

# PASTOR N RAVI NAIK

## Church Planter Pastor



### Ministry

GBBM Venkatanarayana Cross Palli Church

“It hurts knowing that Banjara people are perishing and don't know that salvation is available through Jesus. The Lord is returning, and the Gospel must reach them.”

### Vision

- That no one should die without salvation in my Banjara Community
- Preach the Gospel to my relatives and friends
- Reach out to nearby villages/thandas to share the love of Jesus Christ
- Reach every home in the neighboring villages with Gospel
- Work with the youth, encourage them to hear the Word of God and prepare the interested youth to follow Jesus Christ and preach Gospel
- Approach villages through social activities
- Engage children with games and sports, then share Bible stories with them

### Situation

- Cannot preach the Gospel in public
- Personal financial problems
- Transport is a big problem
- Much opposition towards Gospel and Christianity from anti-social elements
- Banjara and Hindu rituals are prevalent in the villages
- Poverty and illiteracy are major issues especially in rural areas
- Outright rejection of both the Gospel and Christianity because "they are foreign"
- Most of the times, while sharing the Word, we are mocked
- Availability of people for sharing gospel is an issue because most people work very long hours in the fields
- Excessive drinking of alcohol do not permit them to listen to gospel after coming back from their field work.
- Banjara people are very strong believers of idols
- The people are possessive of their faith in Banjara gods and goddesses.
- Passion and belief in their gods is fanatic; often due to fear and misguidance.
- Spreading the Gospel is very risky because you never know if people will react in a violent way and attempt to cause harm or to incite others to harm you.

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*Pastor Ravi, Pramila, Ivangiline, Abigail*



## Testimony

### Childhood and Life

My father was the village head, he organized the festivals for our Hindu gods and goddesses. Our family was well known because of our priesthood. We were, however, very poor and worked as laborers. I was very naughty child, I enjoyed watching movies, smoking, teasing old people and being a nuisance. I had no ambition, I quit school after 9th Grade and worked as a laborer. My marriage did not bring much happiness and my wife was often sick. Circumstances were so bad that I thought of committing suicide. I heard the name of Jesus for the first time from Pastor Prasad; he regularly visited our village and shared the Gospel, but no one listened. My father became very sick, and the Pastor often visited and prayed for him. He told us after death a person goes to heaven or hell, my father worried he would go to hell. After many meetings, he confessed his sins and accepted Christ as his Savior. My father was miraculously healed from his 4-year sickness. My brother witnessed the healing and accepted Jesus. They attended church to learn more about Christ and forced me to attend Sunday school.

### Introduction to Jesus

I refused to accept Jesus and was sent to Bible college. In college, I developed a heart problem. My father took me to a hospital and spent money looking for a cure. My father begged me to believe in Jesus because he experienced the power of Jesus. I did not take his advice because his God was an American God, and many Hindu gods could heal me. Rev. Khamkhandi, a teacher, told me Jesus alone is the Living God, the peace provider and Great Healer. My prayers to our family goddess Mamma had no response. I remembered when my family believed in our gods, they did not experience peace, but when they put their trust in Jesus, they experienced peace. The struggle in my mind left me confused. One day, a teacher taught about life after death and salvation through Jesus, I realized Jesus is the real God. Gradually, I was healed from my heart problem.

### Baptism

I accepted Jesus Christ on 6/15, 2004 and was baptized December 31, 2004..

### Calling

While praying, God led me to Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness". This verse let me to serve the Lord among the Banjara people.



## 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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