

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples." 1 Chronicles 16: 23,24

November 2021

Jehovah Shammah Children's Home AND Ministries, Southeast India

Showing Compassion and Caring For Needs

Jehovah Shammah Children's Home (JSCH) continues to minister to the JSCH children and their families, the pastors and their families as well as others in desperate need of help due to lack of work during the pandemic. Recently food brought to the families of twenty JSCH children benefitted at least seventy people. Food was also delivered to the families of ten pastors, whose congregations have been unable to provide support. Some pastors have sought part time work to feed their families. David, the President of JSCH, joined together with another ministry in supplying food for around 250 leprosy victims at a nearby colony. They will continue to visit and provide food for the colony as funds permit.



Care of the children continues.

There are six now living at the home and another twenty or more who are still awaiting permission to return. David has informed us that those in the village are now able to get online classes at a library, this after at least a year of having no schooling. In addition to providing food, the mission is also providing spiritual guidance. One of the pastors holds regular meetings with about half of the JSCH children to share the Word and to pray with them. The rest of the JSCH children are attending a church near where they live.

The churches are open but limited to half capacity. The JSCH pastors engage in regular visitation teaching the Word and spending time in prayer with those they serve.

While continuing to distribute food to the children, the pastors, and others, the mission is also hoping to be able to do the annual distribution of clothing for the children and widows as well as for the pastors. They have requested our assistance to make this happen.

The need:

- Clothing for about 140 people—about \$1,500
- Supplemental assistance for 10 pastors—about \$1,000.

BETHEL MISSION — KOLAR GOLD FIELDS, INDIA

Faithfully Sharing the Gospel and Serving Their Neighbors



Serving food to the Bargur Colony residents

Pastor Frank and a team from Bethel Mission have been visiting a leper colony in a neighboring state at the request of the residents and they are helping to meet some of their needs. Though the colony is a government facility, Pastor Frank indicated that benefits do not always reach the people and that they live in deplorable conditions. The residents tend to be socially isolated and treated as outcasts, so they are overjoyed when Christians show love and compassion. The mission team prepares and serves a meal and distributes clothing each time they visit.

According to a 2021 report from Bhaskar Medical College in Telangana, India, there are over 3 million people with leprosy deformities in India who need care. Leprosy colonies exist throughout India. Unfortunately, individuals with leprosy are still shunned, isolated, and stigmatized.



Listening to the message



Distributing clothing

There are still many Covid restrictions in place in KGF and the church has been very careful to follow them so as not to attract the attention of local officials who could shut them down. Despite these challenges, ministry is taking place. In early October they baptized 20 new believers, most of whom came from other religious backgrounds.

- Pray for the continued wellbeing of the 100 children in the mission's three children's homes.
- Pray for wisdom and safety as they continue to share the gospel despite opposition.
- They are hoping to get permission to hold special services during the holiday season. Pray that the right decisions will be made.

East West Interknit will be contributing toward the annual purchase of clothing for the children, widows and other poor women, as well as for the pastors.

JULIAN'S MINISTRY IN ODUWO, KENYA

Impact of Drought and Disease Is Relentless and Far-Reaching

The Oduwo community depends largely on the sugar plantation for employment. When the drought ruined most of the sugar crop the factory laid off most of the workers. Many people left to seek employment elsewhere. This has affected church attendance and support for pastors and the elderly. Many of those who stay are no longer able to pay school fees and, whether they leave or stay, children's education is disrupted. Julian reports that the financial pressures have also contributed to the breakup of marriages.

The drought had a significant effect on the local food crop leading to food scarcity and rising prices. The mission has been unable to continue daily feeding of the elderly, or to provide food for the Sunday school children. They have had to limit the number of activities including seminars because they cannot provide food for the day. Julian reported that they really struggled with food provision in the last month and that they still owe some of their suppliers.

The pandemic has also influenced the way they do ministry. They encourage the use of masks and sanitizer when meeting with people, but it has not been well received. They are accused of being scared and not trusting God or, in some cases, those they visit are offended because they think the visitors consider them unclean.

The mission asks for our help to enable them to provide relief for those they serve especially during the Christmas season. This includes providing food for the children and the elderly, helping the pastors, and assisting with a youth event. Due to the pandemic the school year has been shortened but students must still complete the entire syllabus. To do this most vacation time has been eliminated. Julian suggested that a youth activity will help to relieve some of the tension and, instead of students venting their frustrations in inappropriate ways, they will engage in healthy activities and grow as Christians.

GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (GNTS) - ACCRA, GHANA

Golden Jubilee Celebration, November 6, 2021

It all began with a Bible study in the choir loft of an African Independent Church (AIC) in the late 1960's. Edwin and Irene Weaver, Mennonite missionaries forced to flee Nigeria, were introduced to the head of an AIC in Ghana where they started what was called the Good News Bible study. They were introduced to many other AIC leaders, and more Good News Bible studies were opened throughout Accra. In early 1971 a decision was made to turn the various Good News Bible Classes into an evening part-time theological institute. The Good News Training Institute was formally inaugurated on November 6, 1971.

The Good News Training Institute (now known as Good News Theological Seminary), which began training students at the certificate level, now offers Theological Education by Extension, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, and Bachelor of Theology programs. The seminary offers off-campus non-credit classes in basic theological education for all levels of students as well as some skills development programs.

GNTS moved to its current campus in 1996. It was granted accreditation in 2008. Now there are more than 1,000 alumni in Ghana and other parts of Africa serving as evangelists, pastors, missionaries, counsellors, administrators of theological institutions, church musicians, Sunday school teachers, Christian business leaders and more.

Raising sufficient support for the seminary is one of its major challenges. Many of the AIC churches, for whom the seminary was founded, serve amongst the poorest populations, and find it difficult to provide support. We have been privileged to be one of several overseas partners that have lent a hand. As God provides, we will continue to ship books for the library, provide essential salary supplements, raise funds for scholarships, and meet special needs as they arise.

- Please pray for the seminary as it works to develop a strong financial base and undertakes income-generating projects toward greater self-support;
- For resources to provide scholarships for worthy students; and
- For the 11 full-time and 3 part-time faculty members and 5 staff members as they serve sacrificially.

MISSION ÉVANGÉLIQUE DU NORD D'HAÏTI (MENH)

Since the assassination of Haiti's president in July gangs have become increasingly powerful and now control large parts of the country. There has been a massive upsurge in kidnappings and violent assaults leaving families who have paid ransoms destitute and children who have been assaulted traumatized. Now they are blocking fuel shipments, so transportation of people and goods has become a problem and everything from hospitals to cellphone towers are running out of gas. Gas, when it was available, cost as much as \$12 a gallon. The Haitian people are said to be living in fear.

The unrest has not spared the MENH clinic at Plaine du Nord. They tried to stay open when other clinics were closed, but when they ran out of gas for the generators (there is almost no electricity these days) they, too, were forced to close. Instead of the usual 70 patients per day, they were seeing as few as 10 because of the fear of violence, so income was greatly reduced. We have been told that the number of patients is increasing in the last couple of weeks now that things have been somewhat calmer.

The ministry of the mission has been severely curtailed as well. The MENH churches are holding services both Sunday morning and evening but those who need transportation are not able to come. One of their churches near Port au Prince has had to close occasionally when the danger was the greatest. Tent meetings and other special events could not be held due to the lack of gas for generators, sound systems, and transportation, and due to the danger of attacks. President Ebed reported that pastors have been holding small services outside the homes of parishioners in the hope of reaching others who live close by. There have been some new believers but not nearly as many as before the current crises.

Please Pray For —

- The family of Ovillon Charlot, one of the preachers at the Plaine du Nord church, who lost his life to the virus.
- The safety of the children, faculty, and staff of the schools and the clinic as they make their way to and from school and work.
- The 50th anniversary of the founding of MENH was to have been celebrated in November. However, due to the unrest, it has been rescheduled for some time in late December if circumstances permit. Pray for the safe return to Haiti of Pastor Thony, the founder, along with his wife and President Ebed. Pray also for wisdom as they plan for December events.

NEWS FROM LIBRARY PARTNERS

Besides his responsibilities as teacher in a seminary, one library partner in Ghana engages in a vital ministry to children. He distributes Bible study courses in dozens of public schools. One teacher reported that 16 students had made commitments to Christ. He also conducted vacation Bible schools in nine communities, distributed Bibles and tracts in a neighboring country, and provided a well so that the children of one community no longer had to walk long distances to get water before going to school.

From north India we heard, "Churches were closed during the lockdown. We tried online services which were quite difficult due to connectivity problems and because many did not have smart phones. Our Child Development Center was closed as schools were not allowed to be open. However, once a month we gathered them in small groups and distributed groceries as they are extremely poor and many of their parents were jobless. Our local supporters stopped supporting us due to their hardships, so it was