

Spotlight on CBM



On-staff with Canadian Baptist Ministries in India since 2008, Suraj Komaravalli has been serving as team leader for India since 2013. Now newly appointed in 2023 as CBM's Asia team leader, he draws us together to rejoice in God's work through the partnership of the sower and reapers in the harvest field of "fruit unto life eternal" (see John 4:35–38). Over 150 years ago, pioneer Baptist

workers from Canada began an outreach in India. In February of this year, Soura Baptists celebrated this anniversary. The March 2024 CBM



Prayerline reports that "between 80,000 and 90,000 faithful believers attended to praise and thank God for the Gospel that has transformed their lives."

As Suraj has taken on expanded leadership beyond India to include more of Central Asia and the Philippines, other projects have developed. CBM now partners with Asia Pacific Baptist Aid to bring awareness to church leaders and members of how to integrate and support the disabled in Sri Lanka's population, people who are often neglected and isolated.

A new outreach with Miqlat Ministry and Samaritan Home is under the leadership of the Chumukedima Baptist Church in Dimapur, in the region of Nagaland, India. The home serves to rehabilitate and transform the lives of broken, trafficked women. A similar program of vocational training for the restoration of other young

women has met with success in the city of Kolkata.

While new partners are taken on, Suraj asks that we continue to pray specifically for each partner in Nagaland: the Alempang Baptist Church, the Yimyu Baptist Church, the Sungkomen Baptist Church, and the Chuchuyimlang Baptist Church. Pray for positive impact in their

various outreach projects: an income-generating program for low-income church pastors, several ministries to address the livelihood of unemployed youth, the rehabilitation of alcohol addicts, and providing skills training for widows from the Ao tribe. Suraj also asks for intercession for the ongoing sustainability projects, some of which are animal rearing and a coffee plantation, run by Clark Theological College, and desktop publishing businesses run by the Soura Baptists and Oriya Baptists.

With praise, Suraj states, "We thank God that our India partners could implement their projects and see a positive impact in the lives of the beneficiaries and communities." Specific mention is given to the six-year partnership of CBM and Alempang Baptist Church that has enabled an income-generating

project, Alcoholics Rehabilitation & Transformation, to move toward long-term sustainability in 2024. They no longer require outside funding for the program which has brought a renewed sense of purpose to reach others and provide support for the participants' families. This level of autonomy is also being achieved in other projects. As Christian believers in Canada partner, pray, and invest in these programs in another part of the world, we labour together as God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6–9).

We are asked to pray for the voters in India to make informed decisions in choosing leaders in the general elections from April through to June. In specific regions many churches, seminaries, and Christians have suffered. Pray for peace and unity among citizens during and following the elections.

Please uphold Suraj, his wife Prasanna, and their children as these added responsibilities as the Asia team leader require more planning, time, and travel away from Hyderabad.

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: *cbmin.org*; CBM press release 2023 for Suraj Komaravalli; Komaravalli CBM ministry updates Jan. and Aug. 2023; CBM Prayerline (March and April 2024); CBM Responding (Fall 2023 and Winter 2024); and the CBM 2023–2024 *Hopeful Gifts for Change* catalogue.



Canadian Baptist Ministries staff (back row, left to right: Kylah Lohnes, Jessica Banninga, Suraj Komaravalli, and CP Raju) stand with widows in India who have been part of an empowerment project.

Photo courtesy of Canadian Baptist Ministries