

## CHAIN REACTION

# Telugu *Shepherd's Staff* Launches Scores Of Church-Planters In Key Part Of India

By Keith G. Balsler

*“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2Tim 2:2).*

Following Paul’s principle of training others would set off a chain reaction of multiplication that would cause the Gospel to be spread quickly over the whole world.

This stirring challenge rings out early on in the “How To Train Church Leaders” section of World MAP’s “Bible School in a Book”. India Christian Ministries has risen to that challenge. Using the Telugu *Shepherd's Staff* as their training manual, this organization headed by James Rebbavarapu sent out over 200 pastors to plant new churches this year.

### **Saturated With Prayer**

Telugu is the main native language of Andhra Pradesh, the fifth most populous of India’s nearly three dozen diverse States and Union Territories. The Telugu *Shepherd's Staff* is supplying an abundance of spiritual nourishment in this region known as “the food bowl of India”, located on the country’s southeast coast on the Bay of Bengal. Telugu is often called “the Italian of the East” for its flowing, melodic quality. Far more important than the flow of words, however, is the flood of teaching World MAP’s Telugu training manual opens up for, and through, the pastors who study it – guiding them into a deeper understanding of the Word of God and the work of ministry.

Reinforcing the work the Telugu *Shepherd's Staff* has begun, World MAP will take part in two leadership conferences in Andhra Pradesh in the coming year. The “primary focus” of these events will be “the training, equipping and spiritual refreshment of the pastors and church leaders,” World MAP President Frank Parrish told India Christian Ministries.

James Rebbavarapu responded with the assurance that he and his organization are “praying daily” for the conferences, one to be held in the port city of Visakhapatnam and the other in Ongole. The latter city, a busy commercial center, is about two thirds down the coast between Visakhapatnam and Chennai, where World MAP’s partner ministry India Bible Literature is headquartered in neighboring Tamil Nadu state. Mr. Rebbavarapu promises that these vital leadership training events will be “saturated with prayer.”

### **A Good Turnout**

Thanks to the Telugu *Shepherd's Staff*, churches in Andhra Pradesh are being saturated with sound teaching – through sound teachers. The training of those teachers

is where the “chain reaction” begins.

A church leader turning the pages of World MAP’s “Bible School in a Book” – and the pages of a Bible – will turn out to be “*a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2Tim 2:15). Equally essential, The *Shepherd’s Staff* equips them to turn “babes in Christ” into mature Christians... and to turn out new generations of leaders who will turn many to the Lord.

### **Power To Grow**

When we hear the term “chain reaction” we think of something very powerful. There are of course many kinds of power. There is diabolical power – the power of false teachers who “*secretly bring in destructive heresies*” (2Pet 2:1). This kind of power sets off a chain reaction that can tear churches asunder.

Yet there is an infinitely greater power: the Gospel, which is “*the power of God for salvation*” (Rom 1:16 nas).

There is the power of the Word of God itself (Heb 4:12). This power unleashes a chain reaction of growth – generating scriptural maturity among believers and sparking explosive expansion of the Kingdom of God on earth. This is the power the Telugu *Shepherd’s Staff* seeks to promote. The goal of all *Shepherd’s Staff*-based training is that all may know Christ and “the power of His resurrection” (Phil 3:10).

**Editor’s note:** Your support makes this training possible. Your donations funded the Telugu *Shepherd’s Staff* books that these new church leaders are using, and your donations help pay other seminars in India and other developing nations. To continue providing this powerful training for our brothers and sisters, see our [donation page](#). To receive a free subscription to DIGEST magazine (available only in the United States and Canada), call Pat McCratic at the World MAP office, 818-843-7233.