

“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

March 2023

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN SOUTH ASIA

Millions of people in India are unreached by the gospel – as one ministry puts it, “they’re not just lost; they have no idea who Jesus is.” To make matters worse, Open Doors lists India as the 11th most dangerous country for believers. The ever-increasing number of restrictions placed on churches and ministries and the increasing number of anti-conversion laws have made it necessary to explore new ways of sharing the gospel. Nonetheless, God is doing things that have seemed impossible despite the extreme pressure from those who oppose the spread of the gospel.

A partner ministry was able to get permission to hold its 21-day prayer campaign in February. The church was filled to capacity every morning with people praying for those who are suffering and for world peace as well as for many other concerns. The pastor reporting said they were refreshed with God’s Word and also with a light breakfast. More than 16,500 plates of food were served during the 21 days. Your gifts helped make this possible. They were encouraged that people of other faiths came for prayer and that the entire event went on without incident.

One of the pastors serving under this mission worked for years in a community resistant to the gospel before he was able to plant a church. Now the church has grown, and they have finally been able to construct a church building. Our partner and his associates had the privilege of traveling to the community and to participate in dedicating the new facility.



Dedicating the church

Another of this mission’s pastors runs a Bible school. Thirty young men and women have successfully completed the course and are being sent out in early March to serve as pastors and evangelists.

We received the following story from another of our South Asian partners: Mr. Kumar’s* wife committed her life to Christ about 10 years ago and began attending the little village church led by Pastor Peter, one of the pastors East West InterKnit assists. She was secretly baptized. Her husband was a Hindu who opposed her attending church and was known to regularly beat her. Some time ago he had been drinking. On his way home from the liquor shop he fell and sustained a head injury. When the pastor heard about it, he went to

Kumar’s house and prayed for his healing. This caused a change in Kumar’s attitude. He began to show interest in hearing God’s word and in attending the church. His behavior changed gradually as he began to understand the gospel message. Finally, he committed his life to Christ and was baptized. The pastor reported that he is now “loving his dear wife and children and living a decent life.”

*Name changed for security

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Faith and Hope Ministry Led by Julian Orimbo in Oduwo

It is planting season in Kenya and with funds Julian has received she has been able to prepare and plant. They have two gardens that, in 2022, provided enough maize (corn) to feed the children for 6 ½ months and enough beans for about two months. They hired a tractor to prepare one garden but also had to spend more to hire cows to prepare the other plot due to the hilly terrain. It takes about \$550 to plow, purchase seed and fertilizer, and to plant. If they had to buy the maize and beans at market price, they would have spent an additional \$3,200 or more during the 6 ½ month period.



The new junior high program (JSS) was launched in January and 22 new students are enrolled. However, a shortage of funds and workers has prevented them from being able to complete the lab. Funds sent in late February allowed the purchase of needed sinks. Now our hope is that funds sent in early April will allow them to complete the work still required by the education officials.

Cynthia, one of five JSS children supported by Julian, was abandoned first by her mother at age 2 months and then more recently by her grandmother and left with Julian.

Some parents of the 350 children in the school are able to pay a portion of their fees but many have a hard time paying anything. The work they are able to find on local farms pays only about \$1.50 per day and that will not cover the cost of even one meal. Julian wants to continue to provide lunches for all the kids since that may be their only meal of the day but rising prices are making this difficult.

For Prayer

- * Pray that the rains will be sufficient for the crops yet not so much that crops are destroyed.
- * Pray for completion of the dining hall.
- * Pray for completion of the JSS lab.
- * Pray for the well-being of the children as malaria and other water borne diseases are on the increase in the rainy season.
- * Pray for Cynthia and the other orphaned and abandoned children in Julian's care.



