



GBBM Monthly Newsletter (August 2023)

“Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,” *Deuteronomy 10:12*

Dear Brethren in Christ, greetings from India!

We praise the Lord for bringing teams to India to encourage and train GBBM leaders. Harvest Church of Memphis sent a team in September to provide training. 145 people including GBBM church planting pastors (CPPs), their wives and many second line leaders attend the meetings and enjoyed the fellowship, learning and sharing.

Banjara people regularly engage in idol worship and animal sacrifice. During September and October, animal sacrifice increases. During the Dussehra festival, most families sacrifice at least one male goat or sheep to their goddess. People also celebrate with increased alcohol consumption during this festival. Very few celebrate based on their love for their deity. People participate out of fear and to appease their goddess. During the Dussehra festival, GBBM CPPs are careful as people are less receptive to the Gospel, often intoxicated and potentially violent to Christians.

Christian persecution in India continues to increase but our Gospel work has not changed. Recently a GBBM CPP was attacked by villagers while conducting a Bible study with a believer's family. Despite the challenges, we praise the Lord for August's results as the GBBM team: shared the Gospel with 7,930 people, hosted 4,182 children in programs, rejoiced as 268 people accepted Jesus, and 24 people were baptized.

Aletheia Banjara School has 418 enrolled students. The students are busy taking their 2nd Formative Assessment Tests. ABS celebrated Teacher's Day on September 5th. All the teachers were honored by students and management.

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 Planters Activity Update

	Key Growth Areas - 2023	July
01	Villages Served (Monthly)	464
02	New Villages Reached (Updated Quarterly)	-
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total)	7,930
	a. People Hearing the Gospel (First Time)	4,556
	b. People Hearing the Gospel (2 or More Times)	3,374
	c. Number of Gospel Presentations	2,955
04	People Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	268
05	Active Bible Study Groups	104
06	Children Being Ministered To (Monthly)	4,182
07	House Churches	163
	a. House Churches (< 10 Baptized Believers)	97
	b. House Churches (> 10 Baptized Believers)	66
08	Believers Attending Worship (Weekly)	1,859
09	Offering Collection (Indian Rupees - Monthly)	\$52,958
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders in Training	137
11	New House Churches (Updated Quarterly)	-
12	Baptisms	24

Blessed to have Harvest Team: Harvest Church of Memphis sent a team to teach GBBM Church Planters and leaders of House Churches. A team of five led by their Missions Pastor visited India the first week of Sept. and taught from the Book of Genesis with a focus on Chapters 1-11. The training focused on the foundational truths of the Bible. Participants enjoyed attending the eye-



opening and encouraging training sessions.



GBBM thanks Harvest for sending a team; and welcomes more churches to visit India, visit ABS, meet the Banjara people, and provide training and encouragement for leaders.

PRAISE GOD:

Lalu returned to Jesus: Lalu was saved in the early years of CPP David's ministry. Lalu actively participated in the ministry and in witnessing for Christ. Everything went well until he moved with his family to Hyderabad. Being away from church fellowship coupled with the temptations of city life ruined their spiritual and family life. Lalu was eventually abandoned by his wife and children. After several years, Pastor David



very distressed and depressed condition. David and his wife Sheela helped Lalu to repent and reconcile with Christ. Now, Lalu is regularly attending church with his new wife who is learning about Jesus. David shared his joy of seeing Lalu worshipping the Lord as did in the beginning of his spiritual journey with Jesus.

Kaveri and her Faith: Kaveri is a believer for five years. She is the only believer in her family. Her mother-in-law Laxmi is a very nagging person. Due to Laxmi's behaviour, Kaveri's father-in-law left her. Kaveri gave birth to a daughter who died after six months. Relatives and villagers blamed her faith in Jesus for the baby's death. During their marriage, Kaveri's husband Sandeep never opposed her faith nor stopped her from going to church but never joined her in church. Pastor Joseph and his wife Yesumani taught Kaveri to depend on Jesus and to bring everything to Jesus in prayer. Kaveri laid her problems at the feet of Jesus and relied on the Word of God to help and guide her. God has been faithful to Kaveri and blessed the couple with another daughter. To the



couple's surprise, her mother-in-law has stopped nagging her. One day, Sandeep was hit by a van while standing on the road, he believed that his wife's prayers saved him from dying. Kaveri is very thankful to her Saviour Jesus Christ for His Grace and Mercies. Please join us and Kaveri as we pray for the salvation of her husband and family members.

PRAY to GOD For:

Safety of CPP Laxman & Shanthi and the Believers: Laxman and his wife were ministering to a believer's family on their farm. A mob came running with rods in their hands to the Bible study with a goal to beat Pastor Laxman and his wife. The believer's family protected Pastor Laxman and Shanthi and helped them escape. The villagers are currently working to expel this family from the village. Please pray for the Lord's protection for all involved parties.



Banjara People Group: Banjara people are idol worshippers. They offer blood sacrifices to appease their deities. Other evil practices are often associated with their worship. They believe in witchcraft, demons, spirits, superstitions, and the worship of their ancestors. Please pray that the Lord opens their eyes, ears, and hearts to accept His Good News.



ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL UPDATE



ABS celebrated Teacher's Day on Sept. 5th. Speeches from students and teachers were given on the occasion. All teachers were honoured with garlands (flowers) and greeting cards. Teachers and students had great fun.



ABS Housing for Teachers: An ongoing challenge for ABS is to attract and retain accredited, Christian teachers. A major concern of teachers is the lack of suitable and safe housing near the school. To eliminate this issue, GBBM has been raising funds to build and finish a structure with 4 apartments for 4 teachers and their families on ABS school property. Lord willing, the plan is to eventually expand the building to house 12 teacher families. GBBMI (International), the US organization, is currently matching project donations to finish the structure pictured above. GBBM currently needs donations totalling \$15,000 to complete this project. Please prayerfully consider assisting with this project. Donations can be made online at: <https://www.gbbmi.org> or sent via US mail to:



GBBMI
PO Box 1854
Collierville, TN 38027

For donations for this project please include: "Teacher's Apartments" in your memo line.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for the Banjara people and the GBBM ministry.