



CP Raju
Senior Program Coordinator, India
Canadian Baptist Ministries

by Ruth Anna Dana

Church has enrolled youth in the Alcohol Rehabilitation and Transformation Program, and are undertaking a new incentive called Vegetables and Spices under CBM's Faith+Work program. Clark Theological College, located in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland, began a poultry rearing unit to raise funds to provide scholarships to poor students. These ministries are able to continue outreach in rural areas. Church gatherings in the highly populated regions have been put on hold due to government restrictions, although some online workshops and meetings can continue. (*Mondali Sammelani translation: Churches Association.)

In the April 27, 2021, CBM Calling interview with India Team Leader Suraj Komaravalli, Suraj describes a health disaster of long queues, the lack of vaccines, oxygen, and hospital beds, black market high prices, and people dying as they await treatment. Suraj and his wife thank the Lord that they and CP and his wife Jane Swarna were able to have their first doses of vaccine this spring.

CP asks for prayer for the youth who have lost educational opportunities and jobs. With their dreams shattered by the chaos of COVID, many are experiencing depression. Health care workers and those in frontline services need strength, good health, and protection from the virus. Due to fear and a lack of understanding, many people face social ostracism even after recovery.

CP Raju has served as a Canadian Baptist Ministries national field staff member since 2012. CP was born into a Christian family in India, and as the son of a pastor he understands the complexities of long-term ministry outreach in a difficult situation. In a CBM Prayerline entry this summer, he intercedes for God's will for India in this crucial time of the pandemic: "Let your name be glorified through our lives and we seek your continuous protection and guidance when we share the love of you with others in our daily life. Help us to be compassionate towards the people who are in need and in desperate conditions" (July 27, 2021).

As CBM's senior program administrator, CP enables the ministry partners Elim Compassion Ministries, the Utkal Baptist Churches Association (UBCA), and the Soura Baptist Christian Mondali Sammelani* (SBCMS) to run effective programs for literacy, computer training, and tutoring. The SBCMS is also empowering young Soura widows in income-generating home businesses. The Alempang Baptist

The Raju family have been actively involved in church activities in the Indian states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The churches, specially the UBCA, have been greatly affected by COVID-19 due to the loss of many church leaders. Pray for the people who grieve the loss of family members and friends. In April and May of this year, BBC News reported a 7.8 per cent rise of cases in Andhra Pradesh, more than double the national average of 3.4 per cent.

Suraj Komaravalli thanks CBM for its support which has allowed local church partners to reach out with provisions of food and basic medical supplies. At this time, he pleads for our faithful and fervent prayers for workers to know the presence of the Holy Spirit to press on with even greater hope in God's ultimate plan.



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