

SOUTH INDIA

CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION

Dear Fellow Prayer Partners

I know, especially after the passing of David, these letters have been somber, but with this letter, I am happy to report some joyful news from India. I had asked all of you to pray that these upcoming elections would humble the Indian government, which is what happened. In what can only be described as Divine intervention, we have seen the Indian ruling party, the BJP, lose its parliamentary majority. This was a shock result as most exit polls were projecting that the Hindu nationalist party, the BJP, would easily cross the halfway mark in the Indian parliament. The Hindu nationalists had already outlined their plans for a third term, which would include the elimination of minority groups in India, which they described as "infiltrators". It seems this very partisan and non-secular language played a major role in the surprise electoral defeat of the Hindu nationalist party.

I know for many people in the U.S., the Indian parliamentary system can be a little alien and hard to understand. This is because the Indian government was modeled after the British system of government because India had been a colony of the British Empire for many years. India's head of government, the Prime Minister, functionally runs the Indian government and is elected by the political party that gains a simple majority in India's lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, equivalent to the U.S. House of Representatives. For any party to form the government, they need a majority; otherwise, they need to work with regional parties to form a coalition, which has been the norm in India. Narendra Modi, who is the current Prime Minister of India who has described himself as a proud Hindu Nationalist, was able to break years of coalition government in 2014 to lead the Hindu Nationalist party, the BJP, to win 282 seats well above the simple majority mark of 272 and was able to rule without any accountability. In this election, however, Mr Modi's party underperformed and lost control of their parliamentary majority, which means Mr Modi now relies on regional parties to stay in power.

What does this mean? Well, it means the BJP will have a harder time implementing their well-documented plans to persecute Christians across India. If the BJP won a majority in India's parliament, they were planning to change India's constitution, which makes it a secular nation that grants religious freedom to every religion. The BJP wanted to amend India's constitution to make India Hindustan, in which India would become the world's first

nationalist party, the BJP, watched in stunned silence as the BJP saw their 303 seat majority reduced to 240 seats, well below the majority mark needed to form a government in India. With the Hindu Nationalist Party relying on regional parties or political parties with a stronger base in their regional states, it will be harder to pass laws. Mr. Modi's two main allies who helped him stay in power are political parties that believe in religious freedom. It will be much harder for Mr Modi to push his Hindu nationalist agenda, with the two main allies opposed to this agenda, and they could withdraw support for Mr Modi's government if he pushes this agenda.

Finally, wow, your prayers worked. Mr Modi and the Hindu nationalists were humbled by the shocking election results that now make them depend on secular local political parties. Sometimes, you feel the power of prayer in the course of life, and this is one of those times I felt your prayer caused the humbling of the Hindu nationalists. The Lord has granted us an opportunity that we must build on to increase our discipleship groups across India. This opportunity the Lord has granted us will let us plant more churches built out of strong discipleship groups that come together to build a church. The opportunity will allow us to increase our Christmas program so that non-believers will not be pulled in by corporate Christmas but rather discover Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Christ. I want to praise you all for your prayers. With your prayers and faith in the Lord, we have the opportunity to reach thousands of more lives to be saved. I just want to conclude that opportunity will grant us the ability to have thousands of more lives worship and praise along with your prayer partners when we are called home to worship and praise him for eternity.

God Bless,

Philomina Morris

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We have always looked for more ways to connect with you our partners in our continuing mission to spread God's word to Indians. Our mission has just launched a new podcast which you can find on Spotify our new podcast is named SICCM Fresh from the Field. We hope that this will help in connecting with our loyal prayer partner hopefully every week. The link to the podcast is <https://open.spotify.com/show/3ewk3WY3SdGeribskmIRKI> we look forward to connecting with you on this [Continue](#) w avenue of listening with you.

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