

ACTS India Mission – AIM

Introduction

ACTS India Mission (AIM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering local churches and leaders in India. Our mission is to identify, equip, and support faithful men to plant and lead healthy, self-sustaining churches.

Vision:

Self-sustaining, healthy Churches with skilled leadership!

Mission:

Our mission is to identify faithful men from existing churches and equip them with integrated training and holistic development, providing the necessary resources to empower their success in planting and leading self-sustaining, healthy churches.

Vision statement breakdown:

Healthy

1. ***Spiritually Vibrant:*** Churches that prioritize spiritual growth, discipleship, and a deepening relationship with God.
2. ***Relationally Connected:*** Churches that foster a sense of community, belonging, and meaningful relationships among members.
3. ***Multiplied and Reproducing:*** Churches that are committed to reproducing healthy churches, leaders, and disciples, rather than just maintaining their own congregation.

Self-Sufficient

1. ***Financially Stable:*** Churches that are financially independent, with a stable income stream and effective stewardship of resources.
2. ***Locally Led:*** Churches that are led by local, indigenous leaders who are best equipped to understand and meet the needs of their community.
3. ***Independently Thriving:*** Churches that are able to thrive and grow without relying heavily on external support or resources, while still being open to partnerships and collaboration.

Skilled Leadership

1. ***Biblically Grounded:*** Leaders who have a deep understanding of Scripture and are committed to its authority and application.

2. **Visionary:** Leaders who have a clear and compelling vision for the church's future and are able to communicate it effectively.
3. **Practically Equipped:** Leaders who possess the necessary skills and training to effectively shepherd, teach, and lead the church.

Scale of the Challenges:

India, with a population of over 1.4 billion, is home to a significant percentage of the world's unreached people groups. Despite decades of gospel witness, North India remains a region of great spiritual need.

- 2.3% of India's population identifies as Christian (Source: Operation World)

- 70% of churches in India lack trained and equipped leaders (Source: Indian Church Growth Survey)

These Leaders also lack leadership skills to effectively plant healthy, reproducible churches. Without proper guidance and mentorship, these churches will send out church planters that will start new congregations that will be unorganized, weak theologically, and undisciplined. Many in North India seek a better life due to their poverty and lack of economic stability. They are often drawn to the church and to leadership to enhance their own personal status but because they lack education and basic life skills such as health awareness, education, lack of moral understanding, etc. The church are then poor and weak, unable to sustain growth. Most of the churches are also struggling financially and can't meet their daily physical needs. Today's church in North India has fallen behind due to individuals and leaders being dependent on others to meet their needs. This tension often leads to church divisions, false teachings, social inferiority, and other tensions. As a byproduct, children don't follow their parents into vocational ministry, due to seeing the hardships they face.

Methodology of AIM:

AIM's approach is centered on empowering local leaders and churches through:

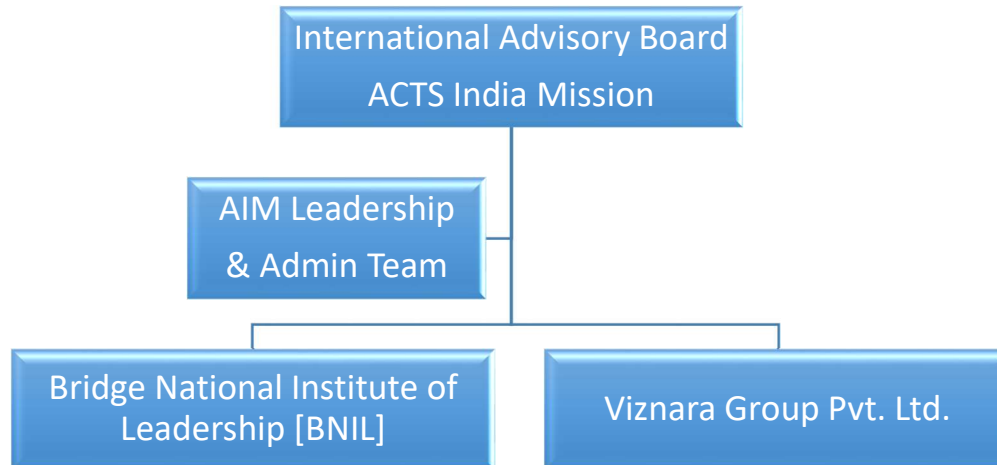
1. **Integrated Training:** Providing comprehensive training in biblical knowledge, leadership skills, and practical ministry experience.
 - a. Our training program includes a combination of classroom instruction, mentoring, and hands-on training.
2. **Holistic Development:** Fostering personal growth, spiritual maturity, and character development in leaders.
 - b. We provide ongoing coaching, mentoring, and support to help leaders overcome challenges and achieve their goals.
3. **Resource Support:** We provide access to resources, Financial Assistance, networks, and partnerships that can help leaders and churches achieve their goals.
 - c. Having observed the struggles of newly trained pastors to support their families, AIM has sought to provide a means for pastors to care for their own families while at the same time starting new churches with fresh converts and making

