

“Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us too that God may open a door for our message.” Col. 4:2-3

May 2022

HISTORIC FOUR-SEASON DROUGHT TURNS AN ALREADY DIRE SITUATION INTO A CATASTROPHE FOR MILLIONS IN KENYA

Millions of people are facing humanitarian catastrophe as drought continues to grip the Horn of Africa. The crisis is compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing conflict, swarms of desert locusts, and surging food prices due to the war in Ukraine. Kenya receives nearly all of its wheat and its gas from Ukraine and Russia. With almost three million people on the brink of starvation, Kenya has declared a state of national disaster.

The work in Oduwo, led by EWI partner Julian Orimbo, has been profoundly affected by the situation. Maize, the main food of the people, is in extremely short supply and the costs have skyrocketed. Many local people returned to work at the sugar plantation because they would be paid with one can of maize per day. Since they have not been paid in cash, they have not been able to pay school fees. The principal, who sent the kids home when the school ran out of money, relented when one boy said, “You send us home but there is no food at home.”

The dramatic rise in the cost of seed and fertilizer has prevented many from planting their gardens. Julian was able to plant but will be dependent on sufficient rainfall to support the crop. If the crop survives, it will not be ready for harvest before August, if then. Meanwhile, food is very hard to find and is unaffordable for many.

EWI is hoping to increase the regular food supplement to cover the higher prices and to enable Julian to provide food relief for families in the community. Your generous gifts recently enabled her to provide every family in the church with a package of food. She reported that “they were more than appreciative; they could not believe their eyes.” She was also able to distribute maize and other food items to the vulnerable elderly in their care.

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH CHILDREN’S HOME AND MINISTRIES (JSCH)

Current Prayer Requests —

- Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home is preparing for the return of up to 20 children by the start of the new school year. Please pray for a smooth intake and quick adjustment as these children have had to be with guardians during the pandemic and have missed a lot of schooling.
- An eleventh pastor has joined the outreach ministry of JSCH. His wife was brought up at JSCH. Please pray for the church he pastors and for his outreach ministry.
- The government is threatening to tear down a church led by a JSCH pastor. The dispute has gone to court and the pastor must raise funds to cover court costs. Please pray that the court will rule in favor of preserving the church.

