



# Neetu's Story



medical ambassadors

INTERNATIONAL

healing lives...transforming communities

Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) builds relationships with the world's most vulnerable people and together work to heal communities both physically and spiritually. For over 40 years, we have addressed such issues as health, agriculture, literacy, and micro-enterprise to drastically improve communities and move them towards healthier sustainability.

At present MAI works in **2,674 communities** around the world impacting a population of over **3 million people** in **75 countries** through the work of over **52,000+ volunteers** who live and serve in these communities.

All this is done through our niche program **Community Health Evangelism (CHE)**.



**CHE is a proven, powerful development process that determines and meets the needs of the whole person—physical, spiritual, emotional, and social.**

We tailor this process for a variety of worldwide concerns like gender discrimination, fatherhood and the formation of stronger families, education for children, human trafficking prevention, and how to prevent and care for HIV/AIDS.

Families often stay in the CHE program for years, learning and implementing information from many different lessons. Community members are presented with development knowledge as well as with the Gospel unless it is a security issue.



In **CHE Communities** health improves, infant mortality decreases, agriculture becomes more productive, and jobs are created. Water systems, roads, schools, and clinics are built, and churches are planted. People have recovered their identity as made in the image of God and their vocation as stewards of creation.

Instead of being controlled or victimized by their environment, they are stewards of it. People are equipped to identify needs and resources, put together a plan, and mobilize volunteers to accomplish their vision.

People are continually reflecting on what is happening in order to learn how to be more effective. Believers are meeting together for fellowship, prayer, Bible study and worship, and are **sharing Christ with their neighbors in word and deed.**





## One of the many stories...

### *Neetu*

grew up in poverty and her parents lived in a small slum in South Asia. The lack of hygiene and access to health care resulted in Neetu being exposed to Polio. This left her crippled in both feet.

Neetu's mother often shouted at her and said that she was cursed and had brought the family bad luck. She also said in disdain that no one would marry her. At other times, when she was tired and exhausted, she would say that she wished that Neetu was dead, as she was nothing but a burden and a curse.

As Neetu grew, she was sent to study at a local government school. She struggled a lot there because there were no provisions or accommodations made for her disability. The other children made fun of her as she struggled to move around.

**A local Christian school that was part of a CHE program, found out about Neetu.** They gave her a scholarship to attend their programs. They provided her with a wheelchair and even made a wooden ramp available just for her.



Neetu studied hard and learned her lessons well. She was moved by the love and affection she got from her teachers and the CHE facilitators. It wasn't long before she put her faith in the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior and became a devoted disciple. After finishing high school, Neetu joined the CHE team as a CHE facilitator focused on disability concerns. She was a strong witness for Christ to her friends and in her neighborhood. With a new job she now had the ability to earn money and she was able to give money to her mother to share in the household expenses. Neetu's mother's attitude slowly started changing, and she was less harsh with her. However, she still had the concern about having an unmarried daughter at home (this is a big concern for South Asian mothers).

Neetu's dream was to buy a cell phone for herself, and so she saved. Finally, the day came when she had enough money to buy a cell phone. She was so proud to be an owner of this simple flip phone, that many of the neighbors liked to refer to her as, 'the girl with the phone'.

One day Neetu wanted to call a friend. She dialed the number and listened as the phone rang, anticipating her friend's voice on the other side. However, it wasn't a voice that she recognized - a man's voice, a caring voice, a voice she immediately connected with. She didn't know who he was, but she knew she wanted to stay on the phone. She learned that his name was Jitendra.



Neither of them wanted to hang up. One wrong number, a few sentences, and they quickly became friends. They stayed in regular contact with each other and talked often. Soon they realized that they were in love with each other, even though they had never met in person. Neetu had never told Jitendra that Polio had crippled her in both feet. She never knew they would build such a lasting connection.

Then, the day she was dreading the most came. Jitendra requested that they meet in person. Neetu was very fearful because she believed that she brought bad luck and was a curse. She wondered if Jitendra would one day regret marrying her and wish her dead just as her mother had once done. But their connection grew, and their love grew, and their desire to see each other also grew.

One day, while they were talking, Neetu couldn't hold back any longer. She broke down in tears and confessed to Jitendra about the Polio and about her crippled feet, and the line went silent. Fear, sadness, and pain washed over Neetu. 'This is it. This is the end,' she thought. Then the silence was broken. To her surprise, she heard a voice of kindness saying, "Neetu! That makes no difference to me - I love you."

Life took on a completely new turn after they had expressed their love to each other. Neetu and Jitendra met and discovered how strong their love was. Her disability truly did not affect their relationship, and in no way diminished Jitendra's love for her.

