



GBBM Monthly Newsletter (September 2024)

“Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.” Colossians 3:5

Dear Brethren in Christ, greetings from India!

I thank God for allowing Sujatha and me to travel to the United States. We arrived in the US in September. It is both refreshing and encouraging to meet old friends, visit churches, and to make new contacts. We came to the US with a goal of raising 200 student scholarships and support for 17 GBBM Church Planting Pastors (CPPs).

We praise God for the ministry results during the month of September 2024. I am glad to inform you that though Sujatha and I are away from the field the regular church planting and school ministry continues. We thank God for the GBBM team of faithful men and women who are committed to serving the Lord. The GBBM team shared the Gospel with 6,876 people, rejoiced as 397 people accepted Jesus, and 18 people were baptized in September. The 2024 third quarter ministry results clearly show that God is working among the Banjara people. We praise God for His goodness, for His abundant love and for His many answered prayers as 22,115 people heard the Gospel, 1,276 prayed to accept Jesus as their personal saviour; and 50 believers witnessed in water baptism.

Aletheia Banjara School is doing well; our students are busy learning new things and have settled into their new classes. ABS students are not only doing well in academics but are also winning prizes in sports at regional level. In a recent tournament conducted by School Games Federation, ABS won six prizes: Senior boys (under 17) won 1st place in volleyball and Kho-Kho (tag game); Junior Boys (under 14) won 1st place in volleyball, 2nd place in Kho-Kho and Kabaddi (contact tag game); and Girls (under 14) won 2nd place in Kho-Kho game.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the GBBMI CPPs and staff. Both the prayers and gifts of God’s people allow our staff to share the Good News among the Banjara people in the remote villages of India.

Pastor K S Naik

Church Planting Pastor Activity Update

	Key Growth Areas - 2024	Sept. 2024	Jan. - March	April - June	July – Sept.	Jan. – Sept.
01	Villages Served (Monthly)	278	371	377	283	377
02	New Villages Reached (Updated Quarterly)	0	7	0	0	7
03	People Hearing the Gospel (Total)	6876	22,346	24698	22115	69,159
	a. People Hearing the Gospel (First Time)	4,142	14,127	15,597	13,324	43,048
	b. People Hearing the Gospel (2 or More Times)	2,734	8,219	9,101	8,791	26,111
	c. Number of Gospel Presentations	2,232	6,483	8,734	6,737	21,954
04	People Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour	397	724	1,182	1,276	3,182
05	Active Bible Study Groups	51	40	54	51	48
06	Children Being Ministered To (Monthly)	1485	1,611	2,209	1,696	1,838
07	House Churches	80	74	78	80	80
	a. House Churches (< 10 Baptized Believers)	19	13	17	19	19
	b. House Churches (> 10 Baptized Believers)	61	61	61	61	61
08	Believers Attending Worship (Weekly)	1573	1,799	1,645	1,590	1,678
09	Offering Collection (in USD - Monthly)	\$1,364	\$2,187	\$4,068	\$4,606	\$10,861
10	Pastor Assistants/Leaders in Training	102	74	102	100	102
11	New House Churches (Updated Quarterly)	2	3	4	2	9
12	Baptisms	18	66	48	50	164

Banjara people are very religious and fear their multiple gods. They offer sacrifices to appease their deities. Illiteracy is a major challenge; everything they believe is based only on oral stories passed down through generations. They have no written



record to support what they believe. This strong traditional belief system and their isolated living have kept them unreached by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unless someone goes to a Banjara village to share the Gospel, they have no chance of hearing about Jesus.

Each GBBM CPP serve an unreached Banjara area with 8-12 villages and moves into one of the villages. Typically, it takes more than a year to make connections and find person of peace. Often it is 2-3 years before the first person accepts Christ. GBBM CPPs use Chronological Storying for evangelism and church planting.

Testimony of GBBM CPP Sion Raj Kola:

Childhood and Teen Years: My family was like most people in our village. We worked as agricultural laborers and survived on very little. My parents, two brothers, sister and I were idol worshippers as was our Hindu tradition. When I was 17, one of my brothers became extremely ill, my parents spent all family money for a cure. We believed he was cursed with black magic because after visiting doctors, Hindu temples, and priest he was not cured. A Muslim friend visited us and advised us to take my brother to a Christian church so he could be healed. My brother was taken to a church in the town near to my village; we began to attend the church, and my brother miraculously recovered from his illness.



