



ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AMONG THE BANJARA



GBBM Monthly Newsletter (July 2022)

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered."

Joel 2:32

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I hope this month's newsletter encourages and inspires you. Too often, we can become so focused on what is ahead, on what I need to do today, that we don't take the time to stop and reflect on what God has done for us. Not only what He did yesterday or during the last six months, but what Jesus did at the cross. As you read this month's newsletter, I hope you can take a moment and praise God for some of the blessings in your life.

Monsoon season has started in India with rain flooding many villages. All schools and colleges were closed for one week. Despite the floods, the GBBM Church Planting Pastors (CPPs) meeting was very motivating this month. We focused on ways to revitalize our churches and inspire our members to be more active in witnessing and sharing the gospel.

In India, opposition to Christianity and the Gospel continues to spread, but God is not worried about man's opinions, opposition, and obstacles. During the past 6 months, the GBBM pastors witnessed to 22,511 people (10,537 heard the Gospel the first time, and 11,974 more than once).

As you will read in this month's newsletter, God continues to open new doors for our CPPs. During the past 6 months, the pastors started working in 100 new villages and planted 15 new churches. 676 people accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour and 92 new believers were baptized. We thank God for all He is doing among the Banjara people.

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 - 2022	Jan - Mar	April	May	June	Total Jan-June
01	Villages Served (Each Month)	304	284	289	374	313
02	New Villages Reached (Updating Quarterly)	30	-	-	70	100
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total Presentations)	13,298	2,357	3,585	3271	22,511
	a. People Hearing the Gospel for the first time	6,200	961	1,660	1761	10,537
	b. People Hearing the Gospel 2 or more times	7,098	1,396	1,925	1555	11,974
04	People Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	353	118	104	101	676
05	Active Bible Study Groups	20	20	18	71	71
06	Children Ministered To (Each Month)	1647	2467	3,761	1637	2,378
07	House Churches	132	132	132	136	136
	a. House Churches with < 10 Baptized Believers	79	79	79	72	72
	b. House Churches with > 10 Baptized Believers	53	53	53	64	64
08	Believers Attending Worship in a week	1665	1146	1,349	1329	1470
09	Monthly Offering (Indian Rupees)	67,541	16,844	21,121	29,443	134,949
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders under Training	64	64	64	87	87
11	New House Churches (Updating Quarterly)	11	-	-	4	15
12	Baptisms	39	15	27	11	92

Monthly Fellowship and Pastor Training



Evangelism & Baptisms

Youth, Young-Adults Conference



GBBM hosted a 2-day conference for young people in the Yellapuram Thanda region. We expected 80-100 attendees but were blessed when more than 150 youngsters who attended the meetings. Pastor Naik taught from Genesis, chapters 1-11 on the topic of "man and his beginnings". The believers in attendance were strengthened greatly by the message, and 32 teenagers accepted Jesus into

their hearts during the conference. May all glory go to Jesus alone.

Praising God for New Ministry Opportunities

Thousands of Banjara villages do not have any Christian presence. In many villages, not a single person has heard the name of Jesus. GBBM pastors consistently attempt to share the gospel in these villages.

Halaavath Thanda: Pastor Linga and Pastor Mangya have been trying to evangelize the people in the Halaavath Thanda village for years. Hindu priest



Hemla Naik from a local temple has strongly opposed any Christian activities. After any GBBM visit, he consistently threatens the families who listened to the Gospel message. After much prayer, Pastor Linga visited the Hindu priest seeking permission to freely share the good news. During a visit, Hindu priest Hemla discovered that he knows a few relatives of Pastor Linga. We praise God because this connection began to soften his heart. Hindu Priest Hemla is no longer opposing the Gospel work; he gave the GBBM team permission to share the story of Jesus with whoever is interested. Recently priest

Hemla even asked for prayers for a very sick family member. GBBM prayer request: may the Lord bring a good harvest and a church plant in this village.

Aarlakunta Thanda: The Aarlakunta Thanda village has been opposed to hearing the Gospel, and GBBM efforts in this area have been fruitless. Krishna and Dwoli (from this village) were married many years but had no children. Krishna eventually became an alcoholic as he dealt with the disappointment of not having children. His health deteriorated, and he was diagnosed with cancer. Doctors provided the family with no hope for recovery.

Krishna's niece, Rajeshwari, is a believer. She wanted her uncle to know Jesus and requested prayers from Pastor Laxman and her GBBM church family. Pastor Laxman and church members went to Aarlakunta Thanda to visit and pray for Krishna. During the visit, it was obvious Krishna was in a critical state as he struggled to breathe. Pastor Laxman prayed for Krishna and committed him to the Lord's will. Fifteen minutes after leaving for home, the GBBM group received an update call. Everyone anticipated bad news but instead heard that Krishna was breathing normal and feeling better. His health news spread through the village, and all believed the recovery was because of the Christians' prayers and a miracle of Jesus. Krishna recently attended a GBBM Church with his wife. The church family praised the Lord for the miraculous healing of Krishna. Please join us in praise for the Lord and in prayer for this family and village. We pray that the Lord will use this situation to open ears and eyes and spread the Gospel in this village and beyond.



Prayer Requests:

Kodipunjula Thanda: GBBM Pastor David and his wife Sheela have been sharing the Gospel with people in this village for years. Most villagers worship two local deities and are united in opposition to the Gospel and no longer allow their children to meet with GBBM pastors. One family did accept Jesus but relocated to Hyderabad. Pray that the Lord may soften hearts and open doors for the Gospel in this village.

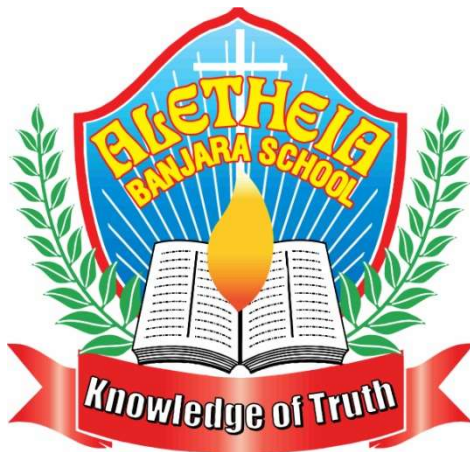
Lalu Naik: Lulu is a faithful believer. While working in the fields his leg was injured and became severely septic. Pray that the Lord will heal him from this serious infection.



Srinu & Sony Pathlatath: Srinu and Sony are GBBM church members who regularly witness to others in their community. During covid lockdown, both Srinu and his wife Sony lost their jobs and moved back home to the village where they were raised. Srinu developed diabetes and is extremely sick. His greatest fear is death related to his current illness. He is not worried about dying because he has placed his faith in Jesus. Instead, Srinu is worried about the impact of his death on the non-believers in his village. Srinu's testimony is well known in the village. Due to his compromised health and his faith in Jesus, villagers taunt him by saying, "What did you gain by believing in Jesus? You did not have children; you lost your good job, and now you have all kinds of diseases. What is the use of you trusting in Jesus?" Please pray that the Lord gives Srinu and Sony the courage to face this persecution; pray for healing; and pray that the Lord continues to use Srinu and Sony to do His work in their village.



ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL UPDATE



The ABS students are back in the classroom after taking a week off due to the weather. Many students' family members make their living as farmers. The heavy rains tied to the monsoon season destroyed much of the planted crops and has caused a great loss for many families near the school. During challenging times like this, ABS is especially appreciated by the families with children attending ABS because the students receive a healthy meal at the school, this removes some of the burden of trying to feed the entire family. Please keep the ABS students, faculty, and their family members in your prayers.