

*"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.." 1 Chronicles 16:18*

January 2024

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

### Bethel Mission - South Central India



Pastor Frank and his team were able to return to the leper colony in December. They ministered to a group of 150 men, women, and children.

They distributed a gift of clothing to each one and provided every-one with a special meal. Pastor Frank is shown here as he prayed for the residents.

The children's Christmas program

featured depictions of the birth of Christ along with singing and a dance performance. Each of the four hundred children received a little gift and were treated to cake following the program.

On another occasion the 100 children from the mission's three children's homes and the mission's 64 pastors and their family members were given new clothing.

More than 800 widows and poor women attended a Christmas program followed by the distribution of new clothing and a meal.

The Christmas Eve candlelight service was followed by another service on Christmas day and the church was filled to overflowing. Later that day the mission provided approximately 700 poor people with a special meal.

Pastor Frank praised God for His faithfulness as He lifted them up and guided them through the many situations



affecting their ability to minister to others throughout 2023, adding that he credits the ability to sustain the ministries of Bethel Mission to your sincere and consistent prayers on their behalf.

Your generous financial gifts enabled East West InterKnit to help Bethel Mission fund the holiday activities in 2023 that blessed so many. **Thank you!**

Partnership at Work — In India, Cont'd

## Jehovah Shammah Children's Home and Associated Ministries (JSCH)

Between 1,000 and 1,500 people, including many village elders, attended Christmas programs at the children's home or one of the village churches under the leadership of one of the ten ministers affiliated with Jehovah Shammah Children's Home. Most of these people are believed to have been non-Christians. Special speakers were invited to share the Christmas message at each of the churches and guests were also treated to singing and performances by the children. Gifts were distributed, and at the close of each service everyone shared a meal.



The Christmas program at one village church.



As a result, at least five new believers were baptized on December 31st and others are expected to follow. In addition, our partner believes there were others who responded to the message but did not dare to come forward publicly due to family and societal restrictions. At least 45 new believers were added during 2023.

Your generous financial support provided funds to enable JSCH to hold the Christmas programs, provide the 17 children's home children with new clothing, the ten associated ministers and their wives with new outfits, 80 poor women with new saris, and serve a special meal to all who attended the programs. Thank you for helping JSCH bless so many at Christmastime.

The ministers associated with Jehovah Shammah Children's Home are facing increasing challenges from government officials. They are no longer able to do street preaching or to distribute literature publicly. They must now get permission to use sound systems in their churches and when they do get permission, they must limit the volume.

Distributing saris at one village church.



### Current Prayer Concerns

- Please pray that the children at Jehovah Shammah Children's Home will grow spiritually, do well in school, and maintain good health.
- Please pray for the ministers associated with JSCH as they desire to reach more people despite government restrictions.
- Please pray for the financial needs of Jehovah Shammah Children's Home and their associated ministries.
- Please pray for the health of President David and his wife, Mary.

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

### An Update on Julian's Ministries in Oduwo

It seemed as though nothing was going right for Julian and then, just when it appeared that her situation may have gone from being merely unpleasant to dangerous, our partner in Kenya experienced the unmistakable evidence of God's protection. Julian normally uses her phone to communicate with us, but her phone quit working and many of her documents were lost. It took days before she could get to a town where the phone could be repaired. Once repairs were completed, Julian tried to do emails from home but, due to heavy rain, there was no network connection. So, she made arrangements to get to a town where emailing could be done. Each time she got there the power was off. The day she was finally able to send an email it had been necessary to wait several hours to get a connection. On the way home, due to terrible road conditions, the motorbike Julian was riding overturned and landed on her leg. They were in the middle of the sugar plantation at night in an area known for muggings and rape. Julian screamed and several boys, who had gathered to smoke marijuana, came when they heard the screaming. They recognized Julian and accused the driver of trying to kill her. She intervened on his behalf, explaining that the appalling condition of the road was to blame. The boys agreed to escort them to a safer area and before they separated asked Julian to pray for them. Julian thanked God for His protection and for using these boys for His good purpose.

