



Discipleship in Depth
ServeNow Church project
In India and other countries

ServeNow
procrastinate later

Introduction and Overview

When *ServeNow* was launched in January 2013, we had a basic idea of where we wanted to minister, but could never have imagined the positive effects such ministry would have on the churches we began partnering with and what a long term result it would have for both numerical church growth and in-depth discipleship.

ServeNow first launched the project *God's Word for God's New people* in India in May 2013, with the hope we would be able to minister to approximately 100 churches. The need was enormous, and today after 19 months, we are working with over 700 churches in India.

Since then we have launched the same program in Nepal with approximately 100 churches involved. In Uganda we now have a network of 300 churches. In January 2015 we began a similar project in war-torn Ukraine, with the hope to involve 100 churches initially.

The Basic Ingredients

God's Word for God's New People

Not even three years ago we began helping some churches in the remote villages and deepest slums in India. Why? They had a problem.

Approximately 90 percent of the pastors of these churches come from a Hindu, Muslim, or Buddhist background. Some Christian evangelist came to the area, shared the gospel, led the person to Christ and then gave him or her a Bible in their language. Contrary to the West, this person became very excited and shared this newfound faith with everybody. People came to listen. It went from telling the conversion story, to stories out of the Bible they had received. These listeners in turn come to faith in Jesus Christ and become new believers.

By default this convert becomes the pastor of a church of these new believers. He is the only one who has a copy of God's Word. He has no basic training at all, except in the cases of those who have been pastoring more than 7-10 years. As *ServeNow* began to meet with these pastors, we asked if we could provide The Word of God in their language for the believers. The answer was absolutely "Yes!"

ServeNow staff visited each church, first to familiarize them with the Word of

God and how to read it. On the second visit, every new believer received a New Testament or in some instances a Bible directly into their hands. Not every one of these new believers can read, but in each family there is at least one person, often of the young generation, who can read and will read aloud to the entire family every day.



The Story of Jesus

The children in the church receive a copy of the *Story of Jesus*, a comic booklet first developed by David C. Cook and already translated into 50 languages. Over 40,000,000 copies have been printed and placed in the hands of children in those language groups, with phenomenal results. *ServeNow* has already tested 60,000 copies in India with overwhelming receptivity. It has been proven that every copy is read by at least five children.



The India version includes 24 pages, of which the first eight deals with the Supreme and only God as the Creator of the universe. The remaining 16 pages presents the life of Jesus.

The Discipleship Materials for Children

For the children that already are in the church and for those that attend the children's meetings, a discipleship set of training materials (one monthly booklet for 12 months produced by Biblica) is being used. This will further help those children who have become new believers to have some materials with them home apart from simply verbal instruction. As they further mature, a New Testament is also provided for the children.

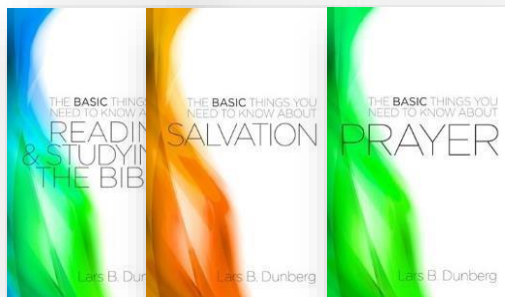
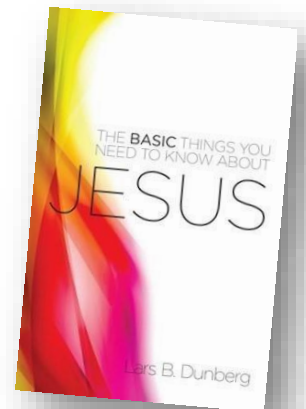
The Basics for God's New People

It really bothered me that neither the new believers nor the "new" pastors had any basic Christian knowledge. Two years ago it dawned on me that they could only handle Discipleship materials in small doses. What about giving them the basics of the Christian faith in small easy to read booklets? At that point I arrived at 30 subjects.

