

YOUR CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM REPORT

Mercy Child Survival Program (IN-CS6) India

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PASTOR

Each local Child Survival Program (CSP) is managed by and facilitated through a church. Because of ongoing religious persecution and danger in India, however, we must protect the pastor's identity and the location of the Child Survival Program you support. Please ask God to protect the staff, children and their families and pray for an end to violence in India.

The Child Survival Program you partner with serves families in a crowded rural community in India. Although there is electricity, sanitation is poor with no safe drinking water, toilets or garbage collection. There is no major industry here, and half of adults are unemployed. Most families make just U.S.26 cents a day as farmers, and when the farming season is over that amount drops even lower. Children suffer from malnutrition, respiratory infections, jaundice and vitamin deficiencies, and few families can afford medical care. The illiteracy rate is high, and many children in this community, especially girls, are denied an education.

1. How long have you served as pastor here?

I have been serving with this church and in this community since 2004.

Your Child Survival Program at a Glance* ...

- Total mothers: 53
- Total children: 54
 - Infants 12 months and under: 16
 - Toddlers 13 to 48 months: 38

*As reported by our church partners for the quarter ending in June 2009

Pray for ...

- More mothers in need to be taken into the Child Survival Program.
- Volunteer help at church meetings, and for home visits to be encouraging, fruitful times for both caregiver and family.
- Safety and God's provision for the many families in eastern India who have fled their homes in fear and are now living in government relief camps.
- Encouragement for the people affected by fighting that damaged or destroyed four Compassion-assisted child development centers and temporarily closed nine others.



A CSP worker, right, helps Niranja to get her son, Akash, to identify the color of the toys he is holding. Niranja married when she was 15 and now has two children.



During home visits, CSP workers monitor the progress of families and teach lessons on hygiene, nutrition and health.

2. What kind of ministry to the community takes place here?

We have the Sunday service, on Thursdays we have house prayer meetings in different houses each week, and every Wednesday we have Bible study in the church. This is particularly for the youth and is meant to improve their biblical knowledge and strengthen their faith. On Friday mornings we have fasting and prayer. Many people in this place practice witchcraft, and during fasting and praying people have been released from bondages. There have even been some cases where childless couples have been blessed with a child.

3. How is the Child Survival Program working with mothers in need?

Ministering to mothers in need is God's divine vision. I am very happy to minister to them. Out of 100 members in our church, 30 mothers are CSP beneficiaries. Since the program is church based we are fully involved in this ministry.

4. What would you like to say to people who support the Child Survival Program?

This kind of ministry is necessary for every church, because when we convey the love of God but don't take care of the people's needs, the scriptures will not be fulfilled. But by taking care of their physical needs, we fulfill the words God spoke with regard to feeding the hungry and taking care of the needy. With the Child Survival Program we can reach the suffering people and meet their needs.



CSP mother Logamani and her husband, Muvandran, hold their twin sons, Praveen and Pradeep, outside their two-room mud home.



Karrupayee plays with her daughter, Reema, at their home.



CSP mother Petchi holds her daughter, Subaida. Petchi is grateful for the support she receives through the program, such as being given vegetables, normally too expensive for her family to buy.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

— Psalm 139:13-14, NIV