

GCF India, Kotagiri Church and Ministry Activities

1. Church ministry

GCF India-Kotagiri has one main church, and the rest are village ministries conducted as house churches or small gatherings in homes and school verandas.

Main church

1. Location: Havukal
2. Established: December 12, 2022 (3 years)
3. Attendance:
 - Maximum: About 75 members
 - Average weekly attendance: 10-20

Ministry activities:

- Weekly worship service
- Children's programs, including VBS and Bible classes in Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi
- Distribution of school supplies and winter clothes
- Weekly prayer meetings at believers' homes
- Pastoral visits twice a month

Challenges to attendance:

- The majority (approx. 99%) of members work in tea estates, including Sundays
- Church location within a reserved forest, poor road access, and a long walking distance
- Landslides during the monsoon season
- Threats from wild animals (bison, tiger, elephant, bear)
- No electricity at the church building

Despite these challenges, believers continue to attend worship services whenever possible.

2. Sewing Ministry (Women's Livelihood Program)

Locations: Dodani, Conoor, Solumattam

| Location | Trainer | No. of sewing | Participants | Training & outcomes | Ministry impact |
|------------|------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Dodani | Saraswathi | 2 | 5 completed training; 3 currently training | Stitching blouses, skirts, children's dresses, tote bags | Opened access to the village; strengthened relationship with the locals; ongoing prayer ministry |
| Conoor | Menagha | 1 | 4 currently in training | Dress stitching and basic tailoring skills | Regular visits and prayer cell established; several individuals came to faith |
| Solumattam | Hamsa Veni | 2 | 4 currently in training; 10+ per batch | Tailoring skills leading to income generation | Livelihood support, weekly prayer meetings and prayer cell |

Notes:

- Weekly prayer meetings are conducted in all three villages
- Each location has one active prayer cell

3. Film & Media ministry

The film ministry uses visual media to share the Gospel and social awareness.

1. Nursing School Hostel (Kotagiri)

- Conducted weekly on Fridays
- Students from various tribal backgrounds
- Approx. 30% are familiar with the Gospel; 70% have not heard
- Gospel shared through songs, stories, and Christian media (*Superbook*)

2. Primary school – Mamaram (20 km from Kotagiri)

- 95% tribal children
- Animated Bible stories, action songs, and interactive activities
- Gospel illustrated through creative magic shows

3. Government High School – Kotagiri

- Health awareness programs on HIV and cancer prevention
- Attendance of more than 150 students and teachers
- Conducted at the school's invitation during festival programs

4. Drug prevention awareness

- Substance abuse prevention programs
- Gospel message integrated using 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

4. Village ministry

Village ministry is the heart of the GCF India-Kotagiri ministry. It focuses on sharing the Gospel through regular visits and prayer meetings. It helps serve the needs of tribal and underserved communities. Below are the villages that are visited weekly.

Total House Churches: 6

| Village | Attendance | Schedule |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Sundapatty | 25 | Sunday evening |
| Mandarai | 10 | Sunday evening |
| Thuthi Karai | 15 | Sunday evening |
| Selarai | 40 | Saturday afternoon |
| Kil Katapattu | 25 | Saturday evening |
| Kuru Kuntha | 15 | Saturday 8 pm - 9:30 pm |

➤ Activities:

- Worship services
- Bible teaching
- Prayer and testimonies
- Children trained in prayer and worship

➤ Community support:

- School Supplies (school bag and study materials)
- Clothing distribution (new sarees during festivals and used clothes collected from friends and family, winter essentials)
- Rice and groceries such as sugar, pulses, and lentils (occasionally)
- Weekly snacks after meetings

➤ Villages served in total: 30 (Villages are visited at least once a month)

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Kilkothagiri | 11. Chemmannara | 21. Kallikandi |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Athhiyurmattamm | 12. Karikayur | 22. Chamakodal |
| 3. Mettukal | 13. Kattapett | 23. Bakkanamaram |
| 4. Anthikarai | 14. Kelkattapettu | 24. Kokkod |
| 5. Kandipetty | 15. Kurukkuntha | 25. Nadoor |
| 6. Kumaramudi | 16. Kolikuttai | 26. Melkattapettu |
| 7. Baviyur | 17. Chelarai | 27. Thuthikara |
| 8. Kambiyur | 18. Bangalapdikai | 28. Sundapetti |
| 9. Chedikal | 19. Nellimanthikolany | 29. Manthdara |
| 10. Dalamukai | 20. Koppiyur | 30. Koli kara |

5. Children's ministry

Children's ministry focuses on spiritual formation and educational support, encouraging them to find purpose and hope for the future.

➤ School supplies distributed:

- Provided to children in 30 villages

➤ Activities include:

- Sunday School
- Memory Verse and action songs
- Creative Bible Storytelling
- Coloring, Origami
- Youth discipleship and baptism preparation

Summary:

The GCF India-Kotagiri Ministry focuses on church planting, discipleship, children's ministry, women's empowerment, and community support, serving tribal and underserved communities while faithfully continuing its work despite significant geographical and logistical challenges.