

November 2024

FROM THE DIRECTOR —

Dear Friends,

The primary purpose of our participation in partnerships is to strengthen the efforts of those actively engaged in evangelism, church planting and other ministries, often in places where the name of Jesus has never been heard. We do so by providing tools and resources that enable our partners to do more than they could alone. We invite you to be a part of helping these national leaders share the Good News thereby bringing the hope of Christ to their communities and nations.

As we approach the holiday season, we have been reminded that this is the time of year when our ministry partners plan special events that provide the opportunity to share the gospel story with those who may not have heard, and to show the love of Christ in tangible ways among those with whom they work and serve.

The pastors and evangelists affiliated with these ministries do not receive regular salaries and many depend on fishing or farming or an occasional gift of food to sustain themselves and their families. Most of our partners try to provide each pastor with either a monetary gift or new clothing at Christmas time. They would like our help to make it possible to do this.

Those who oversee the children's homes plan to hold Christmas programs that serve as an opportunity to share the Christmas story not only with the children but also with the broader community. The children participate in dramas and dance that tell the Christmas story in a way that is both entertaining and non-threatening. The children are given new clothing each year at this time and, if resources permit, a small gift. In most cases meals or treats are served to all who attend.

Our partners plan many other activities for the holidays. They visit leper colonies to bring clothing and share Christ's love over a special meal. They distribute hundreds of saris (clothing) to widows and other poor women as well as serving or distributing food to those in need in the community. The Christmas message will also be shared at a children's camp, a youth seminar, and many other special events.

Please prayerfully consider how you can make a difference in reaching more people with the good news of the gospel as you plan your year-end giving. We are falling behind in our support for children's homes, the clinic in Haiti and in keeping up with book shipping. We also want to be able to assist with some of the special needs during the holiday season.

Annette L. Jones
Executive Director

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East West InterKnit

P.O. Box 270333

St. Paul, MN 55127

Phone: **651-765-2550**

Email: Info@ew-interknit.org

Director: **Annette L. Jones**

Web: <https://ew-interknit.org>

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PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

New Believers Follow Their Hearts Despite Family Objections

Pastors affiliated with a partner ministry in south India regularly hold evangelistic meetings in their communities to which everyone is invited. In early October 120 people attended such a meeting arranged by one of the pastors. Two women from a non-Christian community committed their lives to Christ at this meeting and two weeks later were baptized despite opposition from their families. Another pastor held three days of meetings in another location which attracted 175 people. The guest speakers each shared the story of their own conversion and, at the closing, six people from the non-Christian community committed their lives to Christ in response to the message. A third meeting took place in another town, and again, several people chose to follow Christ. Pray for all these new believers that they will grow in faith and remain strong despite opposition.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)

On October 25, shortly before midnight, the people in Plaine du Nord were awakened by the roar of the river and by the sound of rushing water covering their fields, carrying off their animals and flooding their homes. The rushing water destroyed the crops and killed many small goats and cows. Several hundred families are affected including church members, students, teachers and staff. Their well-being, already severely impacted by the threat of gang violence and its impact on the economy, is now even more at risk.

The water also affected the MENH school campus. The elementary school classrooms were flooded requiring that school be closed for several days to do cleanup. Although school reopened after two days, many students, who lost everything including their school supplies and their uniforms, were unable to return. In addition, the strong current carrying downed branches and other debris slammed into the wall around campus knocking down about a 20-foot section. The wall is important for the security of the people on campus and to keep animals from damaging the soccer field and crop area. MENH has the equipment to make cement blocks and the people from the church to help do the work, but they will need funds to purchase the sand and cement and a little extra to encourage the workers.



