

## A Courageous Woman's Vision Reborn

It was 1895 in Philadelphia when Mary Baer, MD graduated from the first medical school for woman in the world-Woman's Medical College. She then sailed half the globe to a land and culture foreign to anything she had known. Landing in Cherala, India on the southeast coast, she began seeing needy patients in thatched huts.

By 1912 she was able to raise funds for what would be the Baer Christian Hospital. Over the subsequent six decades it would provide care, typically to the poor and lower castes, for over 100,000 patients. Little did Dr Baer know but just before she retired she would deliver two babies at her hospital who would have a profound effect on the future of the mission. In the 1970's, due to multiple factors, the hospital was abandoned and fell into disrepair.

Fred and Lalitha would reach a level of success far beyond the vast majority of those born and raised in Cherala. They would marry and Fred would receive his PhD and do AIDS research at Emory. Lalitha, a pediatrician, would work at a children's hospital in Atlanta. They raised a family now scattered over the US. In 2003 they were called by God to restore the hospital where they were born and to renew the vision of the doctor who delivered them. They sold their home and left their family in the states to go back to Cherala and personally invested in the remodeling of the hospital making it one of the finest medical centers in the area.

Capstone Ministries has supported their efforts and most recently helped pay for a medical van to provide care to very impoverished, remote, rural areas surrounding Cherala. They pray they will be able to restore the second floor of the hospital to start a Christian nursing/nurse practitioner school.



## Gypsy Orphans

Too many children, especially girls, are at risk in India; often used and abused. The following is an unedited account of two girls who are now living in another orphanage that Capstone Ministries is helping to establish. Many of these children come from a gypsy background from the Banjaras tribe.

*Today we will share Srwanthi and Swathi's stories. Their mother who is a prostitute threw them in the drainage when Srwanthi was 2 years old ( far right on front row of left photo below) and Swathi was 2 months old (middle child in front row). Their mother tried to kill them with a knife but Srwanthi along with her father protected Swathi. They have marks on their bodies that will never let them forget that their mother wanted to kill them. Their alcoholic father rescued them from their mother and put them on the streets to beg. Srwanthi took care of Swathi like she is her baby, even though she was a child herself. They had no proper food, shelter, clothing or protection even with their father. Two years back their father died leaving them alone. Srwanthi was only 7 years old and Swathi 5 years old when they were left on the streets. Pastor Christy heard about them through another Pastor friend and went to get them. The first few weeks when they were brought to the Home of Hope Hyderabad they tried to run away 4 times, but consistent care, love and stability has helped them adjust and thrive. They learn verses and pray very well but they need to accept Christ as their Savior. Occasionally Srwanthi will get moody, lonely and sad and will think of running away but seeing her sister Swathi comforts her. Although Srwanthi and Swathi still sometime struggle with accepting authority and having adults caring for them, they are settling down. To reassure Srwanthi and let her know she is wanted and needed we have made her the leader for the girls. They have a long road ahead to be completely healed from all the hurt they have suffered in the short life they have lived. They both need your prayer.*

Pastor Christy and his wife are the house parents for these children. He was also from the Banjaras tribe which for centuries have maintained their own culture and lived outside of communities seldom mingling. When he was five months old he fell into an open fire and both his legs were burned. He was unable to walk for five years and was often neglected. He was forced to work in spite of his handicap. He heard the gospel and accepted Christ as his Lord as a young child. The Hindu tribe excommunicated him and he lived as an orphan for ten years. By God's grace he persevered and was able to attend Bible college and now wants to serve those that share his suffering.



## The Missionary's Children

In 1939 Joseph Krupadanan was called by God to move from south India, where most Christians are concentrated, to north central India- to an area living in spiritual darkness. He and his wife had three children with four to follow. The trails were extreme. He and his family would travel by foot or bicycle from village to village. He would often ride his bike 50 miles through jungle paths to reach a remote village. They lived in a mud home without electricity and their family was often threatened. His first baptism followed three years later- to a couple to be named Abraham and Sarah who are still alive today at ages 115 and 110 respectively. In the following years thousands of people accepted Christ. Abraham recalls one day when Joseph started baptizing at 8 AM and did not stop until 2 AM the next day. The harsh life took its toll and Joseph succumbed to cancer fifteen years after his call. He had planted fourteen churches.

## Capstone Ministries

By 2016 those fourteen churches had planted 450 more with an average size of 100 and the largest with 500 members. Many will meet under a tree or in a field putting them at risk for persecution. Joseph's youngest two children, Myrtle and Joseph, both with multiple college degrees, are now retired and volunteer full time to train those 450 pastors using the material from Capstone Bible Institute. Twenty-seven churches and 45 temporary shelters- called meeting places to avoid persecution- have been built. The only other living offspring of Joseph sits on the Capstone board and travels to India annually in extensive work for the ministry. Many of Joseph's grandchildren are also actively involved.

God planted a seed through Joseph and the vine continues to grow bearing much fruit.



Call Today. 865-315-7947

## Serve With Love

If you are looking to serve Christ locally or if you want to have your family involved in ministry or if you recently retired with a lifetime of experience then the enclosed brochure is intended to help facilitate your connection to some of the most volunteer-needy programs in Knox County. This list can also be found on the Capstone Ministries website ([capstoneministries.net](http://capstoneministries.net)) or the Compassion Coalition website ([compassioncoalition.org](http://compassioncoalition.org)) with easy reference to each program.

Should your small group or Sunday school class care to discuss these listed ministries further then contact Capstone Ministries at 865-315-7947. A representative, who has visited each of these ministries, will set up a meeting with your group.



Stories to inspire ...

**Capstone Ministries**  
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