We introduced the first one as *The Basic Things You Need to Know About Jesus*. It is not easy to place Jesus on 32 pages. However, being basic also means that there is no room even to squeeze any heresy into the material!

Today the same believers who have received New Testaments, also receive a new booklet every three months.

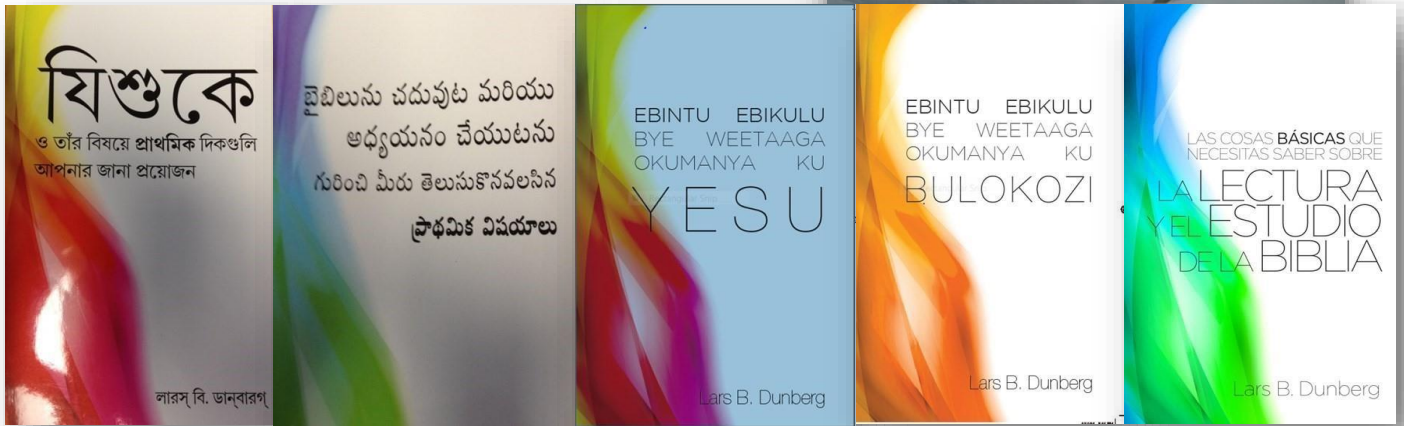
That means we follow them for seven years!



We are now close to the third year and are staying ahead of the need by providing new booklets every quarter. Those who receive them may eventually be more educated than the average pew sitter in the USA!

These booklets are currently available in eleven languages, which will increase when the program starts in other states or countries.

Here are examples of the booklets in five of the eleven different languages:



The Training Process

Before the first booklet is handed out, pastors in the region are invited to a one day training seminar covering the material in the booklet. They are all introduced to a set of prepared sermon outlines that will help them stay focused on the same discipleship material their new believers are reading at the same time.

The Trainers

Apart from volunteers, with evangelical theological education, the *ServeNow India* staff are working full-time with training programs, ensuring that the pastors first are disciplined well, and then these staff members are available to specific sessions in the churches.

Each One Win One

The first booklet disappeared in double digits. Soon we found out why. The pastors encouraged each new believer to go and win some of their neighbors for Christ, They simply took another one of the *Jesus* booklet, and read it together with their neighbors. Then they told them to keep it, come back with questions and then invited them to their church. Almost everyone came.

"We Need a Doctor"

One day one of the pastors told a *ServeNow* staff member: "we have such a need in this village. No one has ever seen a medical doctor." *ServeNow* has a medical doctor on the Board so the following week he, together with some nurses and the staff returned to the village with medical equipment and medicine. Reluctantly at first, 138 Hindus went to church to meet the doctor. Since then churches have requested our assistance so often that *ServeNow* conducts one medical clinic a week, seeing an average of 150-200 patients a day. 80% of all illnesses are water and hygiene related. As the patients leave the church members offer to pray with them and give them the *Jesus* booklet - the story of the Great Physician.



One pastor told us: "Before I could not walk around in the village without the people even spitting on my shadow. Now they invite me inside their little shacks for tea and want to know more about the Great Physician Jesus. They ask me, 'Are we allowed to come to your church?' Of course, they are."

