

## Local Church

# I Thought It Would Be Impossible

Proverbs 11:30 — “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

Sugandai achieved only what she dared to dream of. She got sick very often for long periods and needed to take medication to survive. Her illnesses prevented her from doing many things. But with the aid of the Life Hope Centre in Trinidad, her life improved.

“I used to feel sick, but with exercise and diet control, I stopped taking my meds,” Sugandai said. “Now I’m doing things I couldn’t do before. At the age of fifty-five, I thought this would be impossible.”

The Life Hope Centre is an Urban Centre of Influence (UCI) in the community of Brickfield on the island of Trinidad. One of the largest Hindu temples in the country is just a few blocks away. Whenever visitors walk past the Life Hope Centre, they are drawn to the colourful sign that offers a variety of services aimed at satisfying the needs of the community. Christine Mathura, manager of the centre, did a community needs assessment before the UCI opened its doors. “We found that children in this community can’t read properly,” explained Christine. “So, we enrol not only the children but also the parents, so that the children will come with them.”

The Life Hope Centre began offering math and literacy classes for children ages six to fifteen, and a preschool program for younger children. For adults, UCI offers fitness and healthy living classes that teach the community how to prevent disease and improve quality of life.

The Life Hope Centre’s holistic approach has led many people to receive academic and physical training, as well as to find hope in Jesus. Employees regularly receive requests for spiritual counselling, Bible classes, and prayer. “Thanks to the centre, we were able to plant a church,” Christine said, “and now we have twenty-five people attending the services.”

**Appeal:** All over the world, there are dozens of Centres of Influence like this one. Pray for these projects so that, through friendship and compassion, people can glimpse God’s love. Thank you for changing lives with your Global Mission offerings! The 2018 mission offering was sent to Trinidad and helped this Centre of Influence.