



ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AMONG THE BANJARA



GBBM Monthly Newsletter (April 2023)

“Dear Friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” *1 John 4:11*

Dear Brethren in Christ, Greetings from India!

I hope our friends in the US are getting ready to enjoy the summer season. In India, we have been experiencing heat waves in May with temperatures ranging from 115-118 Fahrenheit. Typically, monsoons bring relief from the heat during first weeks of June but the monthly forecast predicts less rain and higher than normal temperature.

While the extreme heat is challenging, the larger concern is the increasing Christian opposition and persecution across India. I have included the attached link that covers the rise of violence in a North-East State of India. [Christians Targeted in Bloody Ethnic Conflict in India's Manipur State | National Catholic Register \(ncregister.com\)](#)

The ongoing harassment has also impacted GBBM as our CPPs and leaders have cancelled many church services due to threats and harassment.

But, even in this increasingly hostile situation, we know that God is good, and we look to Him for His guidance, protection, and His will. The GBBM leaders and CPPs shared the Gospel in April with 5,714 people, 3,588 children were ministered to in VBS and children's programs. We praise Jesus as 189 people placed their faith in Him and 28 people were baptized. We praise God for the opportunity to share the Gospel among the Banjara people.

Aletheia Banjara School is scheduled to reopen June 12th, 2023. If we do not receive relief from the heat, we will need to delay the opening. Please pray that God will provide cooler weather as teachers are scheduled to return to ABS June 1st to prepare for the new school year.

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 Planter Activity Update

	Key Growth Areas - 2023	April
01	Villages Served (Monthly)	403
02	New Villages Reached (Updated Quarterly)	-
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total Gospel Presentations)	5,714
	a. People Hearing the Gospel (First Time)	3,400
	b. People Hearing the Gospel (2 or More Times)	2,314
04	People Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	189
05	Active Bible Study Groups	78
06	Children Being Ministered To (Monthly)	3,588
07	House Churches	160
	a. House Churches (< 10 Baptized Believers)	96
	b. House Churches (> 10 Baptized Believers)	64
08	Believers Attending Worship (Weekly)	1,754
09	Offering Collection (Indian Rupees - Monthly)	34,683
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders in Training	97
11	New House Churches (Updated Quarterly)	-
12	Baptisms	28

Gospel Sharing: Typically, GBBM leaders are very busy with evangelism and special meetings in this season because the Banjara people are not as busy with farming activities. Recently the extremely hot weather has impacted the ability to meet with people as they are very restless and less willing to meet and listen to the Good News. The increasing opposition has also created additional concern and caution among the lost Banjara people. Please pray that the Lord strengthens the CPPs and GBBM leaders to overcome these challenges and that the lost will have ears to hear the Good News and that they realize and understand that once they have Jesus, they will have a peace that will allow them to rest in Him no matter the weather or man's opposition.



Young Adult Awareness Camp: CPP Narsu Naik Boda took an original approach to share the gospel with the young adults who were home in the villages for

summer vacation. Because the “visitors” would not attend a Christian meeting, Pastor Narsu planned an awareness and career guidance meeting in a centrally located



village. The County Police Inspector was invited as a special guest. Before the Inspector arrived to speak, Narsu and his team sang a couple of Christian songs and shared the creation story, the origin of man and how sin entered the world and became the root cause for all of today’s problems. Many attendees expressed interest in learning more about the stories. Over a hundred young adults attended the meeting. CPP Boda knows many of the young adults and their families and will follow-up with them.

Children Camps: GBBM uses the summer months to host Vacation Bible School and children camps. The events kicked off April 25th. Since then, the GBBM CPPs have been busy conducting VBS or children camps when they visit a village. While the heat has impacted attendance, planting and sowing seeds in the children’s hearts has provided



our team with happiness and hope. Please join us in praying for God's blessing on these events as they continue through the summer.



Most of the children camps lasted between 3-5 days. During a typical camp day, the children sang Christian songs, heard a Bible story, learned a memory verse, completed a drawing activity related to the story, and played games.

GBBM's Praise & Prayer Request

Praise God for His Healing Power: Dhansigh was the first believer in his village. He has suffered with kidney issues for over twenty years and has consistently received dialysis while having kidney stones. As his situation worsened, doctors decided that he needed to have one kidney removed and stones removed from the other one. The doctors have him little hope of a successful outcome. Dhansigh placed his faith in Jesus and moved forward with the surgery. GBBM CPP Sionraj and his church family lifted him up in prayers during the surgery. To doctors surprise, Dhansigh's operation was successful, he is doing well with relief from the pain of two decades.



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Pray for Peace in Manipur:



Manipur is a small state in North-East India. Problems between two people groups: Kuki (tribals with many Christians) and Meithei (upper caste Hindus) have escalated. Land issues are a concern but most of the hostility is centred on the Meithei people coming to Christ, which is unacceptable to government officials.

[Christians Killed and Churches Destroyed in India - YouTube](#) [Manipur Sees Fresh Violence Once Again: What's Going On? - YouTube](#)

ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL UPDATE

Praise God for His Grace: ABS celebrated its seventh graduating class in



May. We are so thankful for our staff, teachers and sponsors who provided this opportunity for these students. Without you, most of these children would have attended school for only a few years and now all are set to continue with higher education. More

importantly, these children have heard the Gospel and have experienced the love of Jesus. We thank you for joining GBBM and ABS as we pray for these graduates, we pray that they go into the world and share the Good News and love others.

New Screen with projector and TV were provided to ABS for showing

videos and teaching students at ABS. We are so excited to share this recent technology with our students when they return to school for the academic year 2023-24.



We are also excited that five former ABS teachers are planning to return this year. We are also excited to welcome back Mr. Samuel Sukumar Nittala, who served as Principal from 2010-17. He is going to supervise all academic programs at the school. We thank God for returning these leaders to our school.

We ask our friends to join us in prayer, as we need sponsorship for 220 students by the end of December 2023.