

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.” Psalm 105:1

January—February 2021

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

Your Prayers and Gifts Touch the Lives of Many

With much appreciated help from EWI donors, David, the President of **Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home (JSCH)**, and **the affiliated pastors** met many needs during the holidays. Sixty families living in a slum area received gifts of rice and



vegetables. Groceries and small gifts of cash were brought to about 100 pastors throughout the area who were without income due to the closure of churches. They also distributed clothing to some women in the town and to an additional 100 poor women in village churches.

As of this writing, the children have not yet been able to return to the home but remain with families in their respective villages. During the last months of 2020 JSCH distributed rice and other groceries as well as cash gifts to these struggling families. Since many of them are still without proper work, David will continue to provide food aid as funds permit. The children do not have access to online learning so are anxious to return to the home and to school.

The JSCH pastors are all products of the children’s home where they committed their lives to Christ, received training, and dedicated their lives for service. Although anti-Christian groups are quick to complain to authorities over any supposed violation, the pastors continue in faithful service. Though they must remain cautious and follow all COVID-19 protocols, three new churches were established during 2020 and many families responded to the gospel message.

Some of the JSCH ministers have had the virus but they praise God that all have recovered and are doing well.



David asks that we continue to pray for the children and their families, for the pastors and their families, and for the work of the ministry. David reported that the pastors continue to need help to feed their families.

'Partnership at Work — In India' Cont'd

Bethel Mission Churches — Open Amid Strict Government Guidelines



The Bethel Mission church was permitted to resume holding worship services sometime during the second half of 2020 as long as they followed strict government guidelines. To meet the requirements and accommodate all those wanting to attend, they had to hold four services each Sunday instead of one. Although senior citizens and children were not allowed to attend, all four services reached full capacity.

They could not hold all the special Christmas and New Year functions they have in the past but were able to meet with reduced numbers on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. An outdoor meal was served to 1,000 people on Christmas day. All pastors received cash gifts and clothing for themselves and their families. Saris were distributed to 600 poor widows and two new outfits were given to each of the 100 children in the three children's homes. The mission also ministered to 150 lepers in a distant colony and provided each with gifts of clothing and a special meal. Pastor Frank reported that 58 new believers were baptized on December 31st.



Children receive new clothing

During 2020 Bethel Mission Church lost 34 members due to COVID-19. The church made a special effort to console the bereaved families including providing them with a special meal on Christmas day. Bethel Mission provided help to some of their branch churches in coastal areas that were affected by a storm. They also held medical clinics throughout the year and provided free medicines for the those who could not afford them. The children living in the mission homes continue to attend online classes necessitating extra help from mission staff.

Please continue to pray for the health and safety of all and for the growth of the many newcomers who have responded to the message of the gospel during the pandemic. Pray with them as they go through their annual 21-Day Prayer Campaign from February 1st to the 21st. Pastor Frank wrote, "We are overwhelmed to experience your love and sacrificial donations to bless the poor and needy here in Kolar Gold Fields, India."

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- To make a **stock donation** contact us at 651-765-2550 for details.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK—IN HAITI

Political Chaos Pushes the Country to New Levels of Violence

On February 8 opposition leaders declared a Supreme Court judge as new President one day after a failed coup and the arrest of 23 people who tried to install another Supreme Court judge to that office. However, the current President refuses to step down and is occupying the presidential palace. Street gangs loyal to the President have been terrorizing the country with kidnappings, rape, and violent civil unrest. Schools, banks, and most businesses have closed. People are afraid to step outside of their homes for fear of attack.

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH) was also forced to close its schools. Teachers did not dare to travel, and parents refused to let their children walk to school. Things seem to be escalating so no one knows how long things will be closed. The mission is attempting to keep its clinic open. Workers are advised to avoid wearing uniforms and to be careful as they make their way to the clinic. At this writing Pastor Thony and other mission staff are said to be safe. Please continue to pray for Haiti and for the work of the mission.