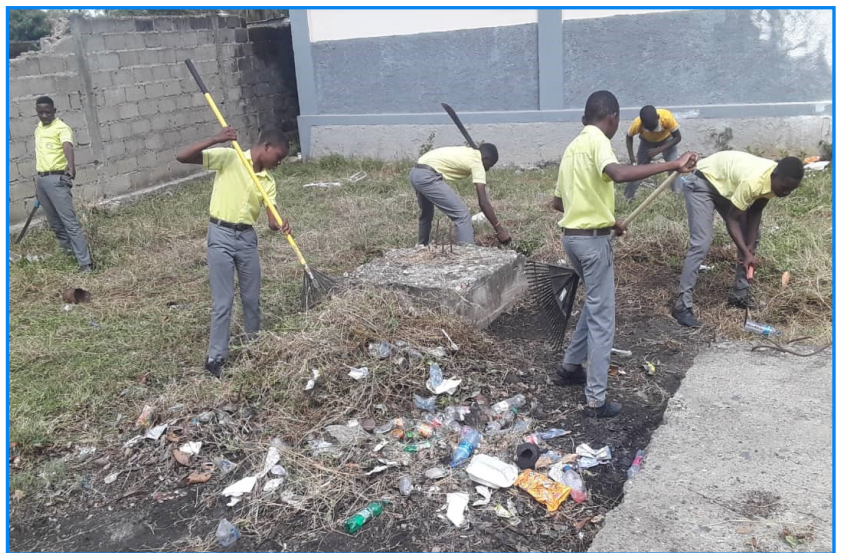
PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH) in Plaine du Nord

The MENH schools opened in January following a complete shut down in the fall due to unrest. New programs are being introduced that include training in agriculture. The students and staff are busy preparing ground on the campus for a model garden. Then each student will also be expected to plant a garden where he lives. This will be followed by a poultry project to involve every student. The goal is for students to learn to provide for their families and to generate income from what they produce. The program has started with the 200 high school students but will eventually be extended to the lower grades. Thanks to Hope Seeds for donating the seed and for your gifts that helped us pay for the shipping.



The MENH medical clinic is committed to serving the community’s most disadvantaged and vulnerable members. In order to do so, they require electricity to run tests. The clinic is currently powered by a diesel generator, but gas is hard to find, very expensive, and detrimental to the environment. They have decided to switch to solar energy which will allow them to devote more funds to patient care and for medical supplies. Though we have been able to provide some of the equipment needed, now they need our help to purchase and install solar panels.



Churches remained open during the worst of the unrest, but many people were afraid to come. Because of rising costs, scarcity of food, and an 80% or more unemployment rate, few people are able to contribute to the churches. None of the pastors receive a salary and most are facing a very difficult time. As one pastor said, “We are hungry.”

MENH is planning to hold a conference for pastors, educators, and clinic personnel in August. In addition to much mission planning, the attendees will also be introduced to the garden project and given training.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — FACILITATING BIBLICAL TRAINING

Scholarships and the East West InterKnit Library Development Program

Note from a theological college and seminary in South India: “We are grateful to have received yet another box of books from East West Interknit. Thank you so much for your investment in the lives of our young missionary candidates. The resources are very useful! Praying for you. Requesting your continued prayers for the ministry of equipping nationals for church planting in India.”

A description of life in Myanmar since the military coup of 2021 from the head of a Bible school we have served: “Many lives have been taken, many houses destroyed, thousands are running for their lives in the woods, children are starving, and civil war takes place everywhere. There is no safe place. In the midst of all this, while not knowing what will happen to us, we are able to keep on doing what God called us to do.” Despite the challenges two students graduated from their three-year training program. They ask us to pray for safety but also that they would be a blessing to those in need around them. We are not able to ship books to them currently due to the turmoil in the country.

Thanks to the Ambassador class and other friends of Calvary Church in Roseville, MN for the donation of 186 gently used Bibles. These precious gifts will go to the ministry in Kenya and other Bible schools and seminaries in Africa and Asia.

An African scholarship recipient starting his last semester in seminary expressed his thanks to those who have provided scholarship funding. He will now be able to complete his studies. He also shared his future plans in his note. He expects to be involved in a ministry of evangelism to a Muslim ethnic group that has been involved in terrorism and who are engaged in the persecution of Christians. He commented that there is a need for urgency to share the gospel with these people and he intends to begin immediately following graduation. Please pray for David as he graduates from Good News in Ghana and begins this new work.

Pray for Jennifer, another African scholarship recipient due to graduate in May, who has suffered a serious medical problem and requires surgery.

The average scholarship for students at Good News Theological Seminary in Ghana is just \$300.00. Consider making it possible for a student to attend, be trained, and sent out to serve the Lord.

Graduations are taking place during March and April at the eleven Bible schools and seminaries East West InterKnit serves in India. Please pray for these events and for the graduates as they begin their ministries. Pray for protection as they attempt to share the gospel amid increasing restrictions and hostility.

Your donated books and financial gifts have made it possible for East West InterKnit to ship 88,000+ books, Bibles, and other useful materials to schools and missions throughout India, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, seven countries in Africa and to Haiti. Please continue to pray for the safe arrival of these shipments.

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