

The Canadian Baptist Ministries website includes a staff update with the interview, “Get to Know Suraj Komaravalli.”* When the national field staff team leader in India was



asked for an area of hope that he finds in ministry, Suraj cited the CBM partners’ work of aiding victims of human trafficking.

As these victims face social stigma and rejection from their home villages, they find a place of safety provided by Christians. John 6:37b reiterates the message from the heavenly Father: “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (NKJV). These young women who find centres of freedom and protection from their exploiters are trained with the goal of earning income in skills such as tailoring and cooking, and as beauticians. One existing program, “Rehabilitation and Transformation of Rescued and Survived Human Trafficked Women,” is operated under one of CBM’s local partners, Circular Road Baptist Church in Kolkata. A prospective new partner for 2023 is Chumukedima Baptist Church in Dimapur, Nagaland.

In the last two years, CBM’s integral mission strategies have expanded to include several states of India, including Telangana, Andhra



Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, and Nagaland. Suraj asks for continued prayer for the Soura Baptist Christian Mondali Sammelani (SBCMS: *the translation of Mondali Sammelani is Churches Association*), Elim Compassion Ministries (ECM), and the Uktal Baptist Churches Association (UBCA) as they prepare to autonomously run their ongoing projects in 2023 with the support of sustainable, income-generating programs set up by CBM.

Two specific potential projects mentioned by Suraj address the unemployment of youth in Chuchuyimlang village in Mokokchung District, Nagaland, and the empowerment of Ao tribe widows from the mainly rural Baptist churches in the Mokokchung District. SBCMS, UBCA, and ECM will continue

to direct projects such as the rearing of goats, sheep, buffaloes, and chickens.

These ongoing projects serve people by empowering and transforming lives. Suraj Komaravalli’s goal is to add a new partner in new areas of the country each year. CBM is in discussion to add the Baptist church of Mizoram in 2023. Pray also for the follow-up from the “Integral Mission” workshops which ended in October 2022 with the Kui Baptist Association in Odisha state and Chuchuyimlang Baptist Church, in Nagaland. Remember to pray for Suraj, his wife Prasanna, and their family in Hyderabad.

The needs are immense throughout India. Team Leader Suraj encourages us to pray with him for partners who have a zeal and a heart for the broken in India. In Isaiah 61:1, the Old Testament prophet proclaimed humanity’s need and our hope, and is this not the heart of Christ, who himself is the fulfilment of the verse! “The Spirit of the LORD is upon ME, because he anointed ME to bring good news to the poor. He has sent ME to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed...” (Luke 4:18, NASB).

Sources: *cbmin.org/suraj-komaravalli/; and, CBM Prayerline April 5 and August 2, 2022.



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