



Interested in seeing what a UnitingWorld project actually 'looks like' on the ground? Seeking to connect with local people living with poverty and engaged in real poverty alleviation? Keen to see beyond the typical tourist experience in India? Do you want to explore the ways mission and development work hand in hand – the struggles and joys of this relationship?

DO WE HAVE AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOU!

During our time in India, we will be sharing with local church communities in their child-related and community development projects.

The aim is threefold –

- Primarily, the aim is for us to hear from our church and project partners as they teach us about what mission and development look like in their own contexts – the struggles and the moments of grace and hope.

- Secondly, for us to contribute some “hands and feet” to these projects in whatever ways are most appropriate and wanted by our partners, if so desired. From potentially reading to the children, sharing of English, helping in the kitchen – your time will be appreciated. This is also a wonderful way to learn from our partners and to see the way they are working in such a complex location.

- Lastly, to help you make an effective and practical response to people living in extreme poverty. Sharing your learning and the experiences, along with the relationships you have developed, with your family, friends and church community when you return home. Consider ways to raise support for the partners and the work they are doing in their communities to alleviate poverty.

We will attend local Church services and other church-based activities.

We will have a few days at the beginning and end of the trip for some debriefing and tourist activities such as sights and markets in Delhi and the Taj Mahal in Agra, as well as Mother Teresa's Motherhouse in Kolkata.

This is not a holiday! Be open to be confronted and challenged but also to be enriched and greatly blessed by this experience.

InSolidarity:
International exposure visits to partner churches

Church of North India

9-19 April 2012

If you want to know more about InSolidarity visits, check our website at www.unitingworld.org.au or contact:
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UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.



What will we do (approximately!) each day?

Mon 9th	Fly to Kolkata; team briefing
Tue 10th	Kolkata - including a visit to Mother Teresa's Motherhouse and New Market
Wed 11th	Drive to Durgapur
Thu 12th	Visit Urban Development Project
Fri 13th	Visit Urban Development Project
Sat 14th	Visit Rural Development Project
Sun 15th	Attend Church with our Partners in three different communities
Mon 16th	Drive to Kolkata airport; fly to Delhi; dinner and debrief
Tue 17th	New Delhi sightseeing
Wed 18th	Visit Agra: Taj Mahal and Fort
Thu 19th	Fly home

More information about the trip's itinerary will be made available to participants closer to the departure date.

Costs:

1. **Airfares:** approx \$2000 (This includes travel agent fees and internal flights)
2. **Other costs:** approx \$1500 (This includes accommodation, comprehensive travel insurance, internal transfers, tourist activities, meals at Durgapur, UnitingWorld administration cost, training materials and leader's cost)

Participants will be responsible for their own passports, vaccinations, visas, bottled water, and meals outside Durgapur.



OUR PARTNER CHURCH

The Church of North India is the largest Protestant denomination in northern India and is a union church established in 1970. The Church's jurisdiction covers all states of the Indian Union with the exception of the four states in the south and has approximately 1,250,000 members in 3,000 pastorates. This accounts for around two thirds of India and is spread over varied areas, ranging from hills to deserts and to coastal regions, covering both rural as well as urban populations. The church unites people of diverse cultures, traditions and life-styles, journeying with them in their struggles and their joys.

Our partner church has a long history of addressing the development needs of those who are marginalised and struggling with poverty, regardless of their religious or cultural background. Their considerable experience and commitment to social justice for all provides a valuable model for the church worldwide. The Church of North India is committed to breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of nature. The motto of the church is: Unity – Witness – Service.

The Diocese of Durgapur is doing some outstanding development work amongst the children and communities living within the urban slum areas and in the underdeveloped rural areas in West Bengal. Many of these families struggle to access sufficient income to provide for the needs of their families. UnitingWorld Relief and Development are partnering with a number of these projects.

Selection Process

Applications are invited from all interested persons over 18yrs of age. Please contact Hannah Ireland for an application form. The deadline for applications is the 1st Feb 2012. This visit has a maximum of 10 people. Upon acceptance, payment of deposit will secure a place. All participants must be willing to work under and sign agreement with the guidelines of the UCA and the Code of Conduct for international volunteers.

Fundraising

One way we can support our partners is by giving financially. We ask InSolidarity participants to commit to raising a minimum of \$100 towards the projects that will be visited on the trip. Suggestions and procedures for giving will be advised. Of course, we would encourage participants to consider using this as a significant fundraising opportunity to raise even more funds to further contribute to this valuable work. You are not expected to take gifts or money for the project staff, church staff or children.

YOUR TEAM LEADERS

Bronwyn Fraser,

UnitingWorld Development
Education Officer

Bronwyn was a Science teacher for 15 years, working in a wide variety of schools where she enjoyed and facilitated a range of cross-cultural experiences.

After completing a Masters in International Development Studies, Bronwyn also completed an internship through The Centre for Refugee Research at UNSW, which involved Human Rights Advocacy training for refugee women in India. As part of her new role as Development Education Officer for UnitingWorld, Bronwyn has the opportunity to work with Australian Uniting Church School and Church communities in raising awareness of global issues such as poverty and inequality, and to outline the appropriate approaches that lead to good development. The aim of this is to build the awareness of Australian Uniting Church communities and empower them to take the opportunities available to become actively involved, by linking these Australian communities in partnership with our overseas Church partners and projects.



Akino Ogawa

In 2011 Akino went on a four month placement to the Diocese of Durgapur in West Bengal, India. She had studied Development Studies at University but wanted in-field experience 'on the ground'. She was involved with a child development centre and assisted with a new community project, mostly watching and learning from the local project managers. Akino set two goals for herself: to build meaningful relationships with the people she met, and to be open to new experiences and learn as much as she could. Looking back now, she feels that she achieved both of these and feels so connected with the project and the people that she is returning in 2012.