



# EAST WEST INTERKNIT™

SEE WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE!

*“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*

December 2019

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN INDIA

### Increasing Pressure on Christian-run Institutions

Partners who operate children’s homes in India are facing increased pressure and intimidation. Government officials are making frequent surprise visits with the intention of finding fault and then demanding bribes in exchange for a favorable report. They are looking for evidence that the mission is applying pressure on the children to convert to Christianity. They are questioning the children and they are contacting parents or relatives to elicit negative complaints. The mission board members must submit to a government inquiry each year and prove that there are no charges against them for religious conversions. It appears that the goal is to find reason to shut them down.



### Our Partner Children’s Homes Continue to Share Jesus’ Love

Every effort is made to meet all the needs of the children, both physical and spiritual. The children participate in morning and evening prayer and Bible study every day. They attend Sunday school and a worship service every week. They also participate in children and youth activities at the church. However, those who care for them must not put any pressure on them to convert or do or say anything that could be considered enticement. Pray for wisdom for those who care for the children. Pray that the messages the children hear will bear fruit and that they would choose of their own volition to follow Jesus.

The homes’ leaders are now busy making plans for holiday events. This is the one time of year when each child is given new clothes. The missions also provide new clothing for each pastor and dresses for widows and other poor women in their congregations. There will be special Christmas celebrations that include performances by the children and a presentation of the gospel message. Their sound system will make it possible for those outside the facility to hear the message. A Christmas dinner will be served to all who attend the program. In addition to providing for those in their care, one of the missions serves a meal and provides clothing for lepers and provides food for those in need in the community. The homes can raise a portion of the funds needed to cover the expenses of this additional outreach but have asked for our help in order to meet all the needs.



Please pray for those who, in spite of opposition and potential imprisonment, continue to tell their neighbors about the love of Jesus, start new churches, and care for orphans and widows. Please also pray for Mary, co-leader of the Jehovah Shammah Children's Home, who has been diagnosed with uterine cancer and must undergo 35 days of radiation treatment in a distant city. As they have no insurance and no access to government assistance, they would welcome financial assistance as the Lord enables.

Thank you to those who have already contributed toward the special holiday events. Please consider what you can do to help us provide an additional \$4000 to help five partner ministries share Christ’s love with those in need at this time.

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – EWI LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### News From Bible Schools and Seminaries That Have Received Books

A partner Bible school in Kerala, India sent the following news:

- ✦ Four teams of students completed a month of practical ministry training during September in several parts of India and in Nepal and brought back great reports.
- ✦ The school is now offering, in addition to its degrees, a ten month course in garment making and fashion design accompanied by two semesters of basic theological courses. Students who complete this program will be prepared to serve the Lord while earning their livelihood.
- ✦ The school recently organized a one day free medical camp on campus that served 240 people.

This note came from a Bible school in central India:

It was a very exciting day when forty five people made commitments to Christ in June at meetings led by two of their seminary graduates. Some of their graduates serve as many as ten congregations so are constantly traveling. They are greatly encouraged by our prayers.

A seminary in Chennai, India, sends out twenty ministry teams into the surrounding areas every weekend during the school year to plant churches, conduct Bible classes for children, provide social services and serve existing churches in various ways while also improving their own ministry skills. A couple of teams began work among non-Christian migrant workers who are more open to hearing the gospel than would be the case if they were back in their own villages.



The President of a Bible Institute in Myanmar wrote the following: “Thank you so much for your continued supply of helpful and precious books for our Bible School. God bless you.”

A professor and head of a children’s library wrote that our books are a blessing to the seminary and to all the children in Nagaland who are reading beautiful insightful books because of this ministry.

Thank you to all those who have donated books and for your gifts to help us cover the cost of shipping. Your donated books greatly enhance the capacity of partner Bible schools and seminaries to train and send out Christian workers.

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN KENYA

### News From Julian Orimbo: God Has Done Great Things in Oduwo

“I want to thank the Lord for how far He has brought us. I want to equally thank EWI Ministry for standing together with us all this time. The journey has been long with a number of hurdles to go through but the mighty hand of our God has always been there to hold us and help us maintain focus. I look back to what started as a small ministry with care of 15 children and how it has evolved into a ministry caring for over 40 children, a Sunday school with over 300 children, over 70 high school and young adult men and women, the church with a membership of over 150 adults and a school with over 200 children.

What an amazing God we serve. The children, drawn from all kinds of families with different life issues, form the basis of my joy and smile. They have been transformed to Christ-fearing individuals full of hope and freed from all kinds of abuse. May God’s name be glorified. Thank you all, friends of EWI, for touching lives in the small community of Oduwo which has been christened “**Oduwo No Lunch**” because of her poverty level. Every coin that has been sent unto us has faithfully transformed a life. A child has found an opportunity to access food, sit in a class and learn the word of God besides formal education. God bless you all.

