



## GBBM Monthly Newsletter (May 2022)

"if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

**John 8:36**

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I hope everyone's spring is going well as another school year comes to an end with summer fast approaching. Most of India spent the majority of April under a very severe heat wave. The daily temperature often reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Many Banjara people work in the fields for their daily livelihood and the weather impacted outdoor activities as people attempted to seek some relief.

This month's newsletter has several stories shared by GBBM's church planting pastors. These stories serve to remind us that our God is always good, merciful, and full of Grace. We understand that the storms of life, including heat waves, will come but if we build our lives/our homes on His Word then we are standing on solid ground, and we can rest in the comfort provided by our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hoping that you will enjoy reading about the wonderful work of the Lord among the Banjara people and praise Him.

Thank you for joining hands with us as we share the good news with the lost Banjara people in the villages of India.

Yours in Him,

Pastor K S Naik

## Church Planters Activity Update

The GBBM Church Planting Pastors made fewer April visits to villages due to extreme heat, increased hostility against Gospel work in the Karnataka State and because of a focus on children and VBS during summer holidays.

Key Growth Areas - 2022	April
Villages served	284
People hearing the Gospel (Total Presentations)	2,357
a. People hearing the Gospel for the first time	961
b. People hearing the Gospel 2 or more times	1,396
People accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	118
Children attending ministry programs	2,467
House Churches	132
a. House churches < 10 believers	79
b. House churches > 10 believers	53
Believers attending worship in a week	1,146
Offering collected (Indian Rupees)	\$16,844
Pastor assistants/future leaders	64
Baptisms	15

## Evangelism, Baptisms and Prayer Request

### Narasimha Reddy and Family

Narasimha Reddy was addicted to alcohol for many years. His wife could no longer deal with his addiction and moved with their two teenage girls to Bangalore. Pastor Venkataraman met with Narasimha and shared the Gospel. It took several months for Narasimha to understand and believe the Gospel. To everyone's amazement, the Lord saved him, enabled him to overcome his addiction, and he was baptised. Narasimha's life looks much different now, he has become a dependable employee at his job, he spends time reading the Word of God and growing in his faith. He has been visiting his family in Bangalore and has re-established his relationship with his daughters. Please join us in praising God for His mercy for Narasimha and in prayer for this family's healing and reconciliation.



## Geetha and Mohan:

Geetha and Mohan have been married for 8 years and had no children. Because they desired a family, they consulted multiple doctors, took different medicine, participated in religious pilgrimages, and visited witch doctors. None of their efforts resulted in a pregnancy. They eventually visited Immanuel Bible Church (a GBBM Church) at the invitation of Rama Mandari. Pastor Sathyam and the church started praying for them.



Geetha continued to attend the church and after six months Mohan joined her at church and in prayer. After attending the church for a year, Geetha

conceived, and by God's Grace they were blessed with a daughter. We praise God for this miracle and pray they continue to grow in their Christian faith and follow Christ for rest of their lives.

## Mamatha Baarik:

Mamatha and Chandu Baarik were blessed with a daughter ten years ago. Since that time, Mamatha has been humiliated by her husband and family members for not bearing a son to carry on their family name. Chandu is an alcoholic, he has threatened to divorce Mamatha and marry another woman to give him a son. Mamatha knew of a GBBM church in her area and visited ~ 9 months ago. Pastor Sathyam and the church started praying for Mamatha and her situation. To her surprise, she became pregnant 5 months after attending church. Please join us in praying for Mamatha and her family. Chandu is opposed to her church attendance, we pray his heart is softened and that he joins her in church attendance. We pray for his recovery from addiction, we pray that the Lord gives them a child that they love and cherish.



## Naagu and Sharada Naik

Naagu Naik and his family had been struggling with many issues. Naagu has polio, the family's chicken selling business was suffering and their oldest daughter Bhavitha had on-going unexplained health issues. The family believed Bhavitha's health problems were associated with witchcraft. To counteract the witchcraft, they began

offering sacrifices to the Banjara gods and goddesses. They consulted a witchdoctor to help with the issues but neither their daughter's health nor their financial problems improved. As their business plunged further into debt and Bhavitha's health deteriorated, they lost all hope.



Finding no relief from their problems, they met with Pastor Sakram Naik. Pastor Sakram consoled the family, prayed for them, and frequently visited them. Pastor Sakram shared the Gospel, and their faith grew. But the people in the village were not pleased with the Naik family. They mocked them when they were praying and rejected them for worshipping an "American god". They refused to associate with the family. However, Naagu and his family's faith in Jesus Christ gave

them the strength to ignore the persecution. Pastor Sakram continued to support Naagu and his family and to strengthen them spiritually. The entire family was convinced Jesus Christ is the living God and only through His blood are one's sins washed away. They believed the Gospel, confessed their sins, and witnessed in baptism.

In His timing, the Lord blessed this family. Bhavitha regained her health, The family opened a new vegetable shop in their village. Naagu was able to acquire land which is providing a good income. The family dug a borewell which yielded springs of water for agricultural use. They have become a blessing for many Banjara families in the village by providing work. The family continues to grow in their love for our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Please join us in our prayers that this family can serve as salt and light in their village.

## GBBM Vacation Bible School (VBS)

GBBM is conducting VBS in scores of villages, approximately two thousand five hundred children are enjoying VBS.



# ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL UPDATE

By God's Grace, Aletheia successfully completed the academic year. The children are on summer vacation till June 12th.

## ABS Sports-Week

ABS celebrated SPORTS-WEEK in April. Students participated in multiple athletic events, dancing and singing, essay writing and elocution. The children had a great time and 167 students won prizes.



Sports Week Award Winners

## Graduation Celebration

ABS was founded in 2009 with K-3rd grades. In 2017, ABS celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> graduating class. 2022 students were the 6<sup>th</sup> graduating class from ABS.



Pastor Naik praying over the ABS 2022 graduating class.