During 2020 the 21 mission churches reported a total of 216 people who made commitments to Christ. One affiliated church in Port au Prince, with a membership of approximately 600 people, organized several mission trips, is engaged in a prison ministry, and is in the process of starting a church plant. Some of its leaders will assist in providing training for pastors of some of the smaller churches. The mission held an annual convention that drew 124 people to the parent church in Plaine du Nord. They also held a specialized training session for 53 pastors and church leaders during the year.



At the height of the pandemic when the country was in lockdown the mission used funds received to ensure that their pastors, clinic workers, schoolteachers, and other staff would have food for themselves and their families. They also provided partial salaries for the schoolteachers during the lockdown. Since school reopened in November funding received goes toward the regular support of 54 teachers. Funds sent were also used for campus repairs including the rebuilding of the security fence, for landscaping and other maintenance, for several laptops for the new computer lab, and for the construction of student desks and 25 tables.

The MENH clinic serves an average of 70 people a day. Among them are many destitute children. The 13-year-old boy pictured here with President Ebed Paul lost his mother when he was two and his father when he was four. By age eight he had contracted tuberculosis and was found to be diabetic. He was walking from door to door in the town begging for food when he arrived at the clinic. They took him in immediately, administered medications, and provided him with food. He continues to come regularly and has begun to recover by God’s grace.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Sharing the Gospel, Feeding the Hungry, Caring Educating Children for and

Despite struggling to adapt to the wearing of masks, frequent handwashing and especially to social distancing, Julian reported that Christmas came with so many blessings. Your gifts made it possible to feed more than 150 children, several evangelists, and others from the church on Christmas day. They were also able to do something special for the elderly widows and widowers in the area. In addition to provision of rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil, tea, and soap, each was given a special cloak for warmth and some who had the need received a mattress.

One of those who benefitted was **Mama Francisca**, shown in the picture on the right. This widow's husband was killed by a stray leopard one morning while he was on his way to work at the sugar plantation. He died and Francisca refused to be inherited (given to another in marriage). Julian described her as a "committed Christian, a good teacher of the Word, so sweet to be around, and especially loved by the young women."



School reopened for all students between January 4 and January 6 resulting in both joy and fear because of the virus. Julian's school, **Los Angels Bright Academy**, serving grades K through 8, opened on the 4th with nearly 300 students. With funds sent from EWI, Julian was able to purchase additional desks and 30 plastic chairs, fabric to make 300 masks, and disinfectant sprayers for each classroom as required by the Covid-19 regulations. These funds also made it possible for her to serve lunches each day for all 300 students. The church raised funds to help the 8 high school students pay their boarding school fees, but it was not enough, and they faced the possibility of being sent home. EWI was able to provide the balance needed.



One of Julian's projects for 2021 is to do something about the kitchen and its leaking roof and to provide a dining hall for the children that is especially needed as the rainy season approaches. Currently the cook serves the children from the door of the kitchen after which they must find a place to sit on the ground.

Distribution of Books to Bible Schools and Seminaries Continues Amid Great Challenges

From South Africa: This school had 58 students in 2020 but finds it difficult to recruit new students in 2021. Instruction is online, but many students do not have the internet. Pray that the Lord would provide for the students' financial needs and for support for the school during these difficult times. Sixteen boxes of books were sent to them in January.

From south India: "Because of the lockdown we shifted our classes online. The lockdown has really taken a toll on the college, the church, and individuals. We are collecting books for our library. Thank you for being a part of our library expansion program.

And from a Bible school in Myanmar (Burma): "Since the outbreak of pandemic in my country we are not able to hold classes. The government restricts public gatherings. Our situation is one of unrest and uncertainty since the brutal military coup on February 1. We appreciate your prayers."

We are hearing similar stories from many of the Bible schools and seminaries. Pray that students will find the resources to continue their studies and for the schools as they struggle to pay the bills. Thanks to those who have so generously made it possible for us to continue shipping these valuable resources to aid in training students for ministry.

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