Water, Water



Early summer becomes very hot, up to 125 degrees F with no air conditioning. Last summer the wells dried up and the ground water had become contaminated so even if water was being pumped, it was not suitable for consumption. The pastors came to *ServeNow* and pleaded: "We need to bring the people water but we don't know how." Neither did *ServeNow*, but we learned quickly. We started with 15 churches providing 5 ½

gallon containers two times a week per family, buying it in tank loads from the plants that provide bottled water. We called it "Water of Life." We ended up with 200 churches involved, all serving a couple of hundred families each. Expensive? For \$5 a month we provided clean water to an entire family. Those who had received water were invited to come to the church and hear about living water. Most people came and many found Jesus, who satisfied their spiritual thirst.



Mosquito Nets



Then the drought stopped and the heavens opened. With the rain came mosquitos. They carry malaria and there is no medicine in the villages or slums. The result was that many children died. Again the local church came to the rescue and in partnership with *ServeNow* provided mosquito nets for \$5 dollars each. The people who received nets were then invited to come to church to hear about Christ who is our shield and provider. Many came and found the Lord.

Winter Coverings

Every winter the temperature drops below freezing in Northern India and Nepal. Little children run around wearing barely anything. Elderly are often dressed in only rags. Thousands die each year because of the cold weather.

ServeNow's India staff and church volunteers hand out socks, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters and a blanket as fast as we can provide them. We buy these life-saving items on location. It only takes \$10 per child for all these clothes and provides a blanket for the elderly.



Tailoring School

Human trafficking is an enormous problem in the slums and the poverty stricken villages. Girls have simply no value in the family. If you have boys, you need to make sure they get educated and are married off. Who pays for it? The daughters who are sold into trafficking by their parents.

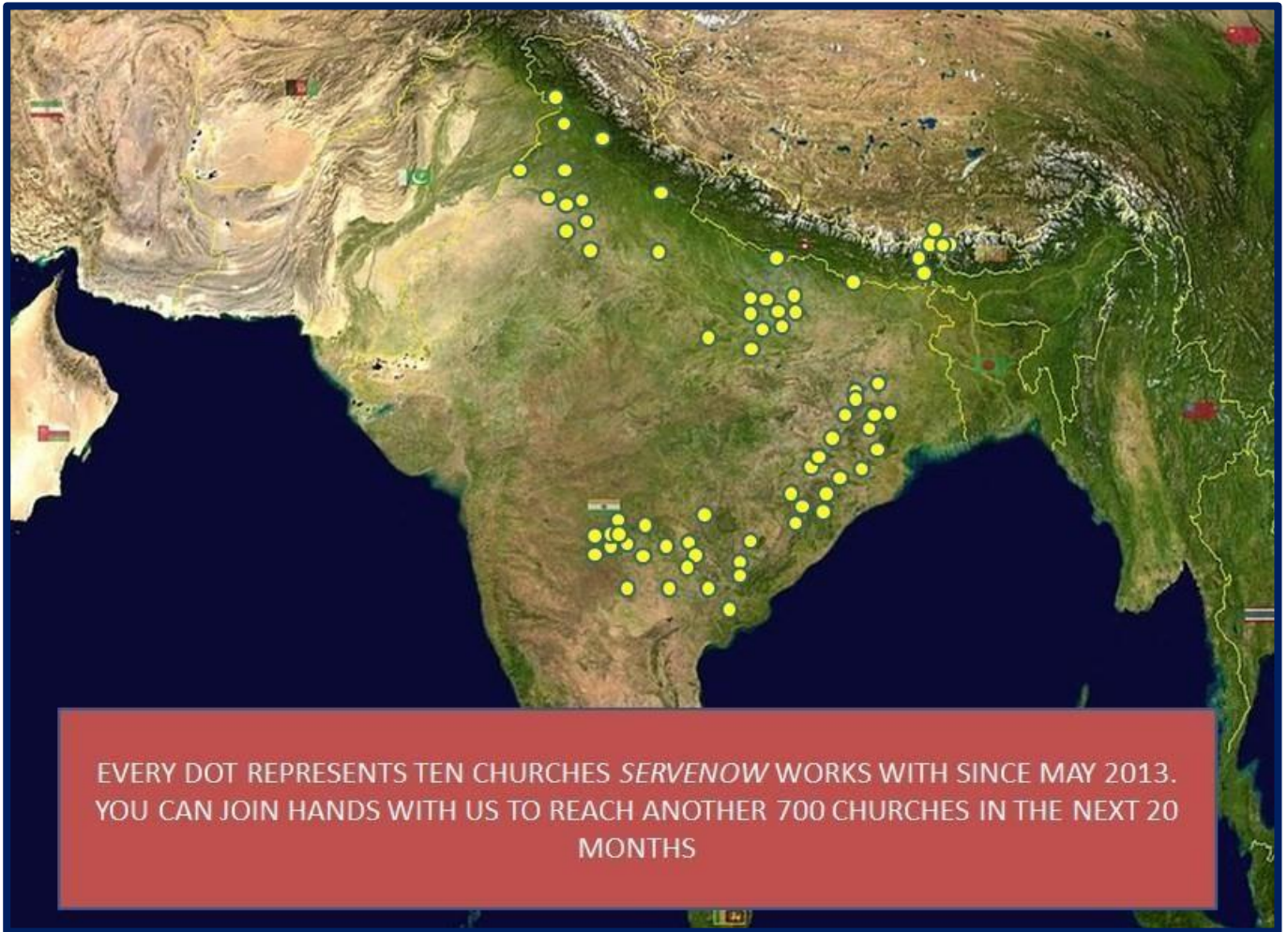
Through the churches we can provide different avenues for the young women to gain a larger value than what the traffickers can pay, to make it more advantageous for the girls to be taught another kind of trade and then earn a living and help their families.



