

# Capstone Ministries

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***Little did I know that he had quite a story to tell.***

***We were sitting at a table during lunch with a number of people who were taking part in Capstone's CBI ( Capstone Bible Institute) pastoral training program at a Bible college in Coimbatore, India. Across from me sat an elderly man-my estimate was age 85. Joel was quiet and humble. I asked what he thought of the CBI material. He liked it. And then I asked him about his long walk with Christ and the incredible story began to unfold beginning with his grandfather.***

***As a young man, his grandfather came to accept Christ as his savior though a Christian friend. Early one morning, while it was still dark, he secretly left with his friend to be baptised in a nearby river. He was unaware that his father, a Hindu, had gotten wind of his plans and was hiding in the woods near the river with a loaded gun. When the newly baptised son stepped out of the water he was staring at an enraged father with a gun pointing at his son's chest. Without a word he pulled the trigger. The gun misfired. He pulled it again. Again it misfired. In disbelief.... and then in belief, he threw the gun down and asked to be baptized as well.***

***A short time later the two Christian friends determined to establish a church. Walking through a large estate they paused and knelt to ask God to build the church . They then felt lead to inquire of the owner of the estate to see if some land may be available for purchase. The elderly, Hindu woman saw the earnestness in their eyes and felt compelled to help them. Unaware of their prayer, she offered to donate a small plot of land- the exact place where they prayed.***

***A beautiful stone church was built on that property which still stands today ( Joel was proud to show me a picture). This young man pastored the church until his death when his son replaced him. And upon his death his son, Joel, replaced him. Joel's son is also a pastor but serves a church in Scotland with a Scottish wife and eight children-unlikely to return to India. Joel is known, in the mountainous area of his home, as the pastor that goes door to door sharing the gospel with nonbelievers.***

***I asked Joel about the future of his church-this gift from God. " I don't know but God will provide," he said wistfully but with a smile.***

**RRF**