

Ministry Updates – September 2023

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9, NIJ



Children Ministry

Many Banjara (Gypsy) girls do not have opportunities for education or any kind of sports. Banjara parents often believe that girls are meant for domestic work. They work at their parents' homes before marriage and continue to do so in their husbands' homes afterward. In fact, they sometimes take their daughters with them to work from as young as 5 years old. Most girls do not receive the opportunities they deserve during their childhood.

Our Empower Girls initiative has had a significant impact on the community. We advocate for equal opportunities, provide education, and promote sports, which is bringing about substantial changes in society. Parents are becoming more informed about the opportunities available to their daughters. When other parents hear about the positive testimonials of our impact, they are encouraged and start sending their daughters to participate. Isn't that remarkable?

Our dream is for these girls to rise to the highest levels in society as they grow and potentially represent their country in international soccer.

Over the past two decades, the Global Banjara Foundation has been primarily engaged in children's ministry. We have witnessed the incredible work of God through this program, and it brings us immense joy to provide education along with one-time nutritional food to these underprivileged children.

This program has had a profound impact on the communities. God has worked wonders through the children, and we have established strong relationships with parents and community members.

Many children from our earlier batches are now pastors and leaders in our church. Others have pursued careers in the corporate world while also contributing to the development of their communities.



Most Banjara parents don't give priority to their girls. If parents want to prioritise, they will provide their best to the boys but not girls. If they have enough money they will provide education to the boys but not girls. Many parents feel that girls are a burden for them.

Children Ministry

Past 4 months 15 families have given their life to Christ and over 500 parents have heard the gospel. People in slums and villages are appreciating our work and they are opened for Gospel.



Children Activities

English speaking classes

School for Kindergarten and free tutoring from 1st to 10th grade

School for dropout children

Education through Sports, Soccer ministry.

Taking care of 10 orphan children.

Feeding program

Providing financial help for needy school going children.

Health check-up for slum children

Updates on Manipur, India

Dear prayer partners, we implore you to continue praying for Manipur, India. We made our third visit to Manipur in the last week of September, and regrettably, the situation remains critical. It is uncertain how long it will take to stabilise, with local residents expressing the possibility of it persisting for a year or even longer. Tragically, people are resorting to violence, causing others to live in fear and seclusion. Hundreds of families have been relocated to a campus, but they are facing severe challenges. They lack proper access to food, and there is a shortage of water for basic hygiene needs. The conditions are such that human beings are being treated in a degrading and animalistic manner.

This time, we are more focused on pastors, their families, and even some campuses. We are fervently praying for God to bring about restoration to Manipur soon.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/four-arrested-in-manipur-for-abduction-killing-of-two-meitei-students/article67370134.ece>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/india/manipur-ethnic-violence-children-displaced-india-b2386888.html>

https://twitter.com/politics_2022_/status/1708158239614136550?s=43&t=DI0jDFZQZSJ2EIANTzeVmw



The local news channel mentioned above has covered our relief work in Manipur, India. This time, 120 families have received food packets, and we have also provided financial assistance to a few pastors. Additionally, we have made food available a couple of small campuses.

Persecution Relief work

India is currently experiencing heavy persecution, especially in North India. Many independent churches have been forced to close down due to government actions, police officers, and Hindu rights groups levying false charges of forceful conversion. Churches have been destroyed, and pastors and believers have been subjected to severe beatings.

Global Banjara Foundation is providing financial assistance to the families of persecuted pastors. We are also bringing pastors and their wives from these persecuted areas to provide different projects and opportunities. This empowers them to assist their communities by offering these training programs and fostering relationships with non-Christian families.



Pastor Jagram is one of the our master trainers who lives in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The police officers have filed 9 false cases against him. He told me that every other day the police officers takes him for questioning. Police officers have closed down his churches. Jagram is currently doing online church and having house fellowship. He was sharing his struggle that how it effects his finance because the church is the only source of income for his family as he is full-time pastor. We invited Jagram and other pastors with their wife that they can take this basic medical trainings and other project we are running. Currently Global Banjara working with over 100 pastors in Uttar Pradesh, North INDIA.

Akanksha Kumar writes about the misuse of the anti-conversion law in UP. A majority of the FIRs filed under the Act in UP are by third-party complainants, which makes them null and void. Yet many Christians are still being prosecuted.

<https://article-14.com/post/hindutva-groups-are-misusing-up-s-anti-conversion-law-as-police-register-cases-with-no-legal-standing--65260e4c5987e>

Omar Rashid writes in the Wire about the church demolition in Bhulandih village in Jaunpur. Arrest of 18 people, bookings in serious offences and then demolition: was this not a motivated and conspired attack on a place of worship established over 15 years ago? Was there no other way to deal with the issue of part construction on illegal land?