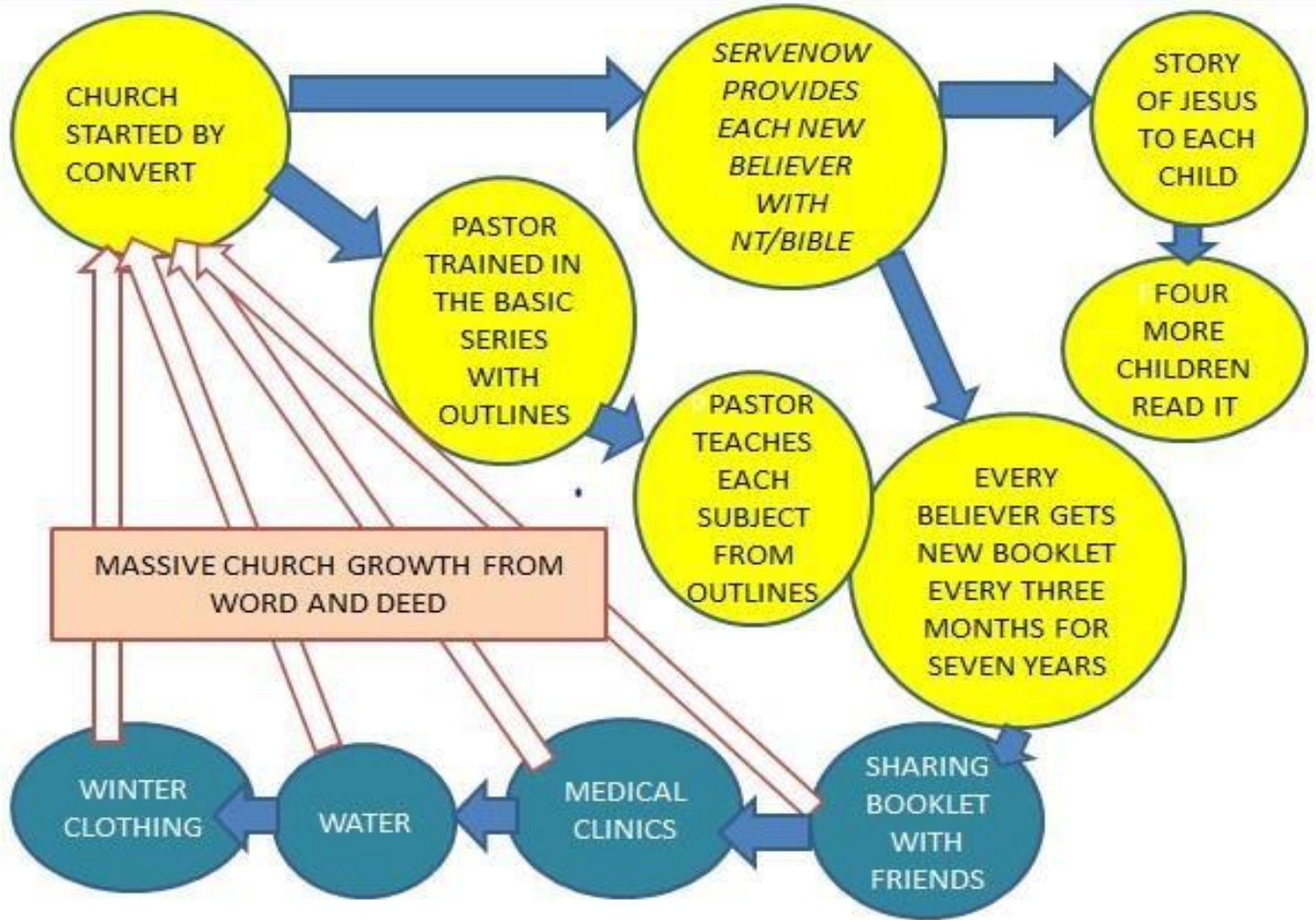
We started with a few sewing machines. Now we run a tailoring school in three different locations in Delhi, and one in Kolkata. The courses are generally six months, with an advanced course for a year. Others go through our cosmetology schools, either six months or one year, with a certificate registered by the government. Many of these ladies set up their salons, and in turn hire other girls trained by us. But it does not just provide hope for business, it is a change of life, as these young ladies have an opportunity to hear the gospel. Over a period of time, one by one they willingly come to Christ.