Introduction to Jesus: I attended church weekly, read the Bible but did not understand anything. My father encouraged me to pay attention to the Word of God. One day the pastor shared the Gospel, “Jesus died for us and rose to life again. All people are sinners, none without sin. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only Jesus cleanses us from our sins.” When I heard these words, everything became clear to me. I knew Jesus was the True God, I decided to believe in Him and never leave Him.

Baptism: Pastor N Y Jayaraj baptized me January 1st, 1996. I spent a lot of time with him, he taught me from the Bible. I travelled to villages to help him share the Gospel and conduct prayer meetings. I shared my testimony many times and lead small groups in singing and worship. I thought I was doing well.

Calling: My pastor visited my house, conducted a prayer meeting, and spent the night. That night I dreamt God spoke to me saying, “Sion! How long will you keep listening to the word? When will you start talking to others about me?” I heard the same voice very frequently. I also dreamt I was sharing the Gospel, witnessing and many were responding to my preaching. I married Shobha a year later, then I attended Bible and Church Planting Training. After graduation, I joined the ministry with plans to serve Jesus all my life among the Banjara tribe. God blessed us with a daughter and a son, they graduated from Aletheia Banjara School. I have been working with GBBM since 2008, sharing the gospel in 15 Banjara villages. God has helped me to plant five churches. Pray that the Lord may use me and my wife to plant churches in every village where we share the Gospel.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

Saving Sunitha and Her Husband Mangla: Sunitha and Mangla have been married for twelve years. One day, due to seizures, Sunitha fell on a fire stove and burned one side of her face. Mangla sent Sunitha to her parents because he didn't want her any more



due to the seizures. Mangla kept their son with him. Sunitha had no option and lived with her parents in her village where CPP Sion Raj ministers. Sunitha heard the gospel, accepted the Lord, and slowly was healed from her seizures and burns. After ongoing prayers from Sunitha and the small church in her village, Mangla accepted her back but he was upset with her faith in Jesus.

CPP Sionraj met with Sunitha secretly to encourage her in her faith. Knowing her husband's attitude, Sunitha was very afraid that her husband would find out about the meetings and was concerned for the pastor's safety. A few years passed and one day Mangla came home when CPP Sion Raj was visiting Sunitha. Mangla was upset to see the pastor at his house but didn't say a word which surprised everyone. CPP Sion Raj continued visiting Sunitha and slowly built a friendship with Mangla and shared the Gospel. Please join us in praise to the Lord as Mangla has accepted Jesus as his Saviour and is getting prepared for baptism.

PRAY TO GOD FOR:

Land for a Church Worship Centre in Khethepally Village: Pastor Sion Raj Kola

pastors the church in the Khethepally village about 3 miles from Aletheia Banjara School. There was one Christian family in this village when he started serving there. By God's Grace, currently 15 families follow Christ. The church meets in the homes of church members. This church has faced increased opposition as the non-Christians object to any home hosting worship services. They want GBBM to have a designated building for their services (like the temples). Land is expensive, and the Church members are unable to purchase the land. GBBM needs \$8,000 to purchase land for the church. GBBM church members would build the church if they had the land. Please pray that God provides a way for more people to accept Christ in this village and for funds for the property.



ALETHEIA BANJARA SCHOOL (ABS) UPDATE



Aletheia Banjara School is doing well. All 2023 graduates enrolled in junior colleges. Most students from the first ABS graduating class have finished their bachelor's degree, and many joined Master's Programs. One GBBM female student is completing her masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Wichita State University KS, and Naresh (see photo) recently started his master's in IT at Edinburgh Napier University, UK.



Please join us in praying that the Lord provides His protection to ABS and our students. We pray that our students experience the love of Jesus and accept Him as Savior.

Donations can be made online at: www.gbbmi.com or sent via US mail to:

**GBBM International,
PO Box 1854
Collierville, TN 38027**

