

The Covid Disaster in India

May 3, 2021

Dear Friends

My first visit to India was in 1991 & in 30 years I have traveled there over 30 times. In 1993 I made my first visit to the small city of Kakinada on the eastern coast to visit Dr. Joseph Yelchuri who manages a government authorized humanitarian relief Society that provides various types of support to the poorest of the poor in this area. For 25 years I have served as a liaison between my church organization in the US and Dr. Yelchuri's organization providing regular financial support for an orphanage, primary schools, vocational training programs, medical care for the poor and disaster relief.



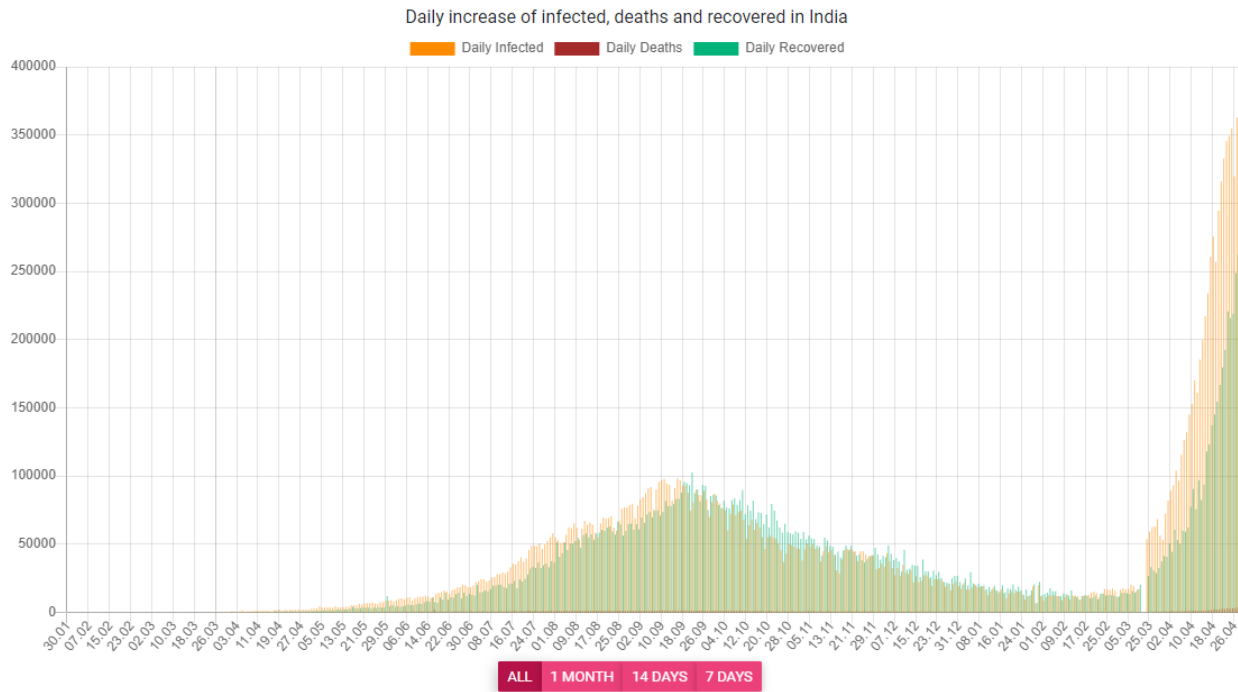
Walking through a slum with Dr. Yelchuri

Joseph has become one of my closest life-long friends over three decades. I have been his houseguest many times in India and he has stayed in our home many times during his visits to the US. As a result, our families have also grown close over the years. Serving in this small way is the most gratifying thing I have had the opportunity to do in this life.

A little over a year ago, when we were all learning about Covid 19, I was convinced that India was facing the worst humanitarian disaster in the history of the world. I have been there so many times, not only as a businessman viewing this mysterious country from the windows of air-conditioned cars, but I have worked along-side Joseph in slums, hospitals and leper colonies feeding and caring for the poor. I understood the extreme crowding, even in rural areas, the lack of sanitation, the shortage of safe drinking water and the absence of health care. I feared this deadly disease would spread like wildfire throughout the 400 Million desperately poor living in thatched huts on dirt floors.

But, on March 24, 2020, Mr. Modi, the Prime Minister implemented the strictest lock down of this country of 1.4 Billion souls. It slowed the Pandemic, but the side effect may have been more devastating than the disease, especially for the poor. Imagine you are an illiterate father with your family living in a grass hut you built with your own hands. You earn a meager living, doing manual labor for an amount equal to US\$ 3.00 per day and then you, your wife and your children cannot even leave your hut for weeks on end.

In a few weeks, when it became obvious many of the 400 million desperately poor would starve to death, the lock down was eased. As you can see in the chart below, in the hot season of 2020 the Pandemic increased and then it began to subside with cooler weather, but now as the hot summer months approach, the spread of Covid and resulting deaths of especially the poor may be catastrophic.



Why don't they vaccinate the poor in India? There is a limited amount of the vaccine in India, but unlike in the US it is not free. The cost is US\$ 4.00 per shot or more than a full day wage for the poor. And what about medical and hospital care if you are poor and you contract Covid? We hold mobile medical clinics on weekends in the slums for the poor with local Doctors donating their time, but this is only "a micro drop in the bucket" of this need!



A volunteer physician in one of our weekend Mobile Medical Clinics

Two days ago, my wife and I sent US\$ 1,500 to buy ten large oxygen tanks. Today I received an email confirming that these tanks had been purchased and are now helping the sick continue to breath and have some hope of recovery. Just in our small area in Kakinada we need hundreds of Oxygen tanks but in the more severe cases we need ventilators that are very scarce and expensive.

I am not writing to ask friends and contacts to donate to our programs in India. There are hundreds of non-governmental organizations you can give to. All 7.8 Billion of us are one family on this planet and if governments will not help, we can first pray and then donate something, so some of our brothers and sisters in this family we call humanity may live through this. But I do trust our small group and I know that our gift this week went 100% to the need because our general administration expenses in India are already met by our church organization.

But if you have contacts in medical organizations that may be able to send one or more ventilators we now have an abundance of in the US, please have them contact us:

Don Sandusky dsandusky@1stsourceproducts.com Tel: 1-812-989-4448 voice or text

Any donations to Christ Gospel Churches Intl. PO Box 786 Jeffersonville IN 47130 U.S.A. should be designated "India Covid Relief".

Or donate online also noting "India Covid Relief" at: www.christgospel.org Donations/Giving

For information on all of our Humanitarian Programs in India please visit www.christgospelindia.org

Please pray for the poor of India and share this post:

