



EAST WEST INTERKNIT™

SEE WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE!

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news..." Isaiah 52:7a

August 2019

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN INDIA

Update on Mission Led by Pastor Frank in South Central India

A mission partner in south central India reported that the government was going to inspect their children's homes and, being concerned, asked us to pray. In their report following the inspection the agency concluded that the homes are well equipped, well maintained, and meet all the needs of the children. The mission head tells the story of an eight year old boy whose father had died and whose mother abandoned him. A government agency originally placed him in a remand home, a place for delinquents, but later felt that he should be educated and have an opportunity for a better life. They brought him to the mission because of its good reputation. This is the first time a government agency has brought a child to them. In addition to this boy, the mission has taken in four other new boys and three new girls.

Please pray:

- * That the newcomers will adjust and respond well to loving care and to the gospel message;
- * For the twenty-four new believers who were baptized in one of the mission churches during June;
- * For the health of the mission leader, Pastor Frank, who was hospitalized for several days and was still experiencing some physical weakness at last report.

The Spirit of God is Still Moving in North India

An EWI partner in North India reports that the monsoon rains have arrived and brought with them severe flooding which resulted in many homes being destroyed and many people being left homeless. In addition, wild animals from the nearby jungles are coming out in search of food and cause great harm. The married son of a church member was trampled and killed by an elephant while walking to work. A six year old boy from their child development center was bitten by a poisonous snake and could not be revived. This was followed by the drowning of three children, including two from their child development center, in the flooded river nearby.

In spite of the heavy rains, they were able to hold a 'medical checkup and feet washing camp' serving about 200 people. They focused on general checkups, with special care for diabetics. They distributed vitamins and other basic medicines, provided counsel for those suffering from a variety of conditions, and guided those needing extra care to the right doctors or hospitals. While all this was taking place a team was sharing the gospel, singing and distributing tracts and booklets. Missionaries trained in the Bible College, to which we send your donated books, reported that they have worked with many new believers and performed many baptisms. The note closed with, "Praise God that in spite of opposition the Spirit of God is still moving."

Please pray:

- * That the boxes of books still in transit will arrive safely and will be useful in the training of pastors and missionaries serving in some of the least evangelized regions;
- * For those suffering as a result of the floods;
- * For the mission as they stretch their resources to provide help to those around them.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN INDIA *CONT'D*

Jehovah Shammah Children's Home and Outreach (JSCH)

A number of years ago East West InterKnit (EWI) helped the JSCH Children's Home purchase bunk beds for the children, who, until this happened, had slept on thin mattresses on the floor. Now, after years of constant use, the beds and mattresses needed repair or replacement. Thank you to those who have made it possible for us to assist them at this time. All have now been repaired.



Several new children joined the home this summer bringing the total to the thirty children in the picture to the left. Twelve year old Sandhya's mother is a domestic servant working in a distant town. Her father abandoned the family some time ago and neither parent is able to provide care for their children. A relative of the girl learned of the children's home and brought her to them. She and other newcomers in the home come from non-Christian background.

The JSCH evangelists hold regular outdoor gospel meetings to share the Good News with many who would not come into a church. The meeting shown in the photo on the right was followed by a baptism.

Please pray for -

- * The children in the home as they hear the gospel message and participate in times of prayer and worship. Pray also for the adjustment of the newcomers.
- * JSCH mission evangelist Joseph who was recently hospitalized with a brain clot. He has been planting churches in rural villages;
- * Those who have recently committed their lives to Christ and have been baptized. It is this step that often leads to rejection by their families.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN GHANA

Good News Theological Seminary in Accra (GNTS)

Many of you prayed for Theresah, the wife of Rev. Frank Botchway, the estate manager and general services officer at GNTS. On July 23, Frank reported that Theresah's health is showing tremendous improvement and that the negative symptoms from chemotherapy and radiation are disappearing. She will be placed on medication for ten years and has been advised to be checked every six months. Continue to pray for them as they must travel long distances monthly to get her medication. Frank asks us to join his family in saying "a very big thank you to God for His goodness and mercy."

