

# GBBM Monthly Newsletter



Happy New Year and greetings from your friends at GBBM. I want to start the New Year/2022 by thanking you (our friends, partners, sponsors, and brothers/sisters in Christ) for your prayers and financial support. 2021 was another challenging year for the World, India, and the Banjara people as all were impacted by COVID and lots of other issues tied to global warming, politics, supply chain, war, etc., overall, seems like lots of bad news.

But the Good News for those accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is:

- we know God is good
- we know life on earth is a fine mist (here today /gone tomorrow)
- we know God is Sovereign
- we know we have the Holy Spirit with us, to guide and help us
- we know we have God's Word for guidance, truth, and comfort
- we know our treasure is not on this earth but in heaven
- we know we have been blessed to be Children of the King

We thank God for the Good News, for the blood shed at the cross and we thank each of you for enabling us to share this good news with the unreached, lost Banjara people.

I hope you enjoy this month's GBBM New Letter.

*Pastor Naik*

---

## 2021 Activity Report

Key Growth Areas	
Villages Served	274
People hearing the Gospel	42,644
People hearing the Gospel for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time	14,827
People hearing the Gospel for 2 or more times	27,817
People accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour	1,264
Children attending children's ministry programs	2,718
Active worship locations/home churches (less than 10 believers)	68
Active worship locations/home churches (more than 10 believers)	53
Believers attending worship in a week	1,613
Offering collected (Indian Rupees)	229359
Pastor assistants/future leaders	53
New home churches	13
Baptisms	211

# Church Planter Updates

Church-Planter Rev. K. Joseph



Pavan and Sandhya with their mother

Nehemiah and Amala are believers and through them several Banjara people have been led to Christ. Before being saved, they worshiped Hindu Gods and idols. They were baptised in 1999 and know that only through the love and forgiveness of Jesus are sinners saved.

Nehemiah and Amala were blessed with two children, a daughter Sandhya, and a son Pavan. Both children are currently attending school. The children were brought up in a Christian home and were active in church activities. While raised as Christians by their parents, the children were very casual in their belief. They were influenced by Hindu friends and were grew up perplexed in their religious beliefs.

The children attended church services, learned Bible stories but never confirmed their belief in Jesus Christ. During COVID lockdown while attending Bible study in their church, Rev. Joseph was teaching about creation, sin, and other Bible stories. During this Bible study as Rev. Joseph discussed heaven and hell, both children understood and accepted that Jesus Christ died on cross for their sins and rose again from death defeating sin. Both Sandhya and Pavan confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Though they accepted and believed in Jesus Christ, they did not inform relatives and friends because if they believe in Jesus Christ, it is difficult to get married in India.

Rev. Joseph taught them that they need to accept Jesus Christ before their church member family. Sandhya and Pavan came to understand that having a personal relationship with Jesus was more important than social customary affairs and that the things of this world are insufficient to have salvation. Both Sandhya and Pavan started the new year off right when they were baptised 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

Please pray for their faith in Jesus and that Sandhya and Pavan be witnesses for other Banjara people.

**Church-Planter Rev. Laxman Naik**



1. Sabitha, 2. Maheswari, 3. Lenin Naik, 4. Gandhi Naik, 5. Siddu Naik, 6. Mahesh Naik, 7. Saradha Bai, 8. Abhishake Naik, and 9. Surya Naik

Photos above show 9 people being by baptized by the pastor.

## **Balu Naik and Saradha**

Balu Naik and Saradha are believers, the information below is part of their story.

During April of 2021 Balu was suffering from a stomach-ache, as time passed the condition grew increasingly worse. Eventually, he became very weak and could not walk. Several doctors treated him, but his condition did not improve.

His entire church prayed for him, but his condition did not improve. A non-Christian, Saradha, took Balu for treatment to the witchcraft doctors. They visited many of the pilgrim places and offered multiple goat and sheep sacrifices. Eventually they realized there was no hope for his survival and planned to allow him to die.

At this time, Adithya, a Christian friend of Balu, learned of his deteriorating health and informed Pastor Laxman Naik. Adithya and the Pastor visited Balu and started praying for him. Balu's wife Saradha was aware of the prayers but "knew" the foreign god Jesus Christ would never and could not heal Balu from his ill health. However, she curiously observed and listened to their prayers.

During this time, Saradha spent time worshiping the Hindu gods, but she could not find any peace of mind during her worship time. But, when Adithya and Pastor Laxman Naik were praying for Balu, she did find some comfort. She realised that when Balu was actively praying in their home, he was good, they were happy, and they enjoyed a peaceful life. She realised the power of prayer and started praying for her husband. Jesus Christ heard her prayers and slowly started healing him from his illness.

Saradha confessed that being away from the only real God Jesus Christ made her husband become sick. She learned through this sickness that Jesus Christ is only the God who can heal and help during times of trouble. Saradha realised her mistake, confessed her sins, and accepted Jesus Christ as her personal saviour and was baptized.