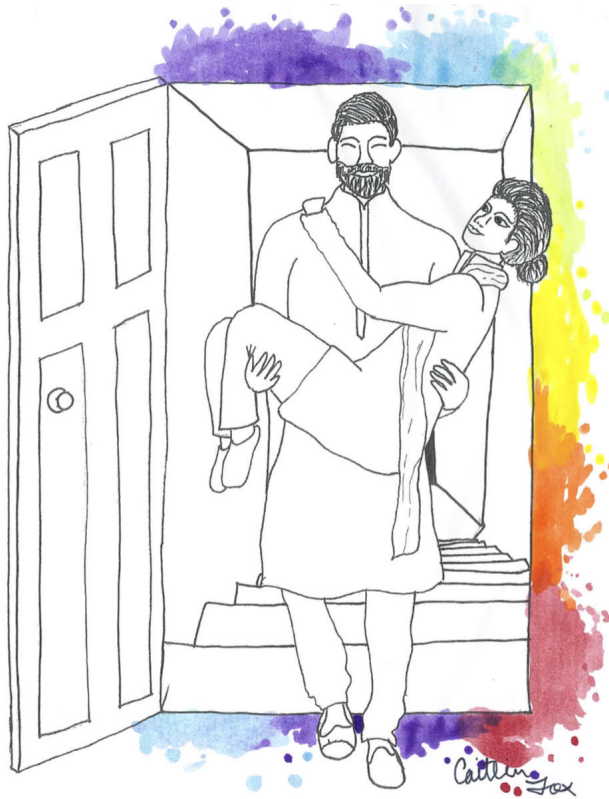
There was still one barrier. Neetu had shared with Jitendra about her relationship with Christ, and while Jitendra had been receptive to the gospel, he had not made any decision about following Christ. They both went and met with Neetu's pastor. **After continuing to get counseling from the Pastor, Jitendra surrendered his life to Christ!**

When Jitendra came to Neetu's family to ask for her hand in marriage, Neetu's mother cried helplessly with joy. She hugged her daughter and declared that she was not a curse, but a blessing. She also told Neetu that she now believed what Neetu had told her about the Lord Jesus being able to do far more than one could dare ask of Him. Neetu's mother also became a child of God!

**Neetu and Jitendra got married and Jitendra decided to serve alongside Neetu as her colleague. They served the disabled in the community through the CHE program.**



*On one occasion, they were to speak to a large group of women. Jitendra drove Neetu there on his scooter. When they arrived, they discovered that the meeting was on the second floor, and that there was no elevator. Without hesitation, Jitendra carried her up the flight of stairs. When they came through the doorway, he placed her on the chair from where she was to speak to the group. Jitendra looked up to a room full of women all in tears. "Why are you crying?" he asked them, "We are here to teach you." The group leader stood up and made her way over to him. Between sobs said, "We already got your message. The lesson from your personal example is enough inspiration for all of us."*



As the work continued and grew, and their impact spread, Jitendra became very sick and had to be admitted to hospital. For many days they anxiously waited and prayed. The doctors had discovered that Jitendra had only one functioning kidney, which meant he had to be on medication long term and had to be careful how much strain he subjected his body to. Now it was Neetu's turn to look after Jitendra!

As the dark cloud of sickness hung over them, Neetu and Jitendra reminded each other that they still were God's children and that 'He who had walked with them when they lived without hope, was still their God.' They reminded each other about what their pastor had said, "You believed that God was blessing you when you saw Him answer prayers...when everything was bright...don't doubt Him now when you are going through a period of darkness."

**Neetu and Jitendra's story is one of redemption, hope, and a demonstration from God that He truly has our lives in His hands, and cares for us!**

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."*

Romans 12:12

Today, they serve relentlessly, showing compassion to the disabled, and serving them as children of God. They teach and work with the rest of the community to show the disabled God's love, His acceptance of them, and His provision.

They visit, teach, and facilitate workshops on a variety of subjects, like:

- Understanding disability
- Making special provisions for integrating the disabled in daily life
- Showing care, concern, and love for the disabled
- Recognizing that disability is not a curse from God, but an opportunity for the family and community to show compassion and care



Scan QR code to  
view video story



All photos are a representative to preserve their identity.

When we think of Neetu and Jitendra's story, we can't help but see the virtue of serving and giving. They gave freely of their lives, time, resources, energy, and love. As a result, God continues to bless them and those that they serve, to bring many into His kingdom.

**God can use you too!**

*Join us!*

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:

**'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'** - Acts 20:35

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