

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We have officially entered into the rainy season in the month of July. The weather has cooled down here and we are receiving plenty of rain these two months.

On August 15<sup>th</sup> we have celebrated 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Independence. We obtained Independence from British in the year 1947. But we have never gained any freedom from political and economical corruption that has been robbing our country since our Independence.

As you might have heard, there is a strong movement that has been going on against corruption in our country. A man named Anna Hazare, who was a freedom fighter during Gandhi's time, is heading up this movement in our capitol New Delhi. His goal is to legislate a bill called *Lokpal*.

*Lokpal* aims to effectively deter corruption, redress grievances of citizens, and protect whistle-blowers. If made into law, the bill would create an independent body that would be empowered to register and investigate complaints of corruption against politicians and bureaucrats without prior government approval.

Of course! Every politician is opposing this, but there is a huge support from the common man, and whichever political party favors this bill might end up as the next ruling party.

No matter how many laws made against corruption, unless there is an inward change in man's heart, every attempt made is a futile attempt. Only the good news of Christ could bring that inward change, a new disposition in our hearts to do that is right and good. Therefore we are keeping ourselves busy in proclaiming

that good news, which gives people a true freedom from the bondage of sin.

### **Gospel Campaigns**

We had a wonderful gospel campaign in one of our church plants in Maribhandham. Ten accepted Christ as their personal savior, and many other decisions were made. We praise God for that.

We also praise God for his protection during our transportation. We had a small incident on our way back on the last night of meetings in our mini bus. An oversized truck, in an attempt to avoid a tree on its left side, swung into our lane of traffic and chipped our bus. Since we don't have any seat belts in our bus, everyone hit the front of their seats when brakes were applied. We had only minor bruises, and very little damage to the bus. Praise God that no one was seriously injured.

Please continue to pray for the upcoming 3-day gospel campaigns in T. Gudem and Pothunuru. Pray that we gain many for Christ.

### **Church**

We had a wonderful One Day Children's Retreat on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and we had around 110 participate in it on that day. Our children program runs at 50 now, which multiplied 3 times over the last three months. Our assistant pastor is doing a wonderful job with that ministry.

We also have many new members added to our church over the last few months. One family in particular, after a random invitation to church on the road, started coming to our church since last week. They are Hindu converts and they immersed all their gods in a river publicly and they are ready to obey the Lord in believer's baptism. I will be baptizing them in a couple of weeks after counseling. This is a testimony that

God blesses our faithfulness in inviting others to church.

Please continue to pray for our church as it is growing rapidly.

### **Baptist Theological College**

God gave us fifteen students this year in our bible college. We have 8 residential students, 7 town students, and 3 faculty members. Please continue to pray that God would provide more students and also for another full time professor by next academic year. I am currently teaching 12 credit hours in the college. Even though I enjoy teaching, I need to cut down some classes by next year to justify other responsibilities of the ministry.

### **Christian Academy**

By God's grace the academy is doing well. I have the privilege of sharing the gospel every week in the chapel hour. Pray that our students would be receptive to the gospel and that we would see many saved this year.

### **Update on Pastor Mani**

We thank each and everyone for your continuing prayers for my father. Even though it is a slow recovery, we are seeing a lot of improvement. Once we help him to sit, he is able to stand and sit with the help of a window grill on verbal commands. This is a huge improvement. His arms are gaining strength day-by-day.

We are scheduled to go for a check up in the month of September. They are specifically scanning him for intra-cranial pressure, and the water that might have formed in the void after the surgery. If they find excess of water, they need to drain by inserting a tube in the spine. This would help in a speedy recovery. Please pray for this surgical process and for God to provide for this specific need. I will continue to update on this matter.

God is keeping us busy in His harvest over here. Thank you for continuing prayers and support as we are laboring here. Please continue to pray for our upcoming events and the following prayer requests.

May God richly bless you!

### **Upcoming Events**

- Sept. 18-23 – BTCS Midterms
- Sept 27-29 – Gospel Campaign in T. Gudem
- Sept 29-30 – Women's Retreat
- Oct 6-8 – Gospel Campaign in Pothunuru

### **Prayer Requests**

- Please continue to pray for my dad's health and for all his medical expenses.
- Pray for my mom for physical and emotional strength during this time.
- Pray for James as he completes his studies.
- Pray for the upcoming gospel campaign in T. Gudem and Pothunuru.
- Pray for the upcoming Men's and Women's retreats.
- Please continue to pray for the finances and all the rising costs around here.
- Pray for me as I fulfill my responsibilities and oversee all these ministries.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Johnny Mani*

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