



The Great Commission Fund

FRUIT THAT ABOUNDS TO YOUR ACCOUNT—PHILIPPINES 4:17

June 2024 - India

THE TESTIMONY OF PASTOR NEELAM ADI NARAYANA

My name is Neelam Adi Narayana. I was born in a traditional Hindu Family on 15 August 1972 in a village in the district of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. My father's name



is Chowdaiah, and my mother's name is Lakshmi Devamma. When I was a boy, my father worked as a sack-bag manufacturer and earned a very decent wage, and my mother was a housewife. We are a total of four brothers and one younger sister. My father

practiced performing all the Hindu rituals from a very young age and insisted all his children do the same; our family had practiced those rituals for generations. So, all four brothers and our sister used to participate in all kinds of rituals performed by our family.

In those days, my father had two acres of land, but many of my relatives planned to grab the entire property belonging to my father. They paid shamans and witches to execute many witchcraft acts against my father, and as a result, he was attacked by demons and suffered for many days to survive their attacks. They performed Mantras* against my father, causing nightmares and bringing great fear upon him whenever he would enter the house. He believed that through the nightmares, someone or some demon spirit would be able to kill him. So, without their knowledge, while the rest of the family, being untargeted by the spells, slept inside our house, he used to sleep in the graveyard, believing that nightmares and death could only take place in his house. We were very young and did not know what to do. All this was because his relatives were greedy for his land and had failed to persuade him to sell it to them cheaply. My father told me that they first tried to get his mother to sell the land but were so cruel that when she refused, they killed my grandmother by giving her sleeping pills. We took my father to many Hindu temples, believing that he would be delivered from all the



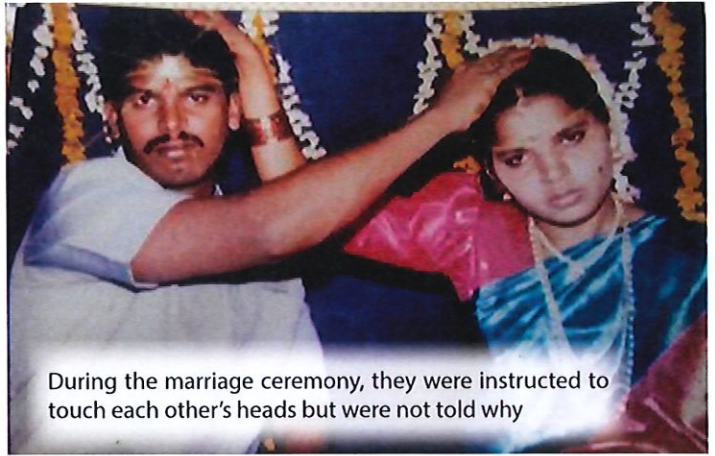
spiritual and physical bondage and that we could lead a happy life, but we couldn't find any positive results.

Finally, we were able to meet a pastor who regularly visited our village and shared the Gospel of Christ. We invited him into our home and requested him to pray for my father. He had no fear of the demon spirits and encouraged us to

believe in the Name of the Lord Jesus. We blindly and ignorantly nodded our heads because we wanted our father, who was on a sick bed, to be healed. After he prayed earnestly, we experienced peace in our home, and gradually, my father was delivered from the clutches of the devils. After this incident, my father thought he had completely surrendered himself to God and encouraged my mother to believe in Jesus. However, they never attended church to learn enough about Christ to understand what salvation was, and so they were not yet saved. They just stopped worshipping the idols and thought that they had become Christians.

Years passed by. Once, an old lady was distributing Gospel tracts in our neighboring village, and as my brother was passing through on his way home, he accepted a Gospel tract and asked that old lady what the tract was about. She started to explain the love of Christ, and he liked her words, so she brought the tract home. The same night, he heard the voice of the Lord Jesus asking him, "Will you live for me?" He immediately accepted God's voice and, started to confess all his sins, and accepted Christ as his personal Savior. This was in the year 1990. He then started to attend church to learn more about Christ, and he asked my parents to accompany him to church. There, the Word of God penetrated their hearts, and they realized how sinful they were. That was when my parents' life changed.

I studied only up to the 6th grade in our village school because my parents were not able to afford to pay the \$2 monthly fees for each of us. So, I stopped going to school and was idle at home for about four to five years, and when I was 15 years old, I got a job as a building construction helper. I worked there for about five years and had many friends around me. One of my friends was a fruit seller, so when all my other friends wanted to have some fruit, we visited his shop and took advantage of him because, being poor, none of my friends were able to pay the amount, including me. When he saw that none of us had money to pay for the fruit, the seller got a wild look in his eyes, took a knife, and killed



During the marriage ceremony, they were instructed to touch each other's heads but were not told why

one of my friends. When the police were summoned, I was blamed for the murder without reason. I did not know what to do, so I shared all these things with my brother. Then, I escaped from my village and went to a place called Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. My brothers went to the Police Station in our village and requested the police to close the case by paying them five thousand rupees (\$209.56)

Even after coming to Anantapur, I was involved in rowdyism for about five years. We, friends, would go together to the hotels**, eat as much as we could, and leave suddenly, never paying the bill. We also used to grab money from innocent people to pay for our other expenses. In this area, there was another group that was against our group. Once, the leaders of both groups started to fight each other because they were in love with the same girl. As our leaders fought, we all began to fight, but sadly, they killed each other, and when the police arrived, again, I was arrested as the culprit. To keep the peace, the police turned me over to the gangs, and both the groups, fifteen members, caught me, tied me to a pole, and tried to execute me. I was 22 years old when all this happened in my life, and believing I was about to die, I called upon the name of the Lord Jesus for help. Miraculously, a Christian brother named Samuel ran up to us and convinced both groups to release me from the knots.

