

KUMAR BANOTH

Church Planter Pastor

“Banjara easily believe the Gospel, but priests and elders discourage accepting the Lord. I was discouraged, but know the Word is two-edged sword that can convert any hardened heart.”



Ministry

Kingdom's Harvest Church in Turkapalli and surrounding villages..

Vision

- Reach the Banjara people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Lead them in a spiritual way; in the light of Jesus Christ
- Disciple the Banjara believers as they grow in their relationship with Jesus
- Organize games like cricket, volleyball and AWANA games for children and youth
- As the children gather use the opportunity to teach them the truths of the Bible, the Good News of the Gospel, and the salvation freely given through our Lord Jesus Christ

Situation

- The Banjara blindly believe in their gods, whose idols look fearful, dreadful and ugly.
- Banjara are taught not to provoke or disrespect our gods, as they are very revengeful and destructive.
- To worship any other god other than our gods, will anger them and we will be destroyed by evil spirits.
- There is a lot of superstition and black magic prevalent in this tribe. Any sickness or disease, especially a chronic one, is always assumed is due to the anger and curse of the gods.
- Banjara people believe in the many Hindu gods so, why to have faith in an American God?
- Village leaders meet with Christian believers and insist they cannot accept Jesus Christ
- Banjara people receive some benefits as a backward class or secluded tribe and are threatened the benefits will be eliminated for Christians
- It is very difficult to gather believers in the villages due to the lack of public transport
- Need funding to purchase musical instruments, tents, PA system, sporting equipment, games, sponsor medical camps, etc. to attract large groups.
- Banjara people are more likely to be consider/accept Christ when the Good News is being shared to a group..

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Pastor Kumar, Mahishrii, Vasantha and Mahipal



Testimony

Childhood

My story is like any other Banjara; we lived in poverty in a remote village. My father, mother, two elder sisters and younger brother were fully dependent on our father's farm labor income. At times we went without food for multiple days when he could not get work in the fields.

My father enrolled me in the Church of South India (CSI) school when my sisters married and money was available. My brothers-in-laws both died, my sisters moved home, and our financial situation worsened, I left school to work in the fields. We could not remarry my sisters due to poverty.

Introduction to Jesus

While at CSI, I heard about Jesus Christ, but refused to believe in Him. Banjara have many Hindu gods; we are possessive of our gods and never look beyond them to foreign gods. One day a good friend shared the Gospel with me. I was furious, attacked and chased him out of the village. I did not know I was living in darkness and unable to see the Light.

My many conflicts with Christian preachers made me question: Why do people preach the love of Christ? Why is Jesus so special in their lives? Why do they risk so much to spread Christianity? How do Christians have joy with so many difficulties in their personal lives? These questions were very confusing, and I realized Jesus Christ was working in me .

Baptism

One day, the inevitable, that I thought it was impossible, happened. I realized I was a sinner, confessed my mistakes and need for salvation. Jesus Christ bestowed His divine grace in my life. I accepted the Lord as my personal savior and was baptized August 25th, 1994.

Calling - God called me for His blessed ministry with: Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. I started ministry in 2009 in my village.



SPONSOR A PASTOR

The cost of sponsoring a Banjara church planter pastor is \$500 per month. This amount covers room and board, food, supplies and living expenses for the pastor. We are grateful for donations in any amount to help us plant churches in the Banjara region.

1. Send a check via U.S. Mail to:

GBBM International
PO Box 1854
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2. Donate online at www.gbbmi.org/donate.

GBBMI is a 501 3(c) organization. Donations are tax deductible. 100% of donations are used in India to support ministry to the Banjara people.