

# Indian Gospel Dance

"To experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Indian dance" - this is the intention of an ecumenical learning project set up by Mrs. Muthu Jayakumar, a grade school teacher from India and wife of the ecumenical co-worker Rev.Edwin Jayakumar (Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church) in the ev.-luth. Church of Brunswick, Germany. The project is offered to interested schools and congregation in the region of Brunswick and Wolfenbüttel.



Mrs.Jayakumar who lives in Germany since 1996 developed the idea for the project while working on a Christmas play for schools with her husband and Rev.K.J.Burckhardt, ELM Representative for Mission & Ecumenism in the ev.-luth.Church of Brunswick. She worked out dance movements for some biblical stories and trained three girls to perform the dances, first for small church groups of 20-30 people, but later even for larger audiences of 200 - 2000 people. "It's lots of fun for the children" Muthu Jayakumar says, "and I like it, too, although I am not a professional dancer nor a dancing teacher myself. "

Mrs. Jayakumar doesn't like to talk much about her talents - but the congregations who have seen a performance of Indian Gospel Dance do. So far the response of groups in Braunschweig, Schöningen and Hemannsburg has been very exciting and encouraging. When the three 9-year-olds Esther Jayakumar, Vera Budde and Nicola Burckhardt illustrated the Gospel story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus (Lk.24) during the Mission Fest 98 of the Ev.-luth. Mission of Lower Saxony (ELM), 2000 participants watched and applauded. "We were very excited, but it was great", said the three girls and laughed.



If your school or congregation would like to know more about the ecumenical learning project on Indian Gospel Dance (for children) or other projects Fam.Jayakumar has to offer while they are in Germany ( "Divali & Christmas - The mystery of Light in India and Germany") please do not hesitate to contact us under the following address: