

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” I Chronicles 16: 34

January 2022

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

To God be the glory; great things He has done! We are so grateful to you for your prayers and for your support of the work of East West Interknit’s partners during 2021. The challenges were many, but God was faithful to open doors and to allow the work to continue and even to grow.

Most of our partners are involved in the care and education of children as part of their ministry. One reported that over 800 have passed through his homes and noted that many of them are now engaged in full-time Christian ministry. Most of these children either have a parent too poor to care for them or are orphaned. Bharathi lives in one of the homes. Her Muslim father died of AIDS and her Hindu mother, who has three other children, is HIV positive and unable to work. Bharathi is in 10<sup>th</sup> class and has accepted Jesus as her savior. Your gifts have made it possible not only to care for these children but also to assist families like Bharathi’s who are struggling to survive.

While a lot of attention was focused on ensuring that the children in our partners’ homes and schools had enough to eat and that our pastors, their families, and those they serve were also given assistance, there were also opportunities for ministry. Pastors in India, Africa and Haiti continued to work despite resistance from non-Christian fundamentalists and unprecedented challenges created by the pandemic. Hundreds of non-Christians were presented with the gospel when evangelists held street meetings and distributed Christian literature. One mission leader reported that 35 people from non-Christian background were baptized in 2021. New churches have been planted this year and efforts are continuing to plant more. New ministries have been established such as those in leprosy colonies. Our partners are also engaged in home visitation where they share the Word and encourage and comfort the people. Several thousand books have been sent to Bible school and seminary libraries providing the tools for better biblical training. Scholarships and grants have been provided to ensure that students at all levels could attend schools, colleges, and seminaries.

Once again, we thank you for your part in meeting needs and making Christ known.

Sincerely,



Annette L. Jones  
Executive Director

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## Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home and Ministries — Southeast India



When the pandemic reached India in 2020 the Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home was forced to send most of the children away to stay with parents or guardians in their villages. There are currently seven who did not have a place to go, and have remained at the home. Normally when children age out of the home they accept new children to take their place. However, this has not been possible during the pandemic, so the number of children currently supported is 23 rather than the usual 30. The assistance received from EWI enables them to support the home and its seven children, provide food for the non-resident children and their families (about 70 people), cover expenses for the children’s education, and provide clothing, medical care, and spiritual guidance.

Additional funds support the work of the pastors providing them with resources for evangelism and for meeting human needs. They continued their work despite restrictions and opposition and shared the gospel with hundreds at home visits, street meetings and other public meetings. Several new churches were planted. During the holiday season a total of nearly 2,000 heard the message of Christmas presented by the evangelists

at several sites each followed by a festive meal. Ten new believers were baptized on the first Sunday in January. Each of the pastors, all of the children, and 120 women received gifts of clothing during these events.

## Bethel Mission — Kolar Gold Fields, India

In his year-end letter Pastor Frank expressed thanks to God for His leading them through the past year during the pandemic and for enabling them to help hundreds of poor families because of the love, compassion, prayers, and support of others.



“<<< —In December the mission returned to minister at the leper colony in a neighboring state, where they served a special meal. The residents thanked God for this treat and thanked those who made it possible.”

“On December 22, a service was held for 800 widows and poor women at which they were each given a new sari [Pictured below]. As they left the church each was also given a special meal pre-packed for them to take home.”

Others also were recognized during the holidays. The 100 children’s home children each received a new outfit and were treated to a special meal on Christmas day. All the branch pastors, their families, and their staff were provided with new outfits and each received a gift of cash. A special meal was prepared on Christmas day and served to about 800 poor people.

They rejoiced when told by the government that the Mission would be allowed to hold the Christmas Eve and New Year Eve services this year. Pastor Frank said, “This Christmas season our church was blessed, and in turn, the poor, needy, underprivileged and the destitute were blessed.”



## JULIAN'S MINISTRY IN ODUWO, KENYA

In a recent letter Julian expressed her thanks to God for His love and grace. She wrote that although 2021 was a year full of challenges the Lord pulled them through and “we closed the year rejoicing and praising God.”

Your gifts made it possible for them to host several events during the month of December. Two hundred women from their congregation as well as some from the community and from nearby church plants attended a women's seminar. The theme was taken from Proverbs 14:1 and addressed the many challenges facing marriages in their communities. There is a great demand for more of these seminars to encourage and teach the women who often feel overlooked.



A party, attended by 157 children, was held in the afternoon on Christmas Eve at the church. The children played games, shared memory verses, watched a drama about the birth of Christ, and enjoyed a special meal. Julian reported that Christmas is a time when people like to get together and share a special meal but that many of these children's families would not have been able to do that. It was important to them to share the love of Christ by including all these children in the festivities.

Other activities included providing food for eleven elderly women and five widows, giving gifts to the Sunday school children and hosting a three-day youth seminar at the end of the month. Though 250 young people registered for the event, many more attended who had not registered. It was a challenge to seat everyone while following Covid protocols. Julian expressed thanks to God that there were no reports of anyone coming down with the virus after the event.

Funds were sent in early January to help meet more of the current needs. These included the purchase of food for the full-time care of the children in the boarding house and to help with lunches for the 355 children who returned to school. Additional funds were used to pay for preparing the farmland for planting, to help with repair of a borehole to restore their water supply, to pay school fees, for the purchase of toiletries, to build desks for the school, and to purchase school supplies and books.

The high school students shown here received supplies they needed before returning to their schools.



## MISSION ÉVANGÉLIQUE DU NORD D'HAÏTI (MENH)

Powerful armed gangs continue to plague the people of Haiti affecting all sectors of the economy and disrupting every aspect of their lives. Kidnappings for ransom, rape, killings of rivals, reporters, and officials, and blocking gas distribution are just some of the major issues. Nonetheless, the work of MENH continues and many lives have been impacted.

When there is much trouble people tend to turn to the church and that has been the case in Haiti. Thirteen of the twenty-two MENH churches reported a total of nearly 1,300 new believers in 2021, nearly as many baptisms and many child dedications. Construction of the church at Plaine du Nord continues as resources allow and laborers are available.

MENH had planned to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ministry in November but due to the civil unrest, gas shortages, and other difficulties the event was postponed until President Ebed Paul, Founder and Past President Thony Paul and his wife, Marie, were able to return to Haiti in December and to share in the festivities. The celebration began on the 13th with a soccer tournament featuring teams from their three high schools and ended when the winners were declared on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>. During that week President Ebed and Pastor Thony spoke on radio programs at three different stations telling the stories of the ministry. A huge parade on Saturday morning featured the students of the three high schools and the MENH marching band of 100 students. The Sunday afternoon celebration attended by 300 people featured a speech by the mayor, official recognition and transfer of power from Pastor Thony to Ebed, music from three MENH choirs, and a keynote message by the head of the association of all Protestant churches in Haiti.

Funding sent to MENH during 2021 supported teachers' salaries, repairs and upgrades on the campus, help for pastors and staff, shipping of supplies to Haiti, and funding for an ongoing project to aid victims of the December 13th tanker explosion. Thanks to the many donors who made this possible.



The winning team



The High School Band leading the parade

## GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (GNTS) — ACCRA, GHANA

Although the seminary faced serious difficulties in 2021 due to the pandemic, they enjoyed several special events that also served to “boost the image of the seminary.” Most of the supporting churches were unable to meet their pledges which caused great hardship and threatened the special events. However, with the help of one church, they were able to hold a graduation ceremony in July, an alumni homecoming, and the Golden Jubilee celebration in November.

These events made a significant impression not only on those who attended but also on the participants. Many were surprised to learn of the ecumenical activities that led to the founding of the seminary and were impressed with how many different groups were represented at the ceremony. President Oduro reported that the seminary honored more than 50 churches, organizations, and individuals. People were also surprised to learn of the extra-curricular activities of the seminary including evangelistic outreach and distribution of tracts. The 100 alumni who attended the homecoming celebration were able to share how the seminary has helped them to minister to people.

Joseph B. graduated with a certificate in Pastoral Ministry in 2014. He began an evangelistic ministry in northern Ghana where the majority of the populace are Muslims. Without any financial support, he toiled to earn a living while traveling to many towns in the region preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was able to establish a ministry that now is in six locations. He has been able to lead over 400 people to faith in Jesus Christ. He credits the seminary with preparing him to interpret the scriptures and to preach courageously.

One of the great needs of the seminary is for funding to provide scholarships for worthy students. A student can attend for approximately \$1,000 per year but, as many come from some of the poorest churches, they cannot manage this amount. EWI funding of scholarships in 2021 helped five seminary students and the school librarian who is completing her graduate degree as required by the accreditation committee. During the last twenty years scholarship funding from EWI has helped about 40.