Sathyam, takes its name from the Malayalam word meaning "truth." Its goal is "to proclaim and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ" throughout India.

Sathyam's work includes providing Malayalis with Christian literature in their own language. The Indian Constitution recognizes 22 official languages, and Malayalam, the mother tongue of some 37 million people, is among them.

A Dream Fulfilled

"We published the Malayalam version of the *Dakes Annotated Reference Bible*," says C.V. Vadavana, Sathyam's founder and the publisher of Sathyam Literature Services. "This was the fulfillment of an 11-year-old dream of mine: to publish the Bible in a vernacular language."

The translation was launched at an event August 15, 2007, when India also celebrated its 60th Independence Day.

"The auditorium was jam-packed and there was a huge demand for the Bible," adds Vadavana. "It was a very special occasion." The publisher looks forward to another exciting release in 2008, as translation work to release the Dakes Bible into Hindi is already under way. In fact, Vadavana hopes to translate the Bible into many more Indian languages, and created the Sathyam Bible Society on March 29, 2006, to work toward this goal.

Pressing On

Sathyam's literature work has been in place for more than 20 years. Though the organization publishes more than 300 books, another part of its work involves tracts, booklets and other evangelistic literature. Indeed, the ministry's first publication in 1985 was a tract.

"With the help of committed people who understand the great need for our publication ministry," says Vadavana, "we are glad to announce the inception of Sathyam Press under the banner of Sathyam Literature Services.

The organization has started its own printing of books and gospel tracts. Launching a new enterprise is simply a matter of "journeying towards the fulfillment of the mission that He has given us," says Vadavana. After all, his organization has a multi-faceted ministry that includes not just publishing and printing, but a mobile Gospel team, an

orphanage, a child sponsorship program, mission schools, help for the disabled, vocational training, a seminary, conferences for leaders, evangelistic outreaches, church planting and a bookstore.

More for the Masses

What is next on the horizon for Sathyam? Vadavana is planning to start a magazine. The organization already publishes *Jeeva Vachanam* (Word of Life), a biweekly magazine detailing the activities of the

ministry. The new effort is an attempt to reach more people for Christ in India. “We need abundant grace from above,” says Vadavana. “We request your continued prayer and support.”

Sathyam Ministries

[http://www.sathyam.org/], also known as Sathyam Service Trust and Truth Ministries International, has offices in Tiruvalla, Kerala, India and La Mirada, California, United States.

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