



# East West InterKnit Prayer Letter

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*

April 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, support and notes of encouragement during these unprecedented times. Those we serve have not only asked for prayer but have emphasized that they are also praying for us and for the nations. Pray for our partners as they continue to share the gospel message as able and attempt to bring hope and comfort to those they serve.

## *IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS ON THE WORK OF JULIAN ORIMBO IN KENYA*

Julian reported that the Kenyan president gave a directive that all schools be closed and no gatherings of any kind held. He also said all people must work from their homes. Julian’s husband is a machinist who cannot work from home. He only gets paid when he works so this will create an extra challenge for them as they care for so many children. The girls who were sent to high schools have returned to the village adding to the number of mouths to be fed.

Julian reported that the virus has arrived in their remote district. She shared the following prayer:

“Dear Lord, God our healer, we still trust in your healing powers over our land, nation and the whole world. Stretch out your hand and protect us from the angel of death hanging around our shoulder. Remember the infected and the affected. Remember those not yet infected but are at risk especially the elderly and the young. Provide them with protection, peace and hope. In Jesus name I pray.”

Pray for God’s provision throughout this crisis and pray for the safety of the more than 40 children in her care.

## *THE VIRUS HAS ARRIVED IN HAITI*

Haitians rushed to buy food, gas, soap and face masks a little more than one week ago after the announcement of two imported cases of the coronavirus sparked worries that the Western Hemisphere’s poorest nation could be overwhelmed by the illness. Within a day most gas stations had run out of fuel. Action was taken to close all airports, schools, factories and seaports. The border with Dominican Republic is closed to all but transport of essential goods. An 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew has been imposed on the nation.

According to the United Nations, some 35% of Haitians lack basic drinking water services and two-thirds have limited or no sanitation services, making it extremely difficult for people to regularly wash their hands as recommended to deter the spread of the coronavirus.

According to our Haitian partners, many of the Haitian people living outside the major cities go about their usual routines as if nothing is happening. This is because they do not know. Most do not have access to radios, TVs, cell phones or other means of communication. Because of frequent extended power outages, those who have cell phones, including the MENH mission leaders, often are unable to charge their phones and get news or interact with the leadership.

Our Haitian partners are concerned not only about the spread of the disease but about the potential for famine due to crop failure, extreme civil unrest, the fuel shortage and a variety of other conditions. Some have estimated that up to 50% of the population could face starvation. Please pray for EWI and for the pastors and mission leaders as we seek ways to alleviate the suffering of so many.

### *Jehovah Shammah Children's Home and Ministries in Southeast India*

David reported, "The situation here worsens day by day. Curfew was imposed throughout India. Everyone is in fear and praying for divine intervention. There are no proper medical facilities and very few ventilators available. People are allowed only 1-2 hours in the morning to buy essentials and food materials. The children who have relatives have been sent home. Those with no family remain at JSCH.

"Churches are organizing prayer chains asking each person to choose 1 hour of time at their convenience. Our village evangelists are also organizing fasting prayer meetings in their churches. Please pray for all of us here for God's protection from this deadly virus. We are praying fervently for all of you, your well-wishers, and supporters."

### *The News From Bethel Mission*

Pastor Frank reported that they are able to obtain food during the one or two hours allowed and that "the 85 children at the homes are being kept safe and are well taken care of and regularly being monitored by us."

"Our church services have gone online but quite a number of people do not have access....This nationwide shutdown has given us an opportunity and sufficient time to seek the Lord....We have intensified our prayers for our community, for our nation and for people who are going through tough times."

### *News From Good News Theological Seminary in North Accra, Ghana*

Dr. Oduro, President of the Good News Theological Seminary, reported that the seminary is on what one student calls, 'Corona holidays.' They cannot implement online studies as not all the students have access to computers. Some would have to use public computer centers which are now all closed so there is no online course possible.

Dr. Oduro is on sabbatical in the US and remains on the campus of a seminary in St. Paul. The seminary is providing food – lunch and supper – for the international students remaining on campus and have included Dr. Oduro on their list. Dr. Oduro's wife Jemima, who remains in Ghana, is keeping her shop on campus open to the public. Students and staff that must remain on campus patronize the shop amidst the dangers of being infected. He said, "They are, however, taking some precautions."

Pray for the Bible School and Seminary students who have missed out on the final weeks of study, who do not have the option of online study, and who have had graduation ceremonies canceled.

Gifts to East West InterKnit at this time will help to ensure that our partners and all those in their care will have basic needs met during this crisis.

- You may help EWI by placing your online orders through **Amazon Smile** at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1772214>.
- If you wish to make a contribution using a credit card, you may do so safely using the link on our website for **JustGiving**.
- You will also find options for giving via **PayPal** on our website.
- To make a **stock donation** contact us at 651-765-2550 for details.