



East West InterKnit Prayer Letter

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

May 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

An East West InterKnit Bible school partner in India sent the following note about their current circumstances: "By God's grace we were able to help about 150 children and their families during this pandemic lockdown. The situation of the laborers and their families is pathetic with no job and no money. The government is providing some help, but it is not sufficient. We have people coming every day and asking for food, so we have made packets and kept them ready. I took the opportunity to spread the gospel and told them to call upon Jesus as He is the only healer and provider. I also gave some awareness of hygiene and the importance of using a mask and prayed for all of them and blessed them."

A partner in South India is holding online church services for the benefit of his members. However, many do not have internet access so will not be able to enjoy the worship and teaching at this time. He noted that all work has stopped due to rigid restrictions, so day laborers and contract workers are without any income. The church has assembled bundles of food and distributed them to as many as 500 impoverished families. Your gifts are helping as he continues in this effort.



Pastor Frank bringing a gift of food to a poor widow



Minivan loaded with food ready to distribute to those in need



Volunteers passing out food for impoverished families

David, President of the Jehovah Shammah Children's Home in India, reported that most of the children were sent to their villages to be with family members during the lockdown. These families were unable to adequately care for their children before the pandemic. Now it is even more difficult as they have no income whatsoever. There are some NGO's that are trying to help but David and others have reported that it is not reaching many of these people and it is not enough. With assistance from EWI David will try to get help to these families once he is able to travel to the villages.

The pastors affiliated with this children's home are facing severe financial difficulties and, David added, even the possibility of starvation. Their churches are closed, and the members have no work so there are no offerings. David reported that they are fasting and praying for God to intervene. East West InterKnit has responded to his plea and our financial aid has enabled the pastors to purchase food for their families.

Julian, our partner in Kenya, reported that a member of the community died from the coronavirus and that many people with whom he'd had contact were taken away for quarantine. Before this incident, the people ignored the directives and considered those who followed them as cowards. Now fear has gripped the community and they are beginning to take the directives seriously.

In addition to the crisis caused by the virus, the community is now facing another disaster. Julian reported, "on April 22 we started hearing wailing at 1:00 am when people were awakened by roaring storms. The river broke its banks following two days of heavy rains. The lady who stays in a house near the river has not been traced."

On April 23 Julian sent another note saying, "Last night it rained the whole night until today at noon. Unfortunately, it swept away my husband's uncle and the body is still at large. Another family lost four children who were swept away while sleeping. The waters have swollen so that no one dares to engage in search operations. We also fear for our farms." The torrential rain has caused serious damage to the school toilets which will need immediate repair. East West InterKnit is providing funding for food, repairs and for them to extend help in the community.

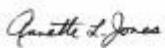
Several Good News Seminary faculty families plus twenty-three students from Nigeria and at least one other foreign student and his wife and two children are living on the campus in Ghana. Many faculty members are accustomed to supplementing their meager incomes by serving in other capacities off campus but all of that has come to a halt. Consequently, their incomes are greatly reduced. The students are also struggling without adequate funding. At the same time, food costs have risen dramatically so they now "pay a lot for a small amount of food." Some financial assistance has been sent but more will be needed as the shutdown continues. Dr. Oduro reports that people are becoming increasingly fearful of contracting the virus and asks us to pray for them.

Most of the students do not have internet access and this makes online study difficult. The school seeks an internet cost subsidy to make it possible for faculty and students to access the internet. They would also need funding to purchase laptops for some students to enable them all to participate in online courses.

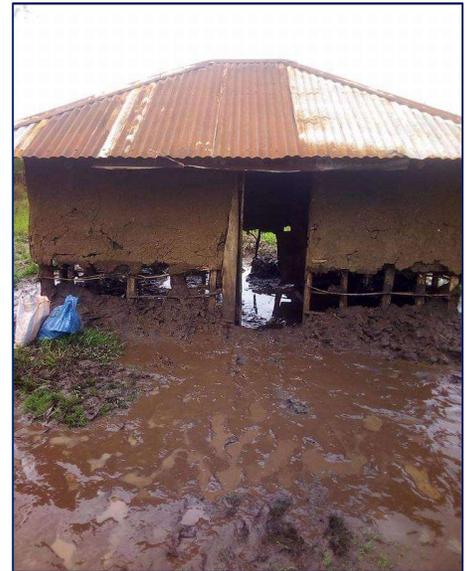
On March 20, 2020, Haiti's Governments declared a state of emergency and closed the border and all ports and imposed a strict curfew. All churches were forced to close and pastors who defied the curfew were arrested and jailed. The MENH leadership convinced its 26 pastors at 21 churches to comply with the order. Prior to the shutdown, Haiti was already experiencing a severe food and fuel shortage. With the churches closed, the pastors were not receiving any income and their situation was becoming quite desperate. With the help of our donors, funds were sent that enabled the mission to provide enough food for each pastor's family to last between two and three weeks. They also set up handwashing stations near each church, instructed the pastors on proper handwashing, and provided instructions for making face masks. We are preparing to send additional help for their primary school teachers and security guards or other essential staff as funds allow.

Please pray for our partners as they seek to provide for their families and to meet the needs of those around them. Pray that the gospel message will continue to be proclaimed and heard. Pray that many will find the peace that only God can give amid these very difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,



Annette Jones



This home is just one example of the damage caused by the floodwaters recently in Kenya.

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