

GBBM Monthly Newsletter (May 2024)

“The first man is from the earth, earthly; the second man is from heaven.”
1 Corinthians 15:49

Dear Brethren in Christ, greetings from India!

Before I share any further, my sincere apologies for the long delay since the last GBBM newsletter. I was personally going through a spiritual battle; and I fell behind with several administrative task. God is gracious and granted me victory over my struggles. I am positive that this kind of delay will not repeat in future.

May was a great month for GBBM’s children’s ministry. As I mentioned in the April newsletter, GBBM hosted many Children Bible Clubs. Despite opposition in most Banjara villages, GBBM’s 35 Church Planting Pastors (CPPs) conducted Children Clubs in 114 centres; 3,815 children attended, and 877 prayed to Jesus to come into their hearts. May that the word of God stays in these young hearts and may the Holy Spirit keep them from evil.

In addition to the special ministry to children, we praise God for the ministry results during the month of May 2024. The GBBM team shared the Gospel with 8,659 people, rejoiced as 424 people accepted Jesus, and 16 people were baptized.

Aletheia Banjara School reopened after summer vacation in June. ABS has capacity for five hundred students; but because ABS has less than two hundred sponsored students, ABS had to deny admission to over one hundred students this year which makes me very sad. Please pray that our fresh graduates have learned to rely on the Lord as they move forward with the next step of their lives after ABS.

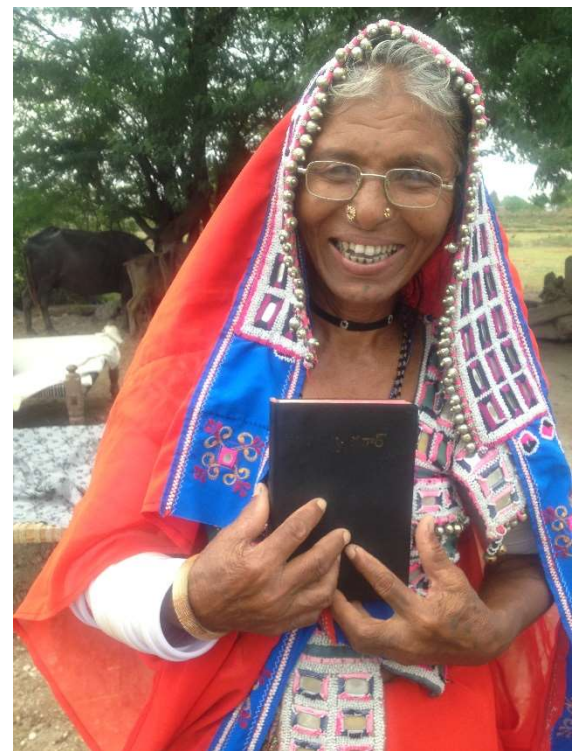
Thank you for your continuous prayers and support.

Pastor K S Naik

Church Planting Pastor Activity Update

	Key Growth Areas - 2024	May
01	Villages Served (Monthly)	291
02	New Villages Reached (Updated Quarterly)	-
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total)	8,659
	a. People Hearing the Gospel (First Time)	5,447
	b. People Hearing the Gospel (2 or More Times)	3,212
	c. Number of Gospel Presentations	3,505
04	People Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	424
05	Active Bible Study Groups	52
06	Children Being Ministered To (Monthly)	2,197
07	House Churches	76
	a. House Churches (< 10 Baptized Believers)	15
	b. House Churches (> 10 Baptized Believers)	61
08	Believers Attending Worship (Weekly)	1,608
09	Offering Collection (in USD - Monthly)	\$1,746
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders in Training	99
11	New House Churches (Updated Quarterly)	0
12	Baptisms	16

The Banjara people are also known as Roma people. Some historians suggest that the Banjara have their ancestral connections with Israelites. Many believe that Banjara people travelled through Persian Gulf and Afghanistan and settled in northwestern India. Banjara people have lived in India since 300 BC. They were traders, transporters of grains and goods, and involved in cattle rearing. Someone said, “It would be surprising to find a country without a Gypsy or a Romani.” The population of Banjara is 60-80 million in India. Banjara people are animists but have adopted most local religions and practices. Most Banjara people believe that they are Hindus, yet they are not part of Hindu caste system. They believe in witchcraft, demons, spirits, and superstitions. Banjara people participate in idol worship, offer blood sacrifices, and worship ancestors. They also believe in life after death. India has been exposed to the gospel for the last two millennia; despite this, Banjara people were untouched by the Gospel until recent years.



