

“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

June 2021

## COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR PARTNERS IN INDIA

David, the President of **Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home (JSCH)**, has written to say that Covid-19 is rapidly spreading in India, and their area has not been spared. Friends, relatives, and pastors have lost their lives due to the disease. The serious shortage of vaccine means very few have been vaccinated. David’s immediate family has remained safe but his brother, a co-laborer in the ministry, just lost his wife to the disease.



In mid-April we reported that the schools had opened and that a few of the children had returned to the home. By the end of April, however, the schools had closed again, and the children were sent back to their home villages. Much of the nation was in another lockdown. On May 12th David and his brother Samuel distributed rice and groceries to some of the poor pastors in the area. They also disbursed cash to help those caring for the JSCH children. They hope to do it again next month if resources are available. Most of the people are day laborers unable to work, and consequently without adequate income.

**Please pray** for the family of David’s brother, Samuel John, as they grieve the loss of wife and mother.

The government has passed new laws making it more difficult to transfer funds to India. **Please pray** that we may find a legal way to assist the pastors, the children and those who are currently caring for them, and to meet other needs of the ministry of Jehovah Shammah Children’s Home.

**Bethel Mission**, located not far from the city of Bangalore, has been especially hard hit. Covid-19 has taken the lives of several members of the Bethel Mission church family. Pastor Frank has been conducting the burials at some risk to himself. He has also been spending time with families who have lost loved ones to provide comfort and encouragement. He closed a recent letter by saying, “the need of the hour is prayer and God’s intervention to bring about a change in the situation that we are going through. Please lift us in prayer that God may lead us, guide us, and protect us in the coming days.”

**Please pray** for wisdom and resources to assist those who have been unable to work during the lockdown. His church is distributing provisions to some of the neediest families.

Bangalore, the nearest city, was experiencing a record high number of cases with over 300 deaths each day in the city. This is of concern as many people from Frank’s town commute daily to Bangalore for jobs and risk bringing the disease back to the community. A new lockdown has been extended through June 14th. Schools are closed, no bus or taxi service is allowed except for emergencies and food can be purchased only between 6 and 10 AM. Church services are suspended and are only available online leaving many without access.



Pastor Frank is delivering food to a poor widow before the lockdown

## CHALLENGES FOR THE MINISTRY IN KENYA

Thank you for helping to feed Julian's children.



The **Los Angeles Bright Academy** students could not wait to return to school after another lockdown. It is the rainy season and they had to brave mud and water just to get to school but they came. The high school girls had to return to their boarding schools. To do so, some had to swim across flooded areas or had to be supported by other stronger swimmers to get to their schools. The rains bring mosquitoes and malaria. Julian needs mosquito nets and medicines for the many children in her care.



The kitchen has been demolished and construction on the new one started. However, funds ran out and they could not put on the roof. They currently are unable to prepare lunch for the children when it rains.

### For prayer:

- Julian was asked to host twelve Bible school students for two weeks while they conduct outreach events in the area as part of their training. She was responsible for feeding the students and asked if we could help. The students came, began sharing in the community, but were called back because of the virus. Before they left, however, they had baptized 30 new believers. Pray for the new believers and for those who will minister to them.
- Julian has been hospitalized due to the virus and has been on oxygen. Please pray for her recovery and for renewal of strength.

## NEWS FROM GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — ACCRA, GHANA

Good News Theological Seminary's growing reputation has attracted the attention of many students who would like to attend but who do not have the money to enroll. They include students like David, the son of a Fulani pastor, who came from the neighboring country of Benin. He received a diploma in theology from a Bible school in Nigeria and began serving as a missionary to the Fulani people, a people group that is more than 99% Muslim. While serving on the field he realized he needed more training especially in missions and evangelism, so he made the decision to come to Good News. David is working toward his seminary degree because of the help of a generous sponsor. David wrote that "I have an unquenchable thirst for my fellow Fulani people who are yet to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," and stated that he wants to continue to minister to them following graduation.