Julian's school began the new term on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January with a total of 276 children in elementary and junior high school and seven high school students in boarding schools. Many parents are still trying to raise funds to pay the fees or to purchase uniforms before they can enroll their children. Julian expects many more to come as they are able. The new junior high lab is attracting new families who want to enroll their children. Ten high school graduates did well on their exams and all qualified for university or other higher education, but most are from very needy backgrounds and are unlikely to be able to go on without help. Julian's ministry is seeking ways to raise funds to help those who wish to continue their education. The funding they receive from East West InterKnit goes toward food for school lunches, full care for 35 orphans, costs of exam fees, boarding school fees for seven high school students, medical expenses, books and supplies, and has assisted their efforts to finish the dining hall and junior high lab.

During the holiday season the church organized a five-day evangelism outreach for the youth. They met at 7:00 AM each day for devotions, breakfast, and an evangelism seminar that lasted until 10:00 AM. Then they were sent out into the community in groups of three or four with the aim of reaching other youth. They returned to the church by 4:00 PM to report, pray, and share a meal. By the end of the fifth day 52 young people had responded to the message and requested baptism.

The church had been helping meet the needs of a group of elderly people but often depended on either Julian or funding from East West InterKnit to cover the costs. Preferring not to depend upon donations, Julian gathered the women of the church, taught them basic business practices, purchased essential supplies, and taught them how to make detergent. Profit from the sale of detergent provides the women with the funds they need to prepare food for the elderly. Julian monitors both the production of the detergent and the care of the elderly.

The nearly finished lab is now usable. A dedication ceremony was held in mid-January.



## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN GHANA

### Life on the Good News Campus in Accra (GNTS) - Some 2023 Highlights

- Students participate in daily devotions, weekly worship services, and communion services as well as classwork.
- The seminary hosted several churches that used its facilities for various programs and events.
- The seminary held a pastors' conference attended by 36 pastors from the area.
- A three-day training program was held for members of an African Independent church.
- In July the 21<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony was held on campus recognizing the achievements of thirty students.
- Two alumni get-togethers were held on campus allowing both recent and past students to share ministerial experiences and to strengthen the bond with the seminary.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December a Christmas party was held for staff and faculty.
- Off-campus skills development programs were held in several communities.

Praise God for a fruitful year, for support of partners, for good health and provisions for staff, and for progress in all their programs including off campus pastoral training programs and the skills development centers.

Pray for greater commitment of local supporters, for 40 current students and for the ongoing intake of new students, for the application for a government charter, and for resources to complete several campus improvements.

East West InterKnit funding enabled them to purchase two new computers, provide a monthly salary supplement for the librarian, help cover the cost of a medical emergency, encourage faculty and staff with a year-end bonus benefitting 23 people, and provide scholarships for five students. In addition, more than 300 books were shipped from East West InterKnit to be added to the Good News library which is regularly used by 80 or more people .

## PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

### Mission Evangelique du Nord d'Haiti (MENH)—In Dire Straights and Help Is Desperately Needed

The MENH medical clinic is facing a crisis. The assassination of Haiti's president, and proliferation of gang violence, plus natural disasters, have left the country reeling and affect all sectors of society. The number of patients who dare venture out has been greatly reduced as has their ability to pay. The MENH clinic remained open when all others closed, but with fewer paying patients they could not keep up with salaries. The clinic staff, who have not been paid for nearly five months, are at the point where they feel they can't continue. We have rushed some funds to them to help keep the doors open but need about \$3000 more to catch up and a commitment of at least 300 a month until things stabilize.

The clinic is committed to serving those in need while also sharing the good news of the gospel. No one is turned away and everyone receives treatment regardless of ability to pay. President Ebed reported that 30% of the patients receive free services, about 40% pay half price, and only about 30% can pay the full fees. They have resisted raising their fees because they realize their patients face rising costs in every other area.

The school is also being challenged by the unrest and the ever-increasing cost of living. Parents struggle to pay school fees which are used by the school to pay teachers. Only about 10% of the students can pay the full fees, about 30% pay a portion, and up to 60% are unable to pay anything. All students must demonstrate their desire to learn and to do the work if they are to remain in the MENH school regardless of whether they are able to pay or not. Additional funding is needed now to finish paying January salaries for about 25 teachers. It has been said that 80% of the schools in Haiti depend on funds from outside the country to remain open.

EAST WEST INTERKNIT NEWS is a regular publication of

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**East West InterKnit** is a 501(c)3 non-denominational evangelical organization registered in the state of Minnesota. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.