

# PASTOR M RAJU NAIK

## Church Planter Pastor



## Ministry

Global Banjara Baptist Ministries Kokkarla Pallia

### Vision

- Introduce myself as a social worker to the village heads
- Study culture, customs and gather information of village/thanda
- Narrate the Bible stories without mentioning the Biblical names
- Share the Gospel in social functions like marriages and other events
- Encourage and comfort older people and widows with the Word of God
- Get acquainted with villagers and gain their confidence and share my personal and G2 leaders' testimonies
- Interact with people in market areas and with the parents at school premises

### Situation

- Personal financial challenges
- Constant pressure from my parents to stop faith in Christianity, and earn livelihood through a government job
- Transportation to and between several villages is a big problem
- My family is being ill-treated and rejected by the villagers
- Children are insulted and mocked in schools
- Believers do not wear a 'dot' on their foreheads, they go against the Hindu custom of wearing bangles on hand and dot on forehead. Because of this people are afraid of Christians, considering them a bad omen
- There is a lot of opposition against Christianity and Gospel; we are mocked while sharing the Word
- People reject Christianity, claim that they have many gods to worship and there is no need for an American God
- Banjara are difficult people to reach with the Gospel
- Poverty and a lack of available good jobs continues to have a negative impact on the people
- Parents do not see the value in education especially for girls, will often have children help at homes or in the fields instead of focusing on schoolwork

“God miraculously saved and give eternal life to me and my family. I have tasted the love of Jesus; how can I remain silent and not share his love with the lost Banjara people?”

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*Pastor Raju, Sona, Surekha, Pujitha, Kumar*



## Testimony

### Childhood and Life

In 2006, my mother was very sick, we borrowed money and took pilgrimages to temples and offered animal sacrifices to our gods wanting them to heal her. As her condition worsened, we lost hope and prepared for her death. Someone suggested that we visit a Christian church. As a last resort, we visited C&IG Mission Church for healing prayers. Pastor Vidyasagar shared the Gospel; encouraged us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who loves us and can heal. To our surprise, my mother was miraculously healed.

### Introduction to Jesus

My mother's healing because of a small prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ changed my life. I thought Jesus must be the true God and all other gods are nothing but manmade idols. I prayed to Jesus to help me understand His love, salvation, and power of healing. After I became a Christian, I faced strong opposition from my parents. They tortured me and forced me married to Sona, a non-Christian hoping I would change my mind and denounce Jesus. My relatives and friends also rejected my faith, they threatened to excommunicate me from the Banjara community, but I stood firm for my Lord.

To avoid rejection, I moved Bangalore but during the nine years there, I went back to my worldly ways, argued with my wife and troubled her. The peace and joy I experienced in the past with Jesus eluded me and made me realize my mistakes and sins. I prayed to God, confessed my sins and pleaded with Him to help me out of the mess I created., Our gracious and merciful God heard my prayers. As my bad behavior and actions improved, Sona observed changes in me, accepted Jesus as her Savior and together we are serving the Lord. God also blessed us with two daughters and a son.

### Baptism

I was convinced that Jesus Christ is the only true God, and I knew that only by His blood were my sins washed away, I was baptized by Pastor Steven August 18, 2008.

### Calling

My mother's healing by praying in the name of Jesus had a lasting effect on me. My desire to know Jesus led me to church and to study theology. The verses Isaiah 43:1 and John 14:6 encouraged and convinced me to serve the Lord.



## 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:

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