Dr. Oduro has reported that the seminary is making inroads to reach marginalized dignitaries. Traditional rulers have been branded as pagans and shunned by Christians in Ghana. A traditional ruler enrolled at Good News Theological Seminary for a four year Bachelor of Theology degree and graduated recently with distinction. He also received a reward for being adjudged the student who wrote the best thesis on African Christianity. In a short speech the ruler appealed to Christians not to shun such people as they, too, need the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Please pray for -

- * The ongoing effort to recruit a librarian with a master's degree;
- * The continued success of the Volta campus certificate program;
- * Those recruiting students for the seminary's fall term and for the resources to enable worthy students to attend;
- * Dr. Oduro as he leads the seminary. Pray also for three of his children currently seeking employment.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN HAITI

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)

In spite of State Department recommendations to avoid going to Haiti, MENH President Ebed Paul and Vice President Mathurin Laguerre traveled to Cap Haitian in mid-July in order to lead the mission in a number of activities. Pastor Thony Paul reported that the turmoil in Haiti was unlike anything he had seen before. However, the mission was able to conduct all of the planned activities without incident.

MENH has been overseeing the work of about twenty-one churches. Twenty-one pastors representing sixteen churches attended the mission’s July conference. This was an opportunity to learn and to renew their ties with MENH. Because of the nationwide food shortage each pastor was given a bag of rice and another of spaghetti to carry home. In addition to the conference MENH held a victory march in the city of Plaine du Nord to proclaim “MENH for Christ and Christ for MENH.” They also held several thanksgiving services to give thanks to God for everything He has done for the mission. They have appointed a new head and a new secretary over the Department of Churches.

The picture at the top right is of Pastor Thony, MENH founder and retired head of the mission, who continues to preach both on radio and where needed.



While in Haiti they spent time working with those responsible for the 14 MENH schools. They have appointed a new principal, a new secretary, and a new academic dean at the main school. They have also appointed an inspector to oversee all the schools. They reported that the Plaine du Nord School is now debt free for the first time in years and has managed to stay current in paying staff and faculty thanks to the generosity of donors like you. They were also able to provide many scholarships for children who could not afford to pay the school fees. They have created a new program to work on strengthening all of the schools. The MENH sewing school has joined forces with the school to make uniforms for the students. Through your support the schools were able to bring many children to the knowledge of God, to have access to healthcare, and to learn to play a musical instrument.

The MENH high school at Plaine du Nord is pictured here [above left]. The MENH medical clinic [below right] has a new administrator and Ebed has reported that things are running well. The clinic offers a discount to some of the more vulnerable members of the church.

Please pray for -

- * The administration as they work on a five year strategic plan, update the mission bylaws and finish a new website;
- * The implementation of a new program to support and strengthen all 14 schools;
- * The salvation of those who are exposed to the gospel through the work of the schools, the clinic, the churches and other outreach efforts conducted by MENH.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN KENYA

Julian's Ministries in Oduwo Extend Compassionate Care in Response to Human Need

There is a food crisis in Kenya due to a drought that hit food production and caused prices to soar. Our partner Julian tells us the factory that employs many of the residents of Oduwo Village closed due to crop loss leaving many of the families unable to pay school fees or buy food. Food is increasingly hard to find and costs for what is available have escalated. She said some of the producers have been hoarding what they have and charging whatever they want.

A team from the Oduwo church recently spent a week reaching out to the needy and to those reported to be in bondage. As a result at least 30 people committed their lives to Christ including one man formerly engaged in witchcraft. They plan to continue their outreach through the rest of the month of August.

During the outreach they came upon several people with special needs and they took action. The youth visited an elderly disabled lady whose children had passed leaving her alone. They cleared the brush around her home and brought water to her. The girls washed her utensils and her clothes and cleaned the house. They also brought her food that the church members had collected. Before leaving they sang and prayed with her. This was a very special day for her.

Julian recently arranged for the care of a 14 year old orphan who was pregnant. The girl was greatly concerned when she delivered twin boys. Traditionally twins are considered a curse and the fact that they are both boys is a double curse. Julian led her to the Lord and is helping her to see things God's way. Many young girls in this area, forced to work in the fields to support themselves, have faced attacks which result in pregnancy and, often, deadly disease.



Please pray -

- * Work has begun toward the establishment of another church plant in a nearby town. This area is known for and feared as a center for witchcraft and African traditional religion. Pray for God's guidance as they plan and for the few believers already there.
- * The Oduwo church has identified a man with a passion for evangelism and plans to help him go to Bible school in preparation for leading a new church. Pray for him and for his wife and four children. The local church will attempt to support him in this effort.
- * Pray for Julian as she tries to raise funds to complete work on a school building (required by the government), searches for affordable food for the children in her care, and addresses needs in the community.

East West InterKnit Newsletter is a regular publication of
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