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FOCUS ON BETHEL MISSION

South India

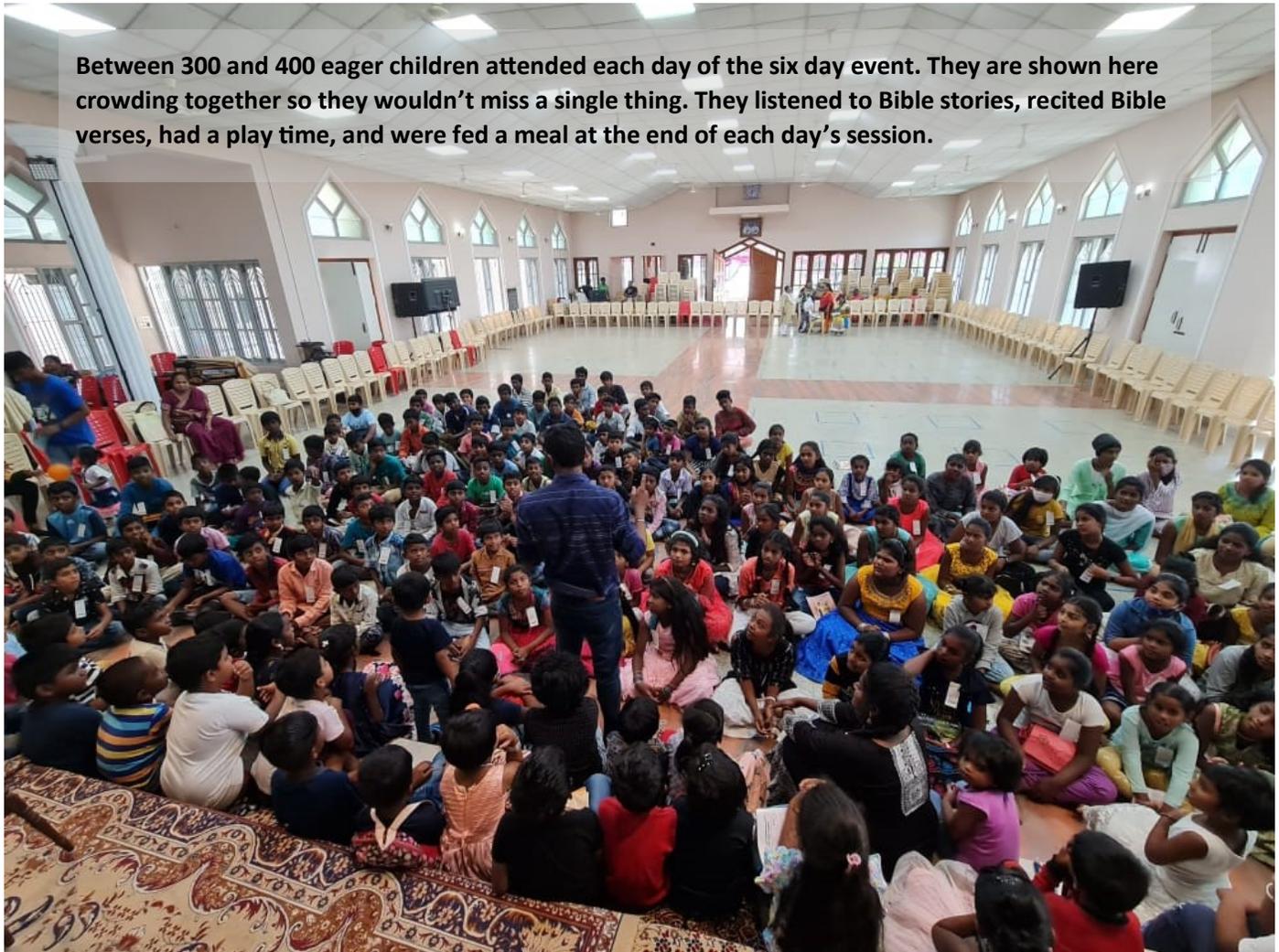
Bethel Mission has experienced constant challenges to their ministries from government and fundamentalist sources. Pastor Frank reported that the local administration monitors every move they make and is continually adding new rules that restrict what they are allowed to do. They no longer hold large public outdoor gospel meetings due to threats. Now the government is imposing a noise pollution regulation directed at churches and mosques. If the noise rises above a certain decibel level within their four walls they will face punishment for causing disturbance to others.

Bethel Mission had been offering a free medical clinic before the pandemic but had to close during the lockdowns. However, those who had been treated on a regular basis were provided with their medicines. The clinic has recently reopened on the weekends and is continuing to serve the poor who are not able to afford treatment elsewhere.

The free computer training center, shut down for much of the pandemic, has also reopened. New students are acquiring skills that will help them find jobs and the children's home children are using the facility to learn computer basics.

One Bethel Mission church in a rural area conducts tailoring classes for the poorest among them, providing them with the skills that will allow them to become breadwinners for their families. Each of the ten women who recently completed the course successfully received the gift of a sewing machine.

After two years of not being able to meet, Bethel Mission received permission to hold a Children's Gospel Club (CBC).



Between 300 and 400 eager children attended each day of the six day event. They are shown here crowding together so they wouldn't miss a single thing. They listened to Bible stories, recited Bible verses, had a play time, and were fed a meal at the end of each day's session.

The school year began on May 16, two weeks earlier than usual to help make up for time lost during the pandemic. East West InterKnit is helping with school fees and all that the 100 children's home children need to return to school.

Bethel Mission Cont'd from page 2

Current Prayer Concerns —

- Please pray that, while meeting human needs, the Good News of the gospel will reach the hearts of many and draw them to faith in Jesus Christ
- Pray also for six newly ordained pastors that God will open doors for them to share the Good News and give them grace to overcome the many challenges from hostile sources and from the increasing number of rules that impede the furtherance of the gospel.

GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN ACCRA, GHANA (GNTS)

Praise and Prayer —

- Congratulations to Rachel Aikins, a full-time teacher at Good News, for successfully completing her PhD.
- Pray for the funding needed to provide scholarships for good students who cannot cover the costs of attending GNTS without help.
- Pray for Dr. Oduro and others as they seek to recruit new students, especially those from African Independent Churches.
- Loss of income during the pandemic has prevented some of the seminary's sponsoring churches from meeting commitments to GNTS during this financially lean period. Pray that jobs will be restored and that they will be able to renew their financial support of the seminary.

MISSION EVANGELIQUE DU NORD D'HAITI (MENH)

Though the pandemic and civil unrest in Haiti have caused great hardship, MENH continues to serve members of their communities, meeting spiritual and physical needs as they are able. The parent church in Plaine du Nord hosted a week-long event led by a prayer group from Port au Prince. They reported that young people who had left the church have returned and that many more people are now attending Sunday school and are participating in Bible studies. Another of the MENH churches held a week-long festival to which other churches were invited. Pastor Thony Paul, retired founder of MENH, and another MENH pastor attended and preached during the evening services.

The MENH clinic in Plaine du Nord not only meets the physical needs of those they serve but also shares the Good News of the gospel with all who come. The clinic reported that they treated 260 people in the month of April. While most can pay something for the services there are those who cannot pay and are excused. Due to shortage of funds the clinic has not been able to keep up with needed repairs. Leaks in the roof are causing damage throughout. Not only will the roof need to be repaired but the interior requires replastering and painting as well. The clinic also needs additional furniture and equipment.

This has been a challenging school year for MENH schools due to the socio-political and financial crises in the country. Some parents who could not afford to pay the school fees simply kept their children out of school. However, support from our donors allows more than 50% of the students to attend school tuition free and for the teachers to be paid. It would be impossible without your help.

A particular highlight for the school band at The College Evangelique Emmanuel (the high school at Plaine du Nord) was the opportunity to participate in the May 18 Flag Day celebrations. This was a source of pride for band members, their school and teachers, parents, and their communities as a whole.



EAST WEST INTERKNIT LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Our overseas partners continue to need gently used books that would be suitable for Bible school and Seminary libraries. Several of the schools we partner with are seeking accreditation and will be eligible once their libraries contain 5,000 or more books.

- Please pray for the resources needed to ship the books and for their safe arrival at the schools.

EWI also provides books for a seminary in India that is currently opening two newly constructed elementary schools this month. They are also in the process of printing 7,000 Bibles in a local language for distribution.

- Please pray for the successful opening of the new schools and for the printing of the Bibles to proceed without power outages or other disturbances.



Boxes of books arrive at the Nagaland Children's Hope Library in India

One of our Bible school Partners in India had to suspend operations during the pandemic but is hoping to reopen soon. In addition to running the Bible school, the mission operates a child development center serving 150 children, has a primary school, and assists 35 pastors working in very remote areas. East West InterKnit will resume shipment of appropriate books as soon as we learn that they are ready to receive them.

- Please contact us to discuss how you might donate any gently used books you believe might be useful for our partners. Gifts in Kind are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pray for our partners as they continue to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those around them. When asked what they need most, we might expect to hear a list of material or financial desires but what we hear listed first is that they covet the prayers of the faithful. That is the place to begin. In addition to praying for the specific needs mentioned for several partners in this newsletter we would ask that you consider the following:

- Help provide scholarships for worthy students. Many have lost their sponsors due to the economic impact of the pandemic. When they can't pay it affects the whole school.
- Funds in excess of our usual supplements are needed to provide food for families who are no longer able to afford exorbitant food prices.
- Pastors and evangelists in India, Africa, and Haiti are facing extreme hardships due to the various crises that have impoverished their congregations. We want to be able to provide the extra that is needed to ensure that the pastors can feed their families .