



East West InterKnit News

"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

June 2019

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN INDIA

After a month long voting process, Indian election results were announced on the 23rd of May. Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won by a landslide and will serve another five year term. The BJP is a right wing Hindu nationalist party. Since Modi first came to power five years ago persecution against Christians in India increased dramatically. Open Doors ranks India as the 10th worst country in the world for the persecution of Christians.

The circles on this map¹ represent distinct ethnic groups of 100,000 or more in which there are less than .01% Christians

○ - Hindu, ○ - Muslim

Christians in India need our prayers and the tools and training that empower them to shine the light of the Gospel into the surrounding darkness. A south Indian pastor expressed gratitude for our prayers that encourage him as he serves the Lord in spite of the challenges he faces from enemies of the gospel. He said "the Lord has graciously helped us to overcome the situation and the circumstances which are adverse to us."

Hundreds of destitute children have been saved from a life of abject poverty and introduced to Jesus Christ through the efforts of our partner children's homes in India. Many of the pastors and evangelists now serving under these ministries grew up in the homes, committed their lives to Christ there, and were trained for ministry by the mission. This is the time of year when the children return to start a new school year. It is hard for the home leaders to raise all the funds to cover school fees, new shoes and uniforms, and school supplies. Thank you to those able to help us ensure that all the children will be able to return to school.

Featured Partnership in North India

We were privileged to have Grace Johnson with us for three days in early May. Rev. Johnson George and his wife Grace experienced the call of God to leave their homeland in south India to serve as missionaries in a remote village in West Bengal under the leadership of the Kashmir Evangelical Fellowship (KEF). Their primary goal is to share the Good News with people and to plant churches throughout the mostly unevangelized areas of the Himalayan region.

They have launched a Child Development Center (CDC) serving 150 children, two small primary schools, frequent medical camps, a skills training program for poor women, a program of feeding the homeless and distributing clothing, shoes and other necessities as they are able, and the Himalaya Training Center (HTC) preparing young men and women for ministry. Children from the CDC have become believers and some are now in ministry. Graduates of HTC are engaged in planting churches or are serving in other ministries. East West InterKnit has helped them to develop their library for the use of faculty and students. Thank you to those who have donated so many valuable books.

Prayer requests --

- Please pray that the message of the gospel penetrates the hearts of the CDC children.
- Please pray also for the HTC students as they prepare to share the gospel throughout this unevangelized region.

¹ Data Source: Joshua Project 2019



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN KENYA

Three hundred sixteen ladies from 21 Kenyan congregations attended a Ladies' Seminar held during the last weekend in April. EWI partner Julian Orimbo started this program six years ago with just ten women and continues to lead and to train other teachers. She said, "God is faithful, marriages have been restored, women transformed from being religious to being committed Christians who walk the talk. Mothers are now living prayerful lives and have become good managers of their families and children." She has expressed her thanks to EWI donors who helped to make this possible.



The theme of this year's event was "The call to serve God and others" during which they were urged to be change agents in their homes and in society and to be evangelists to those around them. Testimonies were shared of dramatic life changes. Those who suffered serious consequences, such as HIV and Aids, due to following traditional religion are now diligent in bringing other women to these conferences that they too may come to know Christ and avoid the pitfalls of the old ways.

Julian Orimbo reported that there has been crop failure due to extended drought and then, after replanting, to heavy rains. Food prices are skyrocketing and she is hard pressed to feed the 43 orphans and the 20 girls in the school boarding house. She also has been providing breakfast and lunch for 250 children in the school. When the crops fail the families are no longer able to pay school fees and many children leave school. She said, "At the same time the hungry children will be looking up to us for food." Our desire is that none of the children go hungry and that they are able to remain in school.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK – IN GHANA



Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS) held its 19th graduation ceremony on May 11th with a call on the graduates to "distinguish themselves from the lost preachers, uphold the principles of the sound doctrine and resist the temptation of materialism." Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Oduro, the President of the seminary, congratulated the students and urged them to be servant leaders in all aspects of life and be worthy ambassadors of Christ.

GNTS will be recruiting students for the fall term. Many eager and worthy students want to attend but can only do so if they receive scholarships. Please consider what God might have you do to help East West InterKnit contribute to their scholarship fund.

The skills development project (see May newsletter) operates all year long. A GNTS team, led by one of their professors, goes to the centers every month to oversee the work. Seminary instructors provide training for the country pastors who come to the center.

East West InterKnit is committed to providing supplemental funding in order to maintain the services of the GNTS librarian – a requirement for continued accreditation. We also help meet urgent needs on campus and continue to ship quality theological books for their library. The photo illustrates the many boxes of books ready to ship as funds become available.



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