

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.” 1 Chronicles 16:8

January 2023

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN SOUTHEAST INDIA

Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home and Ministries, Caring for Children and Planting Churches

The eleven pastors at Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home and Ministries (JSCH) are facing serious challenges due to many new government restrictions and harassment from non-Christian groups. Some of the pastors are not allowed to use sound systems during their services. They must get police permission to use sound systems for the outdoor gospel meetings and must keep the volume low. Despite these challenges additional churches were planted and 32 new believers were baptized during the past year. There are said to be many more new believers who have not yet dared to come forward publicly due to family pressures and governmental regulations.

During the Christmas season some of the pastors did receive permission to hold special holiday meetings and to serve food following the meetings. They reported that up to 1,500 people heard the gospel message at these events. Also, during this time sarees were distributed to 80 poor women, each of the children and each pastor received a gift of clothing, and each pastor received a small cash gift. Your gifts made this possible. Thank you!



The gift of a new saree was much appreciated. Thank you to those who helped to make this possible.



Each child received a gift.



Christmas gathering at the Children’s Home

For prayer:

- ◇ Pray for the spiritual growth, education, and health of the children.
- ◇ Pray for the pastors as they seek to reach more people with the gospel despite opposition.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)

The MENH schools have opened for the first time since June of last year. Students that are in exam classes (the highest classes in the elementary, middle school and high school) returned for special instruction in late December. Because of the danger due to civil unrest, they were advised not to be conspicuous by wearing uniforms to school. Other students are returning for the first time in January. MENH has continued to support its teachers throughout this difficult time. The Miami Herald reported that only 17% of the schools in this region have opened because of the gang violence.

The school has begun preparing the ground for a model garden on the school grounds to provide training in agricultural methods. Each student will then be expected to use what he learns to plant and care for a home garden. Much of Haiti’s food supply was coming from the Dominican Republic but, due to conflict, the border has been closed. This makes learning to garden even more important. We are assisting MENH to acquire seeds and gardening tools.

In an email dated January 18, 2023, President Ebed Paul wrote the following: “MENH wants to extend thanks to East West Interknit (EWI) for their faithful partnership and their generous giving to the MENH schools.” Support from EWI allowed MENH to 1) provide over 180 scholarships to its students, 2) meet the payroll of 60 teachers and staff, 3) develop its sports programs and its marching band, 4) provide teacher training, and 5) provide free health care access at the MENH clinic to all students of its three high schools.

The MENH Centre de Sante Jehovah Jireh (the clinic), launched in 2003 with some help from EWI, delivers primary health care to Haiti’s underserved individuals and families including many living in extreme poverty. It has served about 5,000 per year, now totaling more than 100,000. All patients have opportunity to listen to the Word of God during daily morning devotions. The support of our donors has enabled East West InterKnit to help meet the needs of the clinic especially during these difficult times. They are currently seeking funding for doing repairs on the building and to repaint the interior. The roof is leaking, the paint is peeling, and mold is growing. Your help is needed.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN GHANA

Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS) — The Significance of Scholarships

A student wrote to say that she had nearly given up on attending classes at Good News because of having to focus on “running here and there” to try to raise her school fees. But when she was granted a scholarship, she was able to focus on her purpose for being at Good News and to concentrate in the classroom. She has completed her Bachelor of Theology program and will be graduating in July. She expressed her thanks to those who made it possible. A second student wrote to say that because of a scholarship he also has more time for his studies and that it has reduced his risk of dropping out. With your help we will continue to make it possible for GNTS to award scholarships to worthy students preparing for Christian ministry.

For Praise:

- ◇ Two staff members who also received scholarships have completed their courses and will soon graduate from the University of Ghana.
- ◇ A faculty member has graduated with her PhD.
- ◇ The long-awaited book, History of African Independent Churches, has been published.

For prayer:

- ◇ Please pray for a successful outcome of the Charter application and for institutional accreditation.
- ◇ Please pray for the ongoing effort to recruit students.
- ◇ Please pray for the ability to increase staff salaries.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

Bethel Mission, Serving in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamilnadu South India

The holiday season is always a very busy time for Pastor Frank and his many pastors and co-workers. But before all the events took place this year Pastor Frank, his pastors, and many dedicated believers from the churches fasted and prayed seeking the Lord's guidance and empowerment to enable them to preach the gospel in a bold manner despite the current challenges.

They were able to meet all government regulations and successfully hold all the planned services. More than 460 children, including many from other faiths, participated in the children's Christmas program. They heard the message of salvation, and many committed their lives to the Lord. About 1,500 people attended the two Christmas Eve services. On Christmas day the church served a meal to 750 poor people. The New Year Eve service attracted a capacity crowd including people from other faiths. Pastor Frank reported that around 160 people committed their lives to the Lord at this service. All services were available online and were watched by hundreds.



Bethel Mission shared Christ's love with gifts of sarees to needy women as well as food and other provisions for nearby households.



During the holiday season the mission, with a little help from East West InterKnit, was able to provide new clothing for the 64 pastors and their wives, two new outfits for each of the 100 children in the three homes, and about 800 sarees for widows and other women. They also were able to deliver provisions, including rice, sugar, cooking oil, lentils, and spices, to 96 needy households.

More than 25 years ago a missionary from Bethel Mission was sent to the village of Kannur to establish a home to care for homeless boys. Over time they began extending help to poor kids in the village as well. Curious villagers began to hear about God's love and a church was planted and is said to be growing. The home, one of the three Bethel Mission homes, continues to house about 20 boys at a time but also provides help to village boys and girls as part of a daycare program.

Children at the Kannur home displaying their gifts along with some of the daycare girls who also received gifts



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Faith and Hope Ministries in Oduwo, led by Julian Orimbo

The holiday season is always a busy time for Julian and this year was no exception. Julian was involved in organizing two women's events: a seminar for about 70 ladies entitled 'A Woman is Needed,' and a conference at which they learned about profit generating projects. She is helping them write project proposals to qualify for funding. Julian also taught at a well attended three-day youth seminar organized by the church.

The children were invited to an event on Christmas day.

They started coming at 9:00 AM and didn't want to leave until 5:00 PM. Julian spent the whole day with them while they sang Christmas songs, recited memory verses, had a Bible quiz, played ball games, and had a meal together.



Some of the elderly enjoying their time together

Gifts of food were given to their pastors and to some of the elderly at the church. They also delivered food to the homes of the disabled who could not come to the church.

Julian continues to lead daily Bible studies for women and for the youth. She has a special love and concern for the older girls. In her note to us she wrote that as long as she is alive she will never stop teaching the Word of God to those around her. She added that whenever her strength wanes God gives her the energy to push through.

One of her high school girls sent us a note that included the following: "I'm taking this ... opportunity to thank you for keeping me in school I am thanking you for making my dreams come true." Girls, especially those orphaned or from very poor families, are often married off by their parents or relatives when they reach puberty and have little or no opportunity for an education beyond elementary school. Julian is trying to keep all her girls safe and in school.

For prayer:

- ◇ Pray that Julian will be able to find and hire a number of teachers for the new junior secondary school and to replace three teachers in the primary school.
- ◇ Pray that they will be able to finish the science lab soon, as school is scheduled to open on the 30th of January.
- ◇ Pray for the funding needed at this time for school fees for 9 or 10 high school students.

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