



## Paul Quigley

Madras Diocese, India

Partner Church - Church of South India

### About the Madras Diocese

The Madras Diocese of Southern India consists of the territorial areas of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman Islands. Agriculture remains the largest industry in this region, although urbanisation has contributed to a rise in information technology industries. Since the liberalisation of the Indian economy, the agricultural revenue has decreased and people have been forced to find alternative forms of employment. Although socio-economic levels are improving, the diocese continues to be affected by economic disparity, illiteracy and poverty.

### About Paul

Paul is a UnitingWorld Experience volunteer from Hamilton, Victoria. He has a strong background in agricultural science, and after early retirement from the Department of Primary Industries, Paul was challenged to use his skills in a cross-cultural environment.

Since 2007, Paul has undertaken numerous placements in India where his agricultural skills have been used to build the capacity of Church funded hostels. In addition, Paul has worked with hostel children in improving their English language skills. Paul is excited to once again have the opportunity to equip local people in the areas of agricultural development and the English language.

### The Project

The Madras Diocese is made up of many rural communities, where families live in extreme poverty. Children are often sent to work as agricultural labourers to support their families, but in doing so they miss out on vital educational opportunities that would enable them to have a brighter future. Recognising the need for greater access to schooling, the Church of South India (Madras Diocese) has set up a number of hostels where Dalit (untouchable) children from rural communities may stay and receive access to high level education.

Paul is assisting hostels in the Nagari and Palipet districts of the Madras Diocese in developing sustainable agricultural farms, which will supply food for those at the hostels as well as generate an income for future Church projects. In addition, Paul is equipping students in the hostel with English language skills and building their capacity for high level education. These skills are vital in breaking down class barriers and ensuring that Dalit children receive the same opportunities as their peers.



# Experience Program



## Our Church Partner

The Church of South India is a union of many Protestant denominations spread throughout South India. It is the largest Protestant Church in India and second largest Christian church after the Catholic Church in India. It is one of the four United Churches in the Anglican Communion and the inspiration for this Union was born out of ecumenism.

Primary concerns of the church are evangelism and social justice. Major programmes and activities include evangelism, stewardship, healing and educational ministries, technical and vocational training, rural and urban development, Christian nurture of the congregation, theological education and training of pastors.

"The garden is very large, much of it now planted with seeds. Groups of boys are competing to see who can make the best vegie garden!"

- Paul



## Contact UnitingWorld

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