

Changing Their Story



Madusmita working on a shawl



Niru with her goat



Romina showing a stitched blouse

BY **JESSICA BANNINGA**

UNPREDICTABLE FLOODING, illiteracy, and no access to health care. That is the reality for women like Madusmita, Niru and Romina, who belong to the Mising Tribe.

The Mising tribe is Northeast India's second-largest Indigenous group and relies mainly on small-scale farming for income. Unfortunately, the nearby river is affected by frequent and erratic flooding. With an unstable income, much of the community lives below the poverty line, especially minority Christian groups who are often the least privileged within the predominantly Hindu population. With an underdeveloped educational system, the economic situation of many in the community remains poor; alongside high unemployment and dropout rates, the literacy rate for women in the community is at a mere 48 percent.

Madusmita is a mother of two children. She spends her days working in the field with her husband, where they earn a meager source of income. The Kaman family is one of the only Christian families in the village. They live in a remote area of Assam, and their village has no basic facilities like a school or medical center. When Madusmita was approached to join a livelihood training program run by the church in the region, she was excited

to join, as the family has struggled to provide for their children. Madusmita was given the materials and training to start weaving shawls. The money she now makes from selling the shawls provides additional income for the family. "I am grateful for this project, as it has helped me earn more money and provide better meals for my children."

Niru is married and living with her husband and three children. Niru works as a farmer, and her wages are the only source of income because her husband is sick. She has often struggled to provide food for her children. When Niru was invited by the local church to receive livelihood training, she was thrilled with the opportunity to learn new skills. Niru was trained to rear goats, and the project provided her with a goat that soon birthed two kids. "We are a poor family," said Niru, "so I am delighted to receive a goat! I gave her the name 'Maina' which means 'child of love'. I continue to rear goats to sell, and the income provides for my family. Thank you for this blessing!"

Romina, a young woman who lives with her family. For almost four months in the year, her village becomes overwhelmed with water due to floods. Luckily, Romina was approached to join the Mising Tribe livelihood program. Romina was selected for the tailoring program

and last year successfully completed her training. She then bought a sewing machine and has started stitching and mending clothes. "Because of this program, I am able to generate income for my family," said Romina.

Romina's family is proud of her accomplishments and understand the importance of training and the value of hard work. The program has uplifted the quality of life for Romina and her family and has given her economic empowerment. She says, "I will earn good income and will have a dignified life in my community." She has a bright hope in achieving her goals. "Thank You to CBM and Alempang Baptist Church for the eye-opening program. You have really improved my life and I feel accepted and included in my community."

The Spiritual Empowerment and Enrichment of the Mising Tribe is helping to transform lives. Women like Madusmita, Niru and Romina are being encouraged to develop their God-given talents to uplift and provide for their families and inspire change in their communities.

Through your continued partnership, and together with the local church, we are providing valuable skills training and resources to lead to a reliable income, all through the transforming power of the gospel. Thank you for your prayerful support of this project. **1**