

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR —

September 2024

Dear Friends,

We recently had the privilege of hosting a partner from central India who heads a ministry that includes homes for children, vocational training programs, medical assistance for the poor, a feeding program, and more than 60 church plants across his region. He shared something of the challenges faced by those who are striving to answer God’s call to share the gospel in India as well as the progress being made in growing the church.

Within India public opinion is growing increasingly hostile to Christian activity. This includes the presence of churches and Christian social institutions but most especially to conversions. Consequently, anti-conversion legislation now requires a person who seeks to convert to another religion to obtain permission from the government before doing so. However, our partner reported that most who come to Christ bypass the legal process since they know of the tremendous pressure they would face and the likelihood that they would be required to report anyone who had influenced their decision. There are also an increasing number of rules governing such things as the volume permitted on sound systems, construction of churches, outdoor religious activities, and any activity that can be construed as enticement or allurements to conversion.

Our partner’s home church has an attendance of over 2,000, most of whom came from non-Christian background. Many of these were kicked out of their homes following their conversion but have remained faithful despite the extreme hardship which this has caused. The church has done what it can to assist those who are destitute. The church does not keep membership records as these could be used by officials to harass and intimidate people.

While our goal in partnership is to help in ways that increase their capacity for evangelism, church planting, and discipleship, we cannot send funds to India specifically designated for such activities. We can, however, send funds for the support of children’s homes, vocational training, and other social services. We can also send Bibles and theological books. By doing so, this frees our partners to use locally raised resources for the work of the church. These local funds are raised in a variety of ways. Recently, when the roof of the church required replacing, many of the women of the church donated the gold earrings and necklaces they had received at the time of their wedding to help pay for the roof.

Please pray for wisdom for the pastors as they seek opportunities to share the gospel. Pray for new believers when they face persecution from family and the community. Pray for the safety of all.

Annette L. Jones

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PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

Floods and Landslides

Heavy monsoon rains in July and August have caused much destruction and loss of life across many parts of India. Our partner in southeast India reported that the flooring in the courtyard of the children's home was damaged and, of far greater concern, about 35 feet of the boundary wall that provides safety and security for the children living in the home collapsed due to the rains. The children are at great risk until this urgent situation has been corrected. Necessary repairs to the wall will cost them about \$750 more than they are able to raise locally.



Each day between 50 and 65 villagers attended the special meetings the evangelists held in their churches during August in 2024.

The evangelists have been holding special two-day meetings in their churches. As a result, several people from non-Christian background have made decisions for Christ and have been baptized. One pastor wrote to say, "We are doing our best to reach out to people the best we can as these days we do not have the liberty as we used to....Your prayers for us are our strength and we encourage you...to keep us in your prayers, even more for God to lead us and give us wisdom to do things in the present situation."

Please Pray

- For the work of the evangelists as they continue to share the gospel despite the many restrictions and growing danger.
- For new believers Vani and Jayesh* that they would remain faithful despite opposition.

* Names were changed for security reasons.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Faith and Hope Ministries Led by Julian Orimbo in Oduwo

The rains continue to create havoc in western Kenya where Julian works. Many of the crops were destroyed by flooding, and those that survived the floods could not be harvested so they have rotted in the fields. Julian planted, tended, and prayed over what should have provided a year's supply of corn, their main staple. She was able to salvage only enough for one-month. Julian is finding it difficult to pay the teachers or to provide school lunch for the students. This is often the only meal of the day for many of the children. Having lost their crops, families in the area must purchase food at inflated prices and consequently face great difficulties as they struggle to feed their children and to pay their school fees.

Despite the bad weather more than 100 young people showed up for a three-day youth seminar organized by Julian. Several guest preachers taught the lessons said by Julian to be very inspiring. At the end of the seminar everyone was saying that they need to have these lessons repeatedly. So, the plan is to do this again in December.

During the three days there were at least 20 who committed their lives to Christ and were baptized. Julian spoke of some who had been involved in drugs and immoral behavior who confessed and asked for help. One young man started witnessing to his friends as soon as he came to Christ. He has committed to helping those doing drugs to break the habit and has asked one of the pastors to teach him the scriptures so that he will be able to minister effectively



Please Pray

- That new believers among the youth will grow in faith.
- For resources to help Julian continue to
 - Share the gospel,
 - Feed the school kids, and
 - Retain her teachers.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — FACILITATING BIBLICAL TRAINING

Scholarships for Bible School and Seminary Students

A young man named Atitebi Sunday arrived in Ghana from his home in Nigeria hoping to pursue theological education at a seminary. While fasting and praying for direction he had a vision in which he saw Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS). A friend who knew of the school took him out to the campus where he was “warmly received.” The friend helped him purchase the application form and he was able to begin his studies. He stated that the impact of the seminary on his life has been profound. It has shaped his theological understanding and equipped him with skills and knowledge to be a compassionate shepherd who genuinely cares for his congregation. While still at GNTS, he has engaged in street evangelism, preaching, and marriage counselling leading many to Christ and impacting many relationships. This might not have been possible without receiving a scholarship from East West InterKnit.

Please help us provide funding for scholarships so that Atitebi and other Bible school and Seminary students like him will be able to train for ministry.

The East West InterKnit Library Development Program

The books you share with our library partners are not only benefitting the students and faculty but, in many cases, are made available to local pastors and other Christian workers who do not have the resources to purchase books for themselves.

A Bible school in India that receives books from East West InterKnit wrote to say that the books received are helping their students immensely. They reported that they have enrolled 450 students for the new school term and stated, “It is exciting to see so many young people being trained for the ministry. Our students come from all over India, and many have experienced increased persecution in the last few years. Pray as they grieve the loss of loved ones, attacks on their churches, and fear for the safety of families back at home.”



Please consider a gift that will help us ship Bibles and theological books to pastors and Bible schools in Africa and Asia. Donation information is available on our website at <https://EW-InterKnit.org/Donate>.