



# EAST WEST INTERKNIT™

HE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS —THANKS BE TO GOD!

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..."* Philippians 1:3-5a (NIV)

January 2017

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

### Oduwo Village, Western Kenya

Julian, the Director of the Oduwo Christian School, combined our end of year gifts with what she had been able to raise and was able to purchase food to last to the end of the month, to have ten desks made for a classroom and to purchase nearly all of the books and materials needed for the school. The local people are helping to collect and store supplies which will eventually be used to build additional classrooms.



Many of the children went without regular meals during the holiday season so they were delighted when school resumed and they could have at least a cup of porridge for lunch. The youngest class is pictured here.

Severe ongoing drought has resulted in widespread hunger in the area. Church members invited their hungry neighbors in over the Christmas season for special meetings followed by a nourishing meal.

One man shared that he had not eaten in four days. Others told of family members leaving the area to look for food while the family remained at home with nothing to eat.

There were baptisms following the service and the people were said to leave the place rejoicing.





## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – DECEMBER 2016

### Bethel Mission, South Central India

Bethel Mission is a very busy place during the Christmas season!

The children from the three Bethel Mission homes and the children whose parents attend the mission church put on a program on December 22nd which featured singing, dance, drama and Bible verse recitation. The audience consisted of parents, special invitees and many people from the community who came out of curiosity. Everyone was given cake and a New Testament as they walked out afterward. Each of the children from the mission children's homes also received two new outfits and a pair of shoes.



A women's celebration (photo below) was held for the benefit of the very poor and widows. The mission distributed 800 saris (Indian dress) to those who attended and to others who live in nearby shanty dwellings. This was followed by a special meal.



On another occasion the Bethel Mission pastors and staff were provided with clothing and a cash gift. Cake was served to all who attended the Christmas Eve service and then distributed to people in the community as a demonstration of love. Then on Christmas day the church family prepared and served a special meal for over 800 poor people who would otherwise not be able to afford such a dinner (pictured below).



These events allow for the presentation of the gospel to people of other faiths in a gracious and non-threatening way and many hearts were touched by the expressions of love.

On Christmas day some of the staff visited sixteen families who had recently lost loved ones. They were prayed for and given a meal and treats to demonstrate that they were not forgotten.

Pastor Frank reported that four new churches have been established in villages where nearly all residents belong to other faiths. He rejoiced that they are seeing "souls saved for His glory."



## Jehovah Shammah Children's Home, Southeast India

The Jehovah Shammah Children's Home (JSCH) and its affiliates are involved in ministry to and care of children, outdoor evangelism, church planting, pastoring, and literature distribution. They have ministered to and assisted the lace-makers of the area toward greater self-support. The women participate in Bible distribution in their villages. JSCH leaders regularly meet with and provide training and support for their pastors. They are currently caring for twenty-eight children in the home and oversee the work of fourteen pastors.

The pastors have worked hard to share the gospel throughout the region in spite of resistance and occasional beatings. Hundreds of non-Christian villagers have heard the gospel as a result of their street preaching and literature distribution. Three new congregations were established in 2016 and 52 individuals were baptized. During the Christmas season the village pastors were given grants that enabled them to distribute clothing to the poor widows.

The children's home held its Christmas program on December 22. Relatives of the children, board members, evangelists and other special guests made up the audience. The director reported that the children did a good job as they performed action songs for the audience. The evangelists, especially those who grew up in the home, shared their experiences of being encouraged by the founder in all things. A good message was given by a board member and, because they had acquired a very good sound system for the occasion, many in the surrounding areas heard the message of Christ. A "delicious" lunch was served following the program and gifts were distributed to children, evangelists and home staff.

Evangelist Wesley, an associate of JSCH, completed his studies and worked with students while at JSCH. Upon completion of his degree the JSCH founder sent him for pastoral training. He is currently working among non-Christians in Andhra Pradesh and has planted two churches. Wesley's 94 year old father was a former Naxalite (Maoist) who had been a wanted man during the time of the British. The JSCH founder was instrumental in leading him to the Lord. He became an evangelist following his conversion and established at least one church. 90% of his members were former Hindus. Wesley's brother was also sponsored by JSCH for studies at a Bible Institute and is doing ministry in another part of the state.



Children performing at the Christmas celebration



Pastor Gideon, a former Hindu village leader, receiving a gift



Child receiving a gift of clothing during the celebration

## PRAYER AND PRAISE CORNER

- **Pray for** a good response to the preaching of the gospel in towns and villages throughout India in spite of the threats and frequent attacks on the messengers. **Praise God for** church growth in 2016.
- **Pray for** the children in the homes in India and Kenya and in the Christian schools in Kenya and in Haiti. **Pray for** wisdom for the caretakers and teachers as they minister to the children.
- **Pray for** those who are serving in the Bible schools and seminaries as they prepare men and women for service as pastors, evangelists and missionaries. **Pray that** those who are called to ministry will find the resources needed to secure training.
- **Pray for** the safe arrival of the theological books sent by EWI to Bible schools and seminaries in the least evangelized areas of the world.
- **Praise God for** funds that arrived allowing us to help the Haiti mission pay its teachers' salaries through December with a little to spare toward January salaries.
- **Pray for** Pastor Thony as he oversees the work of MENH. **Pray for** those who administer the schools, the clinic, the churches, the vocational programs, and for good response to Thony's radio broadcasts.
- **Pray for** clear direction from the Lord as East West InterKnit seeks to partner in a way that encourages those we serve and brings Glory to God.

## THE BOOK REPORT

In 2016 approximately 7,500 donated books and Bibles were sent to 22 Bible schools, Seminaries or individual pastor/teachers in India, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Haiti, and Kenya. Since the beginning of this project East West InterKnit has shipped more than 64,000 volumes. Thank you to all those who have donated books from their own collections for the benefit of those who are preparing for or involved in Christian ministry.

We received this note recently from the librarian at a south Indian seminary:

*"I praise God for your ministry. We are grateful to you. These books are very useful for our students. We have received many new books and new titles. May the Lord continue to use you for the extension of His Kingdom."*



East West InterKnit is now able to accept security/stock donations. Those who wish to support our ministries in this way are urged to contact the office at 651-765-2550 or Sage Point Financial (Focal Point) at 651-426-7375.

If you wish to make a contribution using a credit card, you may do so safely using the link for JustGive on our website ([ew-interknit.org](http://ew-interknit.org)). You will also find options for giving via Paypal and Amazon Smile on our website.

Tax deductible gifts are given with the understanding that EWI is committed to disbursement of designated funds as requested for the purpose of meeting spiritual and physical needs. Designated funds received in excess of need may be redirected to another area of need.

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