the best use of available resources. We believe church leaders can only be effective if they are training in leadership skills which is essential to be able to plant/lead a healthy church and if both physical and spiritual needs are being met.

Our strategy is as follows:

- Men who show a natural gift and desire for evangelism are disciplined and invited to a few days of training where they learn how to share the gospel and their own testimony. Those who demonstrate their faithfulness and have positive results in the field are further invited to enroll in a year-long training program. The ministry training happens during weekly two hour sessions. The cost of this year of training for one person is \$350 USD.
- AIM is seeking to use a holistic approach in training their pastors. The training which is taught by both foreign and national experienced leaders, includes not only Biblical knowledge (sound doctrine, evangelism, discipleship, church formation and leadership development), but also administrative skills, strategic planning, and financial management.
- AIM follows a Model-Assist-Watch-Launch model, which means that while in the program participants can begin planting a church. As they transition out of the training program, they remain part of the AIM network, and receive mentorship, accountability, and partnership with other local ministry workers, and have further opportunities for courses and leadership development.
- Some of these students also receive further training in a vocation as they will function as bi-vocational pastors, providing for their own daily needs. Some of these men already have jobs which provide them with an income and only need the extra Bible training and support. Others need help or training to find appropriate work (for example if they were selling charms for idols before becoming a Christian that is no longer an appropriate occupation). In some situations, these men start up new businesses. Vocations range to meet the needs of an area and the abilities of individuals. Some examples of businesses started include running a cyber cafe, an auto rickshaw business, and a clothing business.
- Pastors are sent out in teams of two to new target areas to start a church plant and a new business. This gives them both accountability and encouragement. The team continues to be mentored during the early years of ministry. The startup cost for establishing a team of two ranges from \$4,000 - \$7,000 USD. In some cases, the pastors pay a small portion (20%) of the needed funds and the remainder is given through supporters of AIM. The idea is that this money is a loan, but in some cases it will be a grant. Once the startup costs are covered, the new business provides the income needed to provide for their daily needs. It takes three to six months for a business to be self-sustaining.

Our Ministry Structure:



Bridge National Institute of Leadership (BNIL) The Bridge National Institute of Leadership is a transformative training program of AIM that identifies faithful, mission-minded Christian individuals from existing churches and empowers them to become change-makers. Through comprehensive training in leadership and job skills, the institute equips these individuals to effectively serve their communities and beyond, fostering spiritual growth and Kingdom impact. By investing in the next generation of Christian leaders, the Bridge Institute aims to catalyze a wave of positive change that resonates the whole nation.

VIZNARA Group: A business initiative by Acts India Mission (AIM), that provides sustainable income streams for leaders and churches, is dedicated to empowering Indian families and advancing church planting efforts. Operating on a self-sustaining model, Viznara reinvests profits to fuel business growth and community development, driving positive change in the lives of India's people. As a dynamic, multi-business entity, Viznara partners with skilled professionals to incubate new ventures, shares profits, and generates job opportunities, fostering a thriving ecosystem of social and economic impact.