



GBBM Monthly Newsletter (October 2022)

"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up". Proverbs 12:25

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing".
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from India and the Memphis, TN area where Sujatha and I are enjoying the cool fall weather. Our trip to the United States has been a blessing to us as we have visited with many friends and have been afforded the opportunity to share the story of the Banjara people with many new connections.

Despite mounting opposition to Christianity in India, the GBBM Church Planting Pastors (CPPs) and active believers are standing firm in their faith and witnessing to friends and family. God has been blessing the efforts of the church; during September the Gospel was presented to 5,478 people with 3,675 people attending weekly worship services.

This newsletter contains GBBM's third quarter ministry results, I wanted to highlight a few key points: 22 new villages were reached, 18 house churches started and 47 people were baptized. We praise to God for all He is doing among the Banjara people.

Our team is busy preparing for GBBM's 20th anniversary celebration, January 14 - 16, 2023. The GBBM family wants to extend an invitation to all partners to join us in India for the celebration as together we witness, praise God, and celebrate His Goodness. Please respond to this email if you would like additional information re: GBBM's celebration.

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

Pastor K S Naik

Church Planter Activity Update

	Key Growth Areas - 2022	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July	Aug	Sept.	Total Jan-Sept
01	Villages Served (Monthly)	304	374	346	351	396	396
02	New Villages Reached (Updated Quarterly)	30	70	-	-	22	122
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total Presentations)	13,298	9,258	3,984	3,919	5,478	35,937
	a. People hearing the Gospel for the first time	6,200	4,382	2239	1988	2769	17,578
	b. People hearing the Gospel 2 or more times	7,098	4,876	1745	1931	2709	18,359
04	People accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	353	323	217	302	263	1,458
05	Active Bible Study Groups	20	71	90	98	124	124
06	Children Being Ministered (Monthly)	1647	2,378	1789	2721	2794	2,435
07	House Churches	132	136	136	136	154	154
	a. House Churches with < 10 Baptized Believers	79	72	72	72	90	90
	b. House Churches with > 10 Baptized Believers	53	64	64	64	64	64
08	Believers Attending Worship (weekly)	1665	1,470	2,129	2,128	3,675	2,644
09	Monthly Offering Collection (Indian Rupees)	67,541	67,408	37,924	32,344	28,111	233,328
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders In Training	64	87	137	137	137	137
11	New House Churches (Updated Quarterly)	11	4	-	-	18	33
12	Baptisms	39	53	17	13	17	139

GBBM Praise & Prayer Request

PRAISE GOD



The GBBM ministry focuses on evangelism, discipleship, training leaders and church planting. During the month of September many GBBM second- and third-line leaders joined the Church Planting Pastors in witnessing to friends and family members. This new activity increased the number of gospel presentations and weekly church service attendance. Many new visitors

heard the gospel for the first time and many people have been healed after receiving prayer from the church members. We praise God for giving our junior leaders to courage to share his Word during this time when Christian persecution is at an all-time high in India.

Sunkal Naik and his wife **Bhangaari** have been believers for many years.



Their children are not Christians. Sunkal recently broke his thigh bone; when he visited the local hospital for treatment, he was informed that his age (80+) coupled with kidney issues and other ailments would prevent the doctors from performing the needed surgery due to considerable risk. His sons wanted to take him to a larger hospital in the city for the needed surgery, but both parents

decided to stay in their village as they did not want to miss church services. Due to leg pain and other health issues, Sunkal stopped eating. The village's non-Christians worried Sunkal would die during their festival time and that they would need to stop the celebrations as his death would defile the festival. Sunkal's wife and his GBBM Church family took care of him and prayed for God's mercy for Sunkal. God has been gracious and Sunkal started feeling much better. We praise God for his recovery and pray for his continued healing.

Our brother in Christ, **Mohan** needed a major bypass surgery. His doctors gave him only a 20% chance of survival. Mohan's church family did not focus on the doctor's grim facts but prayed earnestly to the Great Physician for Mohan's surgery and His hand on the doctors during the surgery. We praise our God who made the surgery successful. We praise our Lord, Jehovah-Rapha who heals.



Prayer Requests:

PRAY to GOD for:

Vennela is the first baptised believer in a GBBM Church near Hyderabad. She is the only Christian in her family. She turned 20 this year and has been a believer for over 6 years. Vennela's family members are ashamed of her faith in Jesus, they no longer allow her to attend church and force her to worship idols. Vennela has a speech disability; her family also sees her Christian faith as a disability and believes these two issues will prevent her from ever being married. Her family has attempted to cut off her contact with her church family. But, because of the love of Jesus, Vennela is strong in her faith and in her love for our Lord. Please pray that the Lord softens the hearts of her family members, and that God guides Vennela on the path He has planned for her.



Soanibai is a brand-new believer who accepted Christ as her Saviour October 9th. When her family members learned about her faith in Jesus Christ, they placed her under house arrest and began to harass her severely. Please pray that the Lord increases her faith during her current trials, that Soanibai can rest in His peace and that she experiences the joy that only Christ can provide, and that man cannot take away.



Pastor Raju started a Church in Yerradhoddi Thanda with 6 believers in a rented house in December 2021. Things were going well until September when Muslims in this town decided they didn't want a church in the village. They threatened the landlord and he elected to no longer allow church meetings in the rented home. The church is now meeting in a believer's house that is not large enough or conveniently located for the members. Please pray that the Lord may provide a suitable place for the church to meet and worship Him without hindrance.



Pastor Mahabubsingh and his wife **Ramabai** began evangelizing in the Gundenga area in February 2022. They rented a house that served as their home and a shop for clothing sales. They started making new relationships and friends by selling clothes to the villagers. After receiving interest from a few seekers, they planned to host a prayer meeting, but their landlord informed them that they are not allowed conduct any Christian activities in this property. Please pray that the Lord softens the landlord's heart or provides a new location for the church.

ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL UPDATE



The ABS students (grades Pre-K – 10th grade) are doing well this year and enjoying being back in school full time.

Manjula - ABS Graduate Update:

Manjula Naik Banavath was a member of GBBM's first graduating class in (2017). When she joined ABS in 2009 as a 3rd grade student, she did not know any of the English alphabet but did not want to start in a lower grade with younger students. In 6th grade her father stopped her from attending school. Pastor Naik met with her father, and he agreed to let Manjula attend school again. With hard work, the loving support of



ABS staff and God's grace Manjula graduated with good grades.

She is currently pursuing a degree in Electrical and Communication Engineering in Hyderabad. Manjula also joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC), the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces. The program is open to school and college students on voluntary basis and is engaged in developing the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens. She also participated in the NCC Parade in Republic Day Celebrations and had the honour of meeting the Indian President in New Delhi.

The ABS teachers and staff thank God and the sponsors of our students for children like Manjula who we are privileged to see grow from a small insecure child to a successful young woman with a bright future. Manjula's goal is to get her master's degree in Space Technology in the United States and to work for a satellite company.

While the GBBM and ABS team is pleased to share this story about Manjula's earthly successes, we must give praise to God for His goodness because during her time at ABS Manjula accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour. We are honored to have played a role in His plan for our sister in Christ. We thank each of you for the prayers and support you provide that allow us to share the Good News with the Banjara children.