Our grade 8 candidates graduated and will go to High School next year. Most of these students are from less fortunate families with the bigger number being total orphans. They were the very reason the school was started. They remembered that without the school most of them would have been given off for marriage or would be doing some house maid labors somewhere. They shared that what started as a small dream is transforming them for bigger dreams. The school made them to know Christ and His saving power. “We want to fly higher, taking the name of the school with us



wherever we go but more so the name of Christ," they concluded. This class of fourteen girls and three boys were the beginners and I thank God none of them dropped out of school."

## How Culture Impacts Lives

When Grace (not her real name), a fourteen year old orphan, was brought to the Oduwo School, it was learned that she had been raped at age thirteen and was pregnant. Her sponsor blamed her and abandoned her, not willing to listen to her story. Julian took her in and admitted her to the school. The identity of the rapist is not known and nothing was done to bring him to justice.

When she delivered twins her future looked bleak. In that culture twins are considered a curse and the fact that they were both boys, that they were her firstborn and that they were born out of wed-

lock made the situation even worse. Twins traditionally would have been abandoned and left to die but, with Julian's counsel and help, they are raising two healthy little boys.

Although Grace has committed her life to Christ and understands that her babies are not a curse, her future is still very uncertain. According to the practices in that culture, Grace would be unlikely to marry because of the twins. If she did marry, the man would not be willing to accept the twins and would likely want to terminate their lives. It is also believed that any child born after twins would also be cursed. Grace sees education as her way forward. She is determined to work hard in school to be empowered to face life with courage and to be able to take care of herself and her twins.

Congratulations to Vivian Osir on her graduation with a degree in education. She is now teaching at the Los Angeles Bright Academy, the school started by Julian in Oduwo. Your gifts enabled EWI to provide a limited scholarship so that she was able to finish her course.

For prayer:

- ✧ Pray for the door to open allowing the Oduwo graduates to go on to High School enabling them to break the cycle of poverty and make positive contributions in the church and in society. Pray for Julian as she seeks sponsors for them and continues to care for at risk children such as Grace.
- ✧ Pray for an effective ministry on the part of those leading the Oduwo Children's Camp held December 3-7, and the Oduwo Youth Seminar to be held December 11-15.

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN GHANA

### Introducing Simon Yaw Bludo, Good News Theological Seminary

Simon Bludo grew up in the Volta region of Ghana in an African Independent Church led by his father, a Bishop in the denomination. In 1993, while pursuing his education in Mechanical Engineering, he felt God's call for pastoral ministry. His church sent him to Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS) where he earned a Diploma in Theology. As he gained skills in handling the scriptures and in teaching and preaching, he was given more and more responsibility in his church, and, following graduation, was ordained and inducted into office as a pastor and General Secretary of the denomination.

As a diploma product of Good News Theological Seminary, he felt the need to pursue theological studies to the next level. He enrolled in another college where he earned a BA in Theology and Mission. This was followed by a one year internship at GNTS in fulfillment of his obligation to the National Service. He then went on to study and earn an MA in Theology and Mission after which he joined the faculty at Good News Theological Seminary as an Instructor.

Simon said, "I am grateful to God for using GNTS to influence my life and ministry to his glory, and to the lecturers who instilled in us the discipline of studying and working hard, and laying the foundations of sound theological studies in our life and ministry. Thank you GNTS."

Simon is currently studying at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota for his M.Th. degree. He and his wife Judith have three children with a fourth on the way. Pray for Simon as he completes his studies in preparation for returning to GNTS. Pray also for his wife and children back in Ghana.

With your help we can provide funding for scholarships to train more leaders like Vivian, Simon and many others who desire to prepare for ministries.



## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN HAITI

### Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)



**PRAY FOR HAITI AND THE WORK OF MENH.** Conditions there are said to be worse than at any time in memory. **HAITI** appears to be on the verge of total collapse and many are attempting to flee the country. Shortages of fuel and food have led to widespread anger over the rising cost of living and presumed corruption by government officials. Protests calling for their President to step down have erupted into full-fledged riots with many killed. This has led to the closure of schools, hospitals, and many other institutions. Businesses have closed leading to widespread layoffs. Electricity has been cut off for days at a time throughout the country, and public transportation has ground to a halt.

MENH leaders are attempting to carry on their work but there are many challenges. They have not been able to open the schools because of the danger. They have done their best to provide some support for the teachers but cannot continue due to pressure from the opposition. The clinic remains open but workers have been told to be careful and not to appear to be going to work. At least one of the churches has discontinued all evening services because of the danger. The mission no longer owns a vehicle and the lack of public transportation affects all aspects of the work. We have heard that the pastors are struggling to provide food for their families.

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 via **JustGiving** on our website. 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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