There have been many others who have expressed a desire to attend the seminary but who could not find a way to pay the tuition and fees. There are others like Emmanuella who has been in and out several times because she has no one to help her. But she is determined to find a way to finish and graduate. We want to help these and other students to finish well and be fully prepared for the ministries to which they have been called.

### For prayer:

- Pray for the first group of 23 students who began a two-week ministerial outreach during which they will be leading worship, doing evangelism, teaching, hospital visitation, and praying for people. They are using the tracts that your gifts helped to provide.
- Pray for the resources to publish the two-volume History of African Independent Churches in time for the seminary's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in November. Pray also for the planning and preparation for that event.
- Pray for a successful graduation function scheduled for July 3, 2021. (Photo is from the 2018 graduation program)



## THE WORK OF MISSION EVANGELIQUE DU NORD D'HAÏTI (MENH)

MENH churches are struggling to meet the needs of their members and the community at large according to president Ebed Paul. He said, "we have witnessed our community's anguish and suffering due to food insecurity brought on by the Dominican Republic's border closure, persistent inflation, depreciation of the local currency, rising unemployment, and the effects of Covid-19." As of June 7<sup>th</sup>, Haiti still had not received any vaccine.

The situation has been made worse by the continuing political unrest. There continue to be mass street demonstrations and violent protest marches across Haiti that began on January 14 in protest at president Jovenel Moïse's plan to run for one more year in power. Non-essential American personnel have been sent home. There is a high risk of kidnappings, rape, and murder. At times the schools, including those of MENH, were closed due to violence rather than disease and, even when opened, some parents kept their children at home.

Ebed reported that their faith in God remains unwavering despite the severe struggles, and that he sees hope amidst the difficulties. The churches have experienced a rise in attendance as more people come to a saving knowledge of Christ. The clinic remains open and continues to serve an average of 70 people each day. Children continue to attend the schools six days a week to complete the courses for the year.

The mission is making plans for several major events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the mission in 1971 by Pastor Thony Paul. They realize plans could change due to the crisis in the country but are determined to hold

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a week-long pastors' conference in August followed by a week of evangelistic meetings. They hope to hold both a soccer tournament and a volleyball tournament and have the school band participate. In addition to emphasizing good stewardship, they will encourage the churches to be giving rather than receiving that they may be a blessing to others. They also hope to have the resources to help the pastors plant gardens to promote greater self-sufficiency.

President Ebed closed a recent letter with these words "Together we continue to improve the educational, healthcare, and economic development needed to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. The MENH Advisory Board thanks you for your continued commitment to our churches, staff, children, and families and wishes you and your families well."

## GREETINGS FROM OUR BIBLE SCHOOL PARTNER IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



"I am overwhelmed by your generosity and what you have done for the Bible schools that we support here in PNG."

"We appreciate all that you have done for us and pray God's grace and favor over you."

EWI has sent over 600 books for the use of PNG Bible school students. Thank you to our book donors!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Pray —

From Pastor Frank: "Pray that God would wipe out this epidemic from the face of the earth. Pray that God will comfort the families that have lost loved ones. Pray that God would meet the spiritual and economic needs of families that are suffering."

### Consider a generous gift toward the scholarship fund —

Graduates of Good News Theological Seminary and the other schools with which EWI has a relationship are having a significant impact on their communities as they apply what they have learned to lead people to Christ and provide sound training in the Word. Tuition and fees run about \$1000 per year. Scholarships are awarded according to individual need.

### Help Julian put the roof on the kitchen and dining hall —

Many of Julian's school children depend on the food provided at school. The unfinished building could be used if it were roofed.

### Provide funding to enable the missions to distribute food to those who are suffering —

The need is especially great in India and Haiti. Pastors are receiving little if any income and struggle to feed their families. Children have had to stay with those who could not afford to feed them even before the pandemic. Many in the various communities are appealing to the churches for help but the churches need our help to meet the needs of their people.

EAST WEST INTERKNIT NEWS is a regular publication of

**EAST WEST INTERKNIT**

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EWI is a 501(c)3 non-denominational evangelical organization registered in the state of Minnesota. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.