Children Clubs: Every year GBBM conducts children clubs (VBS) for 3-5 days in most villages served by a CPP. This year, GBBM hosted less villages than normal and less attendance due to increased opposition in the Banjara villages. We praise God for the children reached through this ministry.



Despite the opposition in most Banjara villages, GBBM's Church Planting Pastors bravely conducted Children Clubs in 114 centres; 3,815 children attended, and 877 prayed to Jesus to come into their hearts. May that the word of God stays in these young hearts and may the Holy Spirit keep them from evil.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

Raju's Faith: Raju was married for 10 years but had no children. After he placed his faith in Jesus, he and his wife were blessed with a beautiful daughter. Raju eventually led one of his brother Somu to Christ. Raju's other brother, Ramesh, who was not a believer in Jesus died in a road accident. The villagers were upset with Raju and Somu because of their faith and the death of Ramesh. Because Ramesh was not a believer, the villagers came together to force the Christian brothers to have a Hindu burial. To some extent this would be acceptable to Raju and Somu except for the practice which involves idol worship and offering food to their dead brother. The brothers along with their church family prayed hard that they would not be forced to provide a Hindu ceremony. May God be glorified! None of the villagers who were extremely furious showed up on the day of burial to disrupt the ceremony. Raju and his family members were able to mourn over their brother without incident and have a non-Hindu ceremony. Only God knows why villagers didn't bother the Christian brothers.



PRAY TO GOD FOR:

The Believers of Chinna Mallepalli Thanda: GBBM has a House Church in Chinna Mallepalli Thanda which has done well for several years. Recently a few men



from this village went to a big city for work where they connected with a fanatic anti-Christian group. When they returned to their village, they mobilized people against the house church. They asked the village committee to ban Christianity in their village. The GBBM CPP for this church was threatened with death if he came to the village again.

Maybe God heard the prayers of the CPP and believers as the Village Committee decided to allow the pastor to visit only Christians; strictly not to meet any non-Christians. The believers cannot meet as a Church, so the CPP meets with individual families and encourages them in their faith. Pray that the Lord opens the eyes of the villagers and allows the believers with opportunities to witness to others.

ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL (ABS) UPDATE

I was born in a small remote Banjara village 80 miles southeast of Hyderabad city in India. When I was a child, attending school was unusual for my people group. Poverty prevailed in my region. I grew up hearing about Banjara families either killing or selling a baby daughter for a low price due to poverty. After God saved me, I felt a heavy burden for my people's



salvation. I realized that education is great benefit, and I started sending girls to Christian boarding schools in Hyderabad. Many of those girls have completed college and are employed. I reunited with several of the girls at wedding reception of one of the young ladies. I realized that sending girls somewhere for studies was not enough to meet the need. After a lot of prayer and sacrificial support of numerous

churches and individuals, God enabled GBBMI to start ABS July 16, 2009. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2016/Jul/26/banjara-infant-girl-trade-dodges-vigil-desire-for-son-and-poverty-key-reasons-944367.html>

Summer Classes: Aletheia Banjara School closed from April 24th to June 11th for summer vacation. Most parents in this region cannot read or write. To keep the learning process going, the ABS teachers went to the villages and conducted two hours of teaching every day. The community appreciated this gesture. This is one of the many unique features of ABS.

Donations can be made online at: <https://gbbmi.com/> or sent via US mail to:

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