

"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

May 2023

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN SOUTH ASIA

Since 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office and has attempted to declare India a Hindu nation, violence against Christians has increased and is expected to worsen. Freedom to practice and to propagate one's faith as stated in the Indian constitution is being denied. Pastor Frank (in plaid jacket), head of Bethel Mission in south central India, is pictured here as he stands with other leaders at an inter-denominational all-night prayer meeting which attracted hundreds of church leaders from all over India to New Delhi in late March for the purpose of praying for the nation "with a show of strength and to break the power of evil so that the gospel work in India would be unhindered."



The school year in India typically ends about mid-April as the hot season begins. The new term starts in early to mid- June. During this time Bethel mission and all of its 56 satellite churches will be holding vacation Bible schools for the children including the 100 children in their three children's homes.

At the end of the school term Bethel Mission conducted a three-day youth festival attended by hundreds of youths and young adults. Not only was the church packed but the crowd filled the surrounding grounds and spilled over outside the walls. Due to anti-conversion laws,

they could not invite people to publicly make a commitment to Christ. Nevertheless, our partner reports observing ample signs that hundreds committed their lives to the Lord.

Pastor Frank informed us that children who have completed 10th grade are required by law to leave the children's homes. Unless they have relatives to turn to, they will be on their own. Those who cannot afford additional training will likely settle for menial jobs. Over the years the mission has helped some children continue their education. A significant number of those have become pastors or are engaged in other Christian work.

Below: Counseling young men following an Easter service



For Prayer and Praise

- * Praise God for the five new believers who were baptized publicly by one of our partner pastors. Thank God that their families have accepted their decisions and have not caused trouble.
- * Praise God for the eleven pastors in SE India who reported that they were able both to hold Easter services without incident and to minister to new inquirers.
- * Pray for God's blessing on the workers and children who attend vacation Bible school.
- * Pray the gospel message will be heard despite attempts to silence the messengers.



Above: One of five women baptized this day

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN GHANA

Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS) in Accra

The Good News Theological Seminary library has been a special interest of East West InterKnit for the past 24 years and we continue to seek resources and provide equipment as funds allow. Gifty, the seminary Librarian and recipient of EWI scholarship funds, was awarded an MA in Information Studies in April. She and her student helpers will be busy processing the more than 400 books shipped by EWI in the fall of 2022 which arrived at the seminary in early April. They included commentaries, books on Christian leadership, Christian education, preaching, Greek, and evangelism to name just a few of the subjects covered.

GNTS held a three-day women's conference in February hosted by a nearby church on the theme, Bridges of Peace. Twenty-five women attended sessions led by Rev. Helena Hooper, long time GNTS professor, and Dr. Wesley Bergen, who is currently spending his sabbatical leave from the USA at the seminary.

A second conference was held on May 1, a public holiday in Ghana, this time for the benefit of 36 pastors. The topics included building inter-church relationships and the relevance of Christian education for church growth. This conference was held on campus and led by friends of the seminary.

The students of Good News have not only spent time in the classroom but have also been involved in evangelistic outreach in the community. They share gospel tracts with people and engage those who are interested in further discussion. A local pastor, a graduate of Good News, follows up with those who have shown interest. With your help we will continue to provide funding for the purchase of tracts and other material used in evangelistic outreach.

For Prayer

- * Forty-eight students will be graduating in July. Pray for them as they begin their ministries.
- * Pray that the messages shared by the students and the tracts they distribute will produce much fruit.
- * Pray for the successful intake of new students and for the resources to provide scholarships.



PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

Julian Orimbo and the ministry in Oduwo

It is a challenge to locate a source of food and an even greater challenge to pay for it as prices continue to rise. Someone is currently helping them bring in what is needed from a neighboring country, buying in bulk and transporting the goods on motorcycles. Even with this assistance, it appeared recently that continuing to feed lunches to the 350 school children might no longer be possible. Then your gifts allowed EWI to provide the funding needed to continue serving what for some is their only meal of the day.



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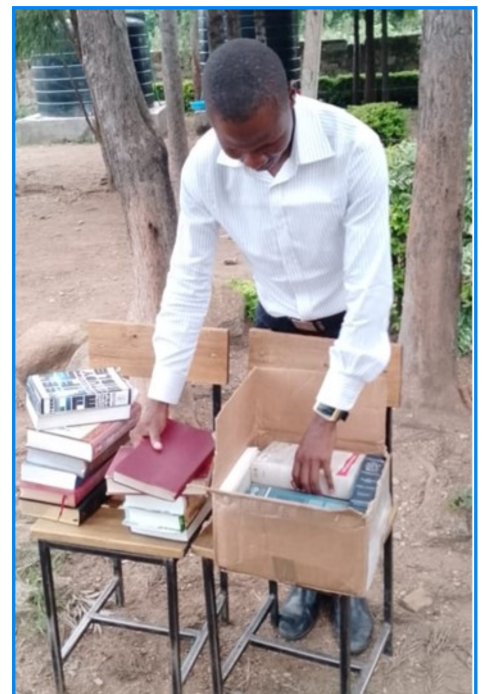


For a long time, Julian has been looking for a way to raise more of their own support for the mission including for the school, care of orphans, and the various ministries, but it had not been possible to raise the capital needed to start something. The recent generosity of God's people has enabled East West InterKnit to forward sufficient funds to launch a poultry project that is expected to provide an important source of income. The nearly completed structure can accommodate up to 300 birds.

Besides constantly needing to source for food, manage the school, oversee the farms, care for children and minister to vulnerable elderly, Julian holds occasional women's seminars and youth conferences. She also leads a daily Bible study for women and another for youth, as shown in the picture to the right.



The Bibles donated to EWI earlier this year have begun to arrive in Kenya much to the joy of students and others who have been consistently asking for them. There is a great demand for Bibles both in English and in the local language. Pray for the safe arrival of Bibles that have already been sent and for funding for the purchase of Bibles in the local language.



Julian was able to distribute the first batch to this group of students who had recently been baptized.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)

All the work that is done by Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti including that of the churches, the schools, and the clinic, is guided by five principles, and five corresponding objectives which have been drawn from Pastor Thony’s founding principles:

- * Put God first;
- * Go to school;
- * Don’t waste time; and
- * Plan for a big tomorrow.

The first principle is prayer, and the corresponding objective is to evangelize. Prayer is foundational. It precedes the planning of all mission activities. The activities are meant to create opportunities to show love, and to open doors to share Christ. While training in leadership, agriculture, and activities such as band and soccer are an important part of the school program, every effort is made to share Christ with the students. Every school day begins with a time of devotion including Bible reading, a short message, and prayer. Each student is required to take a twice weekly Bible study class and to attend Friday chapel. Every student has been given a New Testament. The mission clinic also begins its day with prayer and a time of devotion prior to treating the patients.



The College Evangelique Emmanuel held a food festival on the campus which was organized entirely by the students. Students who have been able to harvest their gardens brought their produce to display at the fair and to sell to the public. They also invited community members that had produce to sell to participate for a small fee. The festival benefited as many as 1,000 people. They plan to do this as an annual event as part of their training in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and community service.

For Prayer and Praise

- * Pray that many will respond to the gospel message as shared at school, in the clinic, in the churches and in the community.
- * Pray for the leaders as they prepare for a training conference this summer.

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