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where transformation happens

## Indian Woman Eavesdrops on CBSI Class and Meets Jesus

Amutha knew she shouldn't be listening outside Sumi's house. Her husband had said, "You can't go there."

It was risky to be eavesdropping, yet the Hindu woman continued to be drawn to the conversations inside. Something was different about these people. Something was stirring in her heart as she soaked in what they were saying. In spite of the risk, she had to come back next week. And the week after that.

Amutha lives in the slums of Villivakkam in Chennai, India. More than two million people live in the slums of Chennai surviving in makeshift, one-room shelters often made of scavenged materials from the dump. Many have no running water or electricity. Open ditches eventually carry away the sewage.

Living in a single room is stressful for families. Amutha and her husband fought frequently and loudly.

So what was going on in Sumi's house when Amutha was listening outside? It was a Community Bible Study meeting. She was hearing people discuss what they were learning about God in His Word. The teacher made it seem so clear and real. This God sounded much different from the gods in the Hindu temple. These people talked like they actually knew God.

As Amutha stood outside one day, she prayed, "Lord help me to become part of this group." Not too long after that, her husband gave her permission to attend the Bible study.



Amutha



More than two million people call the slums of Chennai, India, home.

She got a warm reception from Sumi's group. They helped her feel comfortable and encouraged her to study the Bible with them. She didn't have much education, but she could tell God was helping her read the passages and answer the questions. The teachings expanded her understanding.

As she learned more and more about God, her frequent fights

with her husband stopped. Before long, she decided to become a Christian. She invited Jesus into her heart and was baptized.

Amutha's life has been changed because she encountered Christians whose lives reflected the love of Jesus. They weren't like the other people she knew, and she wanted to know more about them and their God. The Community Bible Study class was a safe place for her to get to know believers and become a believer herself.

Chennai experienced horrific flooding last November after days of non-stop rain. Literally millions were suffering as the floodwaters took weeks to recede. Community Bible Study leaders and participants were quick to come to the aid of as many people as they could, taking people into their homes and finding other ways to help. Again, the Christians stood out because they cared about others' misery.



*The heaviest rainfalls in more than 100 years flooded Chennai, India, submerging homes, schools, and businesses.*

Community Bible Study's vision statement is Transformed Lives Through the Word of God. Amutha is just one of the thousands whose lives have been changed as they engaged with God in His Word.

CBSI has grown significantly in India and the South Asia Region in the last few years, but translations of Bible studies are available in only a few of the major languages.

Would you pray about making a donation to help reach others like Amutha? The opportunities to share God and His Word far exceed the available resources. Your gift will make a significant difference in the life of someone like Amutha.

Thank you!

With joy in Him,

*Frank & Marian*

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