

*Read this powerful testimony from a pastor from India - one of the 43 we support!*

**WITNESS OF Bro. RATAN KUMAR DITAL**



Dear brother Pastor Chambers  
and the brothers and sisters of Full Gospel Tabernacle, Bellflower,

Greetings in the name of our lord Jesus Christ,

First of all I am Bro. Ratan Kumar Dital from Orissa, I and on behalf of all the brothers and sisters in Orissa thank you very much for your help since last 3 years. Here I would like to write my life witness for your kind information and to let the other brothers and sisters of your congregation.

I was born and brought up as a fundamentalist Hindu; my parents were strong devotees of Lord Siva. After I completed my 8<sup>th</sup> class studies my parents sent me to an ashram (the place where Hindu monks lives and priests training centre), which is on the top of high hills of our area. There I have learned priesthood to serve in a "**Lord Siva Temple**" where I was trained for 4years in Hindu sacraments; worship, traditions etc.

After this training I was sent to a village as an assistant to an old Hindu priest, the priest was so bad one he has all bad habits; which I felt that he is not a right priest in the holy Siva temple. But he always tells me that these things (Alcohol; womanizing; etc) are common to the Hindu gods he told me an example that Lord Siva had 2 wives and several others. Lord Krishna has thousands of wives and he is lord of all, thus a wrong signal came to my mind that it is not right place to worship the real god.

One of my friends from low cast is a Christian in fact I don't like Christians since my parents thought me to not to be with Christians and Christians are enemies to us. But this friend is my classmate from childhood and I always differ with him with regarding the religious ideas. In Orissa we always against Christians and if there is a small weak point all the Hindu community go against the Christians and try to kill at least one of them or try to destroy their houses. But he was strong never try to quarrel or argue with me but was telling he is praying for me and for all the Hindu family in my village.

One day while I was a priest in Siva temple a Christian passing through the temple street with shoes (no Christian should wear shoes in Hindu areas; especially in the streets of Hindu temples) when I saw the Christian going in the temple street with shoes I was angry and immediately I summoned him to the elders. When I reported about his shoes; the Hindu elders of the village beaten him very strongly and cut his foot. There I was really upset and became so weak by seeing such brutal persecution of Christians. I was strong but after this happened I became lean and my parents had no hope of my survival. But one day my Christian friend took permission from parents to visit me in my house (Because Christians should not go into the houses of Hindus), when he saw me he wept loudly (it touched my heart because no one who visited me including my relatives never wept for me but always saying he might have sinned against god). Because of his tears and of my relatives words that I might have sinned against god.

Then I began to think of his love, though I am one of the Christian haters when he saw me why he was so deeply wept and why he is loving me? Also why my relatives say that I sinned against god? Then next day I have called my Christian friend and asked these two questions; it was a great surprise to me that he gave answers in two simple words. 1. Jesus loves you because I am son of Jesus I must have his mind even to love our enemies. 2. you sinned against lord Jesus Christ because of the Christian who lost his 2 feet it is sin against the real god. Finally before he leave me he told me believe in Jesus Christ he will heal you and save you from your sins. I began to think and recollect of his words and try to pray to Jesus, but I don't know how to pray but did like the following:

Lord Jesus my friend told me you loves me and also I sinned against you, if that is true please extend your love to me and your forgive my sins. This prayer I have continued until one week and I was able to eat and walk in this week. I went to my Christian friends house (Everybody surprised by seeing me at a Christian's house) but I told him that I want Jesus but don't let others know. I also asked him to give me a small bible but when you are bringing the bible come with your school books and hide it in your books. Thus I got a bible trying to read this new testament at home when my parents smelt that I am reading some book secretly I hide this book in Siva temple. The next day I brought the bible in Siva temple the old priest died and I am free to read the bible without knowing to any one by hiding myself behind the Siva idol.

One day the village Hindu elder came to the temple when I was not in my place and he wants to clean the temple inside and out side along with his wife and two daughters. Then they found the Bible at the back of the Idol covered with a bag; they summoned me to the centre beaten me with reaps and excommunicated me from the village. Then in other villages no one either Christians or my own community people gave me shelter. I was sleeping on a rock under a tree, there an old glittering white colored man came and told me that I want you. He also told me to go to certain village and to a certain man who is a pastor, when I went there that man was waiting for me and the pastor told me last night Lord Jesus told me to take you in to my house.

Thus I entered into a pastors family learned the word of god and received baptism and holy spirit at the same time. I have married a Christian girl and god told me to go to my own place and serve me in this village. By the time I reached there the pastor of this village died and they were praying for guidance to have a pastor from among them. When I went there god spoke to the congregation that I have anointed Ratan Kumar Dital to serve me in this congregation. Thus the congregation accepted me as their pastor, the news spread in the village and all the Hindu fundamentalists turned against me. They try to kill me but god rescued me from several brutal incidents

In 2008 when the Hindu fundamentalists killed several Christians and destroyed the houses and houses of the Lord they try to kill me also; but upon the advise of Pastor Philip I have escaped to a safe place where pastor Philip took care of me well and god used me mightily and few Hindu people converted to Christianity. Thus also god used me even in this bad time for Christians in Orissa; I was away from home for nearly 1 ½ years and served the lord wherever I am.

Still I am in the hit list of Hindu fundamentalists; but serving the lord by faith, pastor Philip has been helping me and the other pastors in Orissa since last 3 years. Our state is very poor and the situation of the pastors and Christians are very dangerous in Orissa. Since the members in congregation are poor they are not able to give generously to the lord, but yet god has been feeding us wonderfully through your help and love. In fact the rural congregations pastors in Orissa have very less income and suffering a lot for survival. God knows the situations and helping through you like godly persons, I myself was suffering a lot for lively food but when you have helped us through Pastor Philip it multiplied by reaching us. In fact pastor Philip told us that you never met him not heard of him any where but when he wrote to you god moved your heart and helping us. Praise God for having such a deep revelation from god to help the poorest of poor servants.

I have two children one girl and one boy I have lost one boy in 2008 revolt by Hindu fundamentalists, but I praise god for his grace and mercy upon me and the other Christians in Orissa. We in Orissa are praying for you; all the pastors and congregations are praying for you and your families; especially those who are so deeply touched by our situation since 2008. We know that the people in US have been facing financial crises but our lord is able to release his people from such crises. Please continue to pray for us and for the all Christians in Orissa; we are living at the edge of hill but we depends on the lord to not to fall.

We the receivers of your support in Orissa are having a very big prayer and help request to help our children education; which is a oasis to our children. After 2008 crises we are not able to send our children to local schools and children are also not interested to meet the fundamentalists children in school as down looked on them. If you could help us we will send us these children to a place away from us to any paying hostel.

We also have a request to all brothers and sisters that we lost all our houses and household things; but Pastor Philip through your help helped us to buy things for home but we still no houses. If god opens doors through you from brothers and sisters from other congregations and places in US we will get houses and live peacefully.

Kindly pray for us and we continue to pray for you also kindly bring our love and greetings to all brothers and sisters in FGT, Bellflower.

With loving greetings,  
Your brother in Christ,  
Bro. Ratan Kumar Dital  
Rudangia, Kandamal District  
Orissa