Students preparing for class, taken just before the flood

The MENH school recently admitted more than 60 displaced students who fled the chaos of Port au Prince for the relative safety among friends or family in the north. These students came with nothing and now they are also affected by the floods. MENH is seeking funds to provide these students with school uniforms.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Faith and Hope Ministries Led by Julian Orimbo in Oduwo

Under the direction of Julian Orimbo, the Los Angeles Bright Academy (LABA) serves approximately three hundred fifty children in grades pre K – 8. Besides the usual academic programs and computer instruction, students also hear the gospel message taught by loving instructors. Julian also leads older students, typically age 13 and up, in Bible study classes. Julian had asked us to pray for these young people last month and was delighted to report that twelve committed their lives to Christ during the month and were baptized in mid-October.

LABA continues to provide meals for all the children, since for many of them this may be their only meal of the day. The crops they had planted in the hope that they would provide at least some of the food needed were destroyed by flooding. Consequently it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the need.

Julian has indicated a great need for vernacular Bibles. More than 20 youth were baptized in late August plus the 12 teenagers in October, all of whom would like to have a Bible. In anticipation of another youth seminar in December we would like to be able to provide for as many vernacular Bibles as possible at approximately \$200 for 24 Bibles.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — THROUGH PRAYER

Praise

- Many members of the community are coming to hear the messages of hope being shared by the pastors in South India; at each meeting choices were made to follow Christ.
- Though the wall protecting the MENH school campus was damaged by the floodwaters, they have the manpower and already have the equipment to make necessary repairs.
- The youth attending the Bible study classes overseen by Julian in Kenya are committing their lives to Christ.

Prayer

- Pray for all these new believers that they will grow in faith and remain strong despite opposition. Consider whether you might be able to contribute toward the purchase of Bibles in the vernacular to aid in their faith journey.
- Pray for those in Plaine du Nord, Haiti as they seek to recover from the devastation wreaked by the October flooding. At the very least, we would like to assist them to obtain the sand and cement to restore the security that mending the wall would provide.
- Uniforms lost in the flood must be replaced before the students will be allowed to return to school.
- EWI has been blessed with donations of books that Bible School students and pastors are eager to receive. They are boxed and ready to go. We just need the funds to pay for shipping.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN GHANA

Good News Theological Seminary, Accra

Good News Theological seminary (GNTS) In Accra, Ghana, primarily focuses on training pastors and other ministry leaders especially for the African Independent churches. Certificate, diploma, and degree programs are available for their students to pursue, but it also has a passion for providing programs that meet needs and transform lives in the community beyond the campus itself. We received the following report of such an event from President Oduro.

He noted that the seminary is committed to facilitating the growth of Christian men in and around Ghana. To aid in this effort the seminary, in conjunction with Torch Ministries led by Rev. Dr. Ohene Kumi, recently organized a one-day seminar for Christian men entitled “Every Man a Warrior; helping men succeed in life.” Thirty-five individuals from various churches and institutions attended.

The first session focused on the need to equip men to deal with the challenges they face, and the second session was on how to get a program for men started right and included practical steps on how to do that in churches and in communities. Participants and leaders alike felt the seminar lived up to expectations and was a huge success.

This seminar is just one example of the many outreach and community development programs Good News Theological Seminary engages in. East West Interknit continues to assist with special needs including librarian salary support, scholarship funding, equipment, and other needs as they occur.

For prayer:

- Pray that the seminary will receive a favorable response to its application for a government charter;
- Pray for the ongoing recruitment of students;
- Pray for completion of the work to upgrade the library electronically;
- Pray for the means to hire additional faculty to replace “aging lecturers due for retirement”;
- Pray for four alumni who have been selected to be trained to help with the teaching.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — EWI’S LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Books for Bible Schools

From a Bible school president in India:

On behalf of our faculty and students, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of books. Your thoughtful contribution not only enriches our library but also provides invaluable resources that will support our students’ academic and spiritual journey. Thank you once again for your kindness and support.

Until the schools we serve can depend on having consistent electric power, working on computers, and access to the internet, they will depend on books for the resources needed by the students preparing for Christian ministry. Even if technology is available, most do not have the budget to pay for online programs. We are committed to continue sending your donated theological books in support of their programs. We need your help to cover the costs of shipping the books.

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