<https://m.thewire.in/article/rights/up-christian-prayer-centre-demolished-in-jaunpur-claiming-it-was-built-on-illegal-land>

Disciple-Making and Church Planting

When it comes to my passion, it's always about disciple-making. I aspire to walk as He did and follow His vision for making disciples.

I give thanks to God for everything He's doing in our ministry. I sense the movement of multiplication, not on a grand scale, but I see the spark. The mindset of pastors and leaders has shifted, placing more importance on their church members and investing in them. When I talk about investment, it's not just training; it involves coaching and mentoring. Disciple-making, for me, isn't limited to training or certification courses; it's a way of life we embody. It's in our DNA.

We conduct more than 100 disciple-making training each month. We're in our 5th generation of providing training, coaching, and mentoring.

Our ultimate goal is to raise 100,000 disciples by the end of 2025. I have faith that God can make this happen; we just need to remain focused on our calling.

Currently, we are operating in 20 states of India. These 20 states encompass 524 districts, and by God's grace, we have 2 master trainers in each district. We persist in our training efforts even during these critical times in Indian history. Our trainings are conducted in 8 different languages. God is doing great things.



Transportation is one of the biggest problems in India, especially in villages. By God's grace, we have provided 15 motorcycles to our pastors from remote areas. These motorcycles have proven to be very helpful for them in expanding their work to many more villages. We are immensely thankful to our donors.

Big Need to Pray

We are conducting over 100 disciple-making training every month in various states of India, with an annual expenditure of over \$500,000. The disciple-making program is one of our top-priority projects in which we are deeply involved.

As you may be aware, India is currently facing significant persecution, making it challenging to conduct trainings in these persecuted states. Earlier this year, we were supposed to hold our trainings in Lucknow, North India. However, due to security concerns, we had to cancel that event and relocate everyone to Lonavala, Maharashtra. We waited for three months, but there was no opportunity to conduct the training in Lucknow. Eventually, we brought the participants to Lonavala, Maharashtra.

This relocation caused us to spend three times more than our regular budget. Similar issues were encountered in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Even in Odisha, the hotel management collected detailed information from every participant, and we were forced to cancel our training the following day. Many conference halls and hotels have surveillance cameras that record everything we teach.

This has been one of our prayers for many years - to establish a Training Centre. I believe it's an urgent need, given our growth and the hundreds of trainings we provide each month.

We are praying and aiming to build a training centre and facility to accommodate 300 people, specifically in Lonavala, Maharashtra. I'm not suggesting that we'll relocate all 100-plus trainings to this new facility, but we will strive to maximise its use. Additionally, this centre could generate income by offering its facilities to other Christian organisations.

The cost of land in Lonavala, Maharashtra is \$400,000 per acre, and it's located 90 kilometres from Mumbai. The estimated construction cost for a facility to accommodate 300 people is approximately \$1.5 million US dollars.

We've raised \$120,000 out of the required \$400,000 to purchase the land. The land has been chosen, and we've paid an advance for it. Your prayers and prayerful financial considerations would be greatly appreciated.



Pray with us

- Please pray for our ongoing training program - Global Banjara Foundation conducts more than 100 disciple-making programs every month.
- Please pray for our lepers ministry. They are in need of your support, as it costs \$50 a month to provide food and basic medical care.
- Pray for all our schools, soccer ministry, and other children's ministries. It costs \$200 annually to support one child, which includes one meal, backpacks, two sets of uniforms, stationery, rent, teacher and helper support.
- Please pray for the 25 orphan children Global Banjara is taking care of.
- Pray for the Medical Mission and our pastors and their wives who bravely conduct medical outreach, door-to-door visits, and dentistry while sharing the gospel with many. Pray for their safety and God's favour in their lives.
- Lastly, pray for the training centre mentioned above.

If you would like to be a part of our ministry, you have an opportunity by keeping us in prayers and also by giving

Cedar Creek Freedom Center.
C/O Brian Pautz
13270 SW Menlor Lane.
Tigard, Oregon 97223
Checks written out to
Cedarcreek Freedom Center

or you can send to this PayPal link Donate to Shankar Pawar

OR

Donorbox Online (click link below):
<https://donorbox.org/bridge-of-hope>

Write for Shankar Pawar's ministry and. purpose of donation.

Cedarcreek Freedom Center is Tax exemption 501(c)3

Pray for our Projects...

- Disciple-making program
- Church planting
- Youth ministry - Disciple-making for young generation.
- Children ministry - Education, sports and feeding program
- Orphan and widow ministry
- Leapers ministry
- Medical Mission
- Dentistry
- Trauma and Healing ministry
- Economic Empowerment
- Micro Finance to support pastors to create business
- Safe water and borewell project



Thank you for your prayers and financial support