He helped me to come out of this problem, or else I would have died at the age of 22. I believed that this happened only because of the Lord Jesus. He saved me from all these disputes, but still, I had not accepted Him as my Lord and Savior.

Later, my father decided to find a wife for me. At the age of 23, I got married to Jyothi on 21 June 1995, according to Hindu practices. Then, through one of the engineers from a construction company, I was able to come



Conducting the Lord's Supper at one of his five churches

to Bangalore at the end of the same year and start to search for a construction job. There, I was appointed as a supervisor over ten men. We had no children for about five years.

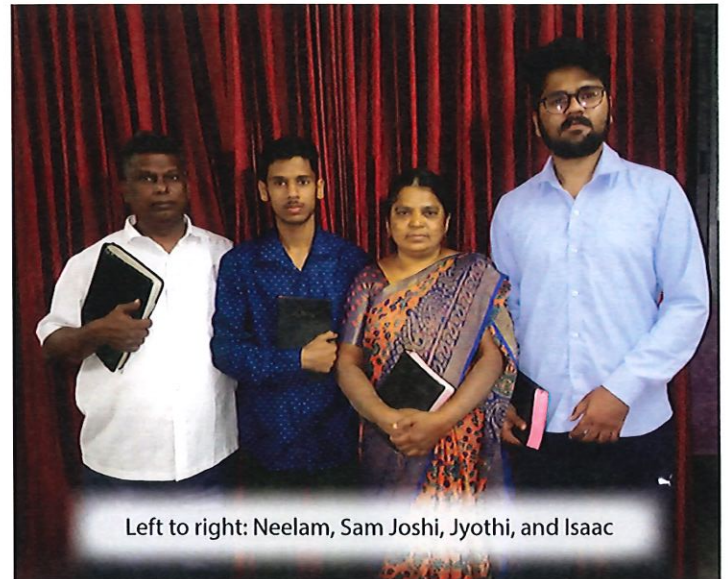
From the time my brother was saved, he attended church and practiced reading the Bible and praying. So, my wife, not yet a Believer, also wanted to attend the church to see how Christians worship. Most of the time, when my brother would share the love of Christ with me, I would always say that we already have so many gods, and what do I need with one more? But he never stopped praying for me and witnessing me.

Later, in 1999, when I was 27 years old, I picked up a Bible and started to randomly turn the pages. I realized God was speaking to me with the words from Luke chapter 12 and verses 19-20. "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

That day, I gave myself to the Lord Jesus. Then, I started attending church to learn about Christ, and my wife and I received Baptism in the same year. The Pastor continually encouraged us from the Word of God, and we were very excited to know the love of Christ.

The following year, 2000, I started to share the Gospel in the streets and distribute tracts to the people who wanted one. My wife and I were both visiting houses and praying for the families. God performed many miracles. One day, we came across a child who was ten years old and was demon-possessed, and his eyes were dark red. So, we shared the Gospel and prayed for his deliverance. God answered our prayers, and the boy was delivered. Due to many people in that village observing the miracle, many people started to believe in Jesus, but only a few accepted Him as their personal Savior. They saw Him only as a powerful god, not as the Son of the Living God. From the year 2000 to 2004, God started to add people to our house church. In 2006, I completely surrendered to God, quit my job, and entered the full-time ministry as a pastor and church planter.

From 2006 to now, God has been working miraculously, adding souls to the church and fulfilling His plans in our lives



according to His will. God has blessed us with two sons: the elder son, Isaac, is 22 years old, and the younger son, Samuel John, is 17 years old. Both are studying and are very supportive in the ministry.

By His Grace, we are all serving the Lord for His Glory, and we thank God for leading us in a wonderful way through all these years of our lives. We have experienced many ups and downs in life. Despite all these obstacles, God has appointed us to bring glory to His Name.

Continue to pray for our family and the ministries we do. May the Name of the Lord be Glorified.

Currently, Neelam's mother lives with his sister. His father passed into the Glory of God's presence several years



Baptizing in a river with the assistance of one of the men he has trained in ministry

ago. His youngest brother joined their father in 2020 due to kidney failure, and his other two brothers remain active in their service for Christ. Neelam and his wife have started five house churches, which are pastored by six men whom he led to Christ, disciplined, and appointed.

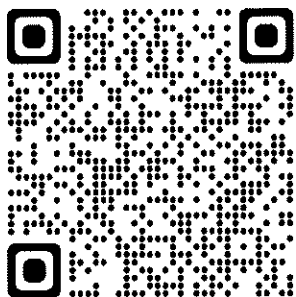
What is a Mantra?

*Mantras, in the American culture, refer to statements or slogans frequently repeated and are commonly used by political pundits. However, in Buddhism and Hinduism, they are sacred chantings and incantations containing magical or secret words recognized by demon spirits that compel them to act against an enemy or purpose. They are performed by Mantriks, who typically worship Kali, the goddess of death (among other things), and are trained in casting spells, magic, sorcery, divination, and astrology. In other cultures, mantras are referred to as black magic and witchcraft.

Words used in mantras have long ago infiltrated the English language, primarily by magicians, and have acquired different definitions. Some examples are the words abracadabra, alakazam, hocus-pocus, voila, open sesame, and mojo.

Eating at a hotel:

**Hotels. In India, there are few fast-food restaurants, and they are typically in large cities. People often resort to eating out at hotels that have restaurants for their clients. Sometimes, those who cannot afford the food will eat casually, all they can, then quickly run out without paying.



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