Church Growth

In October 2014, one pastor told the leaders of *ServeNow*: “While we pastors do this to people because we care for them, the end result is something I could never have imagined. These activities have brought so many people to our church, who have found the Lord and almost doubled the size of the church.



The following chart represents schematically the different components mentioned in this document. It has turned out to be evangelism on a broad scale, a powerful discipleship program to people who never would be discipled in depth, a follow-through for seven years with the same believers until they are fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



What Will it Take to Make it Happen?

To provide New Testaments for one church (50 people)	\$500
To provide the <i>Basics</i> booklets (4) for one year to one church	\$500
To provide the <i>Story of Jesus</i> 1,000 copies for one church	\$250
To conduct a medical clinic for one church	\$313
To provide clean water for a month for 100 families	\$500
To provide winter clothing for 100 children	\$1,000
To provide five sewing machines for the tailoring school	\$995
To train ten young women for ten months, resulting in them being kept out trafficking	\$1,200
Total impact for one church for a year	\$5,258

Final Impact

The impact will be in depth, long-term and result in thousands of new believers being fully disciplined over five to seven years. Hundreds of thousands of children will be hearing the gospel for the very first time, and as they come to Christ, will in turn be disciplined over a seven year period. Every pastor for each of these churches, will be trained to stay ahead of the teaching needed for his congregation.

Because of the power of the Word of God in the lives of new believers, their neighbors will hear the gospel for the first time. Physically ill people, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians, will see the gospel in action through medicine and prayers, while others will experience the love of Christ through water, clothing in the cold or being rescued out of trafficking. The results multiply exponentially, and results in a harvest for the kingdom that almost cannot be measured.



5550 Tech Center Drive, Suite 302
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Ben Foley
(717) 475-4581 cell
(719) 323-2222 office

www.weservenow.org