



In India, nothing is certain. . .

. . . but hope is possible
through the ministry
of Lutheran World Relief

Development projects and relief efforts supported by Lutheran World Relief bring life, health, and economic self-sufficiency to thousands of people in cities and villages through out India.

Text and photos by the Rev. Paul F. Heykes

Gene Thiemann, Lutheran World Relief's program director for Asia, says that when traveling in India, "Nothing is certain." He spoke the truth. Time and time again during the first two weeks of February 1997, the 19 participants on LWR's "Passage Through India" study tour found themselves facing situations where no one was certain about what would happen next.

Within the first 24 hours in Delhi, a member of the group lost money, passport and plane tickets to a pickpocket. A week later an eight-hour bus ride turned into an 18-hour ordeal when police demanded a 6000 rupee bribe (about \$170) to cross a state line. The drivers refused to pay and took a "short" detour—about 200 kilometers long! Even as the journey neared the end, the group arrived at Arungabad's airport not knowing if three of its members had seats on the flight back to Delhi.

Yet despite the uncertainties of travel in India, LWR's study tour successfully traversed 2500 miles, visiting five major cities, numerous small villages, and close to a dozen agencies and projects supported by LWR.