

W5 on Missions

Who? CP Raju

CP Raju was born into a Christian family where his father was a pastor. CP has a bachelor's degree in Science, Law and Christian Studies and a post graduate diploma in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management and Hospital Administration.

After graduation, as his way of fulfilling his father's wish for him to serve God, CP served as community project personnel at a hospital that was started by Canadian Baptist missionaries. Later, he worked for 20 years in another CBM hospital as an Administrative Officer and Community Development Project Manager. He was the founder and honorary editor of the Christian monthly magazine called YAATRA.

CP is actively involved in his church in many ministries including youth, singing and playing the tabla, a type of hand drum. CP is married to Jane Swarna who is working as an assistant professor in an Engineering College. They are blessed with two children who are now in university, Rajedidiah and Shruti Jessica.

One meaningful Scripture for the family is: "Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace." Nehemiah 2:17

Where? India

Rajahmundry is a city in Andhra Pradesh, southern India about 520 km from Hyderabad. It is not only an ancient town where rich literary activities flourished, but it is also an important commercial center. (www.rajahmundry.co.in)

When?

CP Raju was appointed by Canadian Baptist Ministries as Senior Program Coordinator in 2012.

What?

CP works towards CBM's integral mission philosophy under the strategic driver of sustainable community development. He serves in association with several institutions and organizations including Kui Baptist Association, Soura Baptist Christian Mondoli Sammelani, Utkal Baptist Churches Association, SAMATHA community development and welfare society, Council of Christian Hospitals, BLESS, and Eva Rose York School. His responsibilities in church ministry and community development include verifying the proposals, supervision and monitoring the programs, reporting, assisting the partners and co-ordinating programs.



CP Raju

Commenting on his work in India, CP says: "The Kui Baptist Association and Soura Baptist Christian Mondoli Sammeloni are situated in remote hill areas in Odisha (Orissa). All of them are tribal, economically backward and poor. They are depending on the forest products for their livelihood. Malaria, typhoid, gastroenteritis, malnutrition are some of major medical concerns in this area. The infant and maternal death rates are also high in this region when compared to other parts of India. The literacy rate is very low and people lack awareness. To address all these issues we have started nutrition program, literacy programs and Girl Child empowerment programs in partnership with the above organizations."

With the recent success of the Tuni Child Labour Rehabilitation program, CBM's partner in India is embarking on a new program to help young girls – the India Girl Child Project. A coaching centre functions as the main hub where girls receive help with their studies. "In Andhra Pradesh even though the literacy rate is high when compared to Odisha, there is not much importance for the girl child in the family. That is why the girls are neglected and not given preference to study. The attacks on girls became common and many of them are abused. To address these issues we are empowering the girls by giving special coaching for them and training them in different skills training programs like tailoring, computer training, and as a beautician."

Promoting education is an important step towards a better future for the entire family and the program works with families to help parents learn about the long-term benefits of encouraging their children to pursue education. In the larger community, the provision of education and awareness help to reduce the occurrence of child marriage and abuse. It is essential to help these girls gain self-confidence and know they have dignity and a valued voice in society.

Why?

CP writes: "HIV/AIDS is becoming a major problem in Andhra Pradesh. Many families are becoming victims and undergoing mental torture and turmoil. They lose their hope and the society is also not accepting these people because of stigma. We are addressing these issues through the partnership of BLESS, Council of Christian Hospitals and SAMATHA, and because of that, many families are united and happily living with courage and hope now. I request you to kindly pray for these people whom we serving and also for the organizations, for me and for my family to fulfil the God's mission and to establish God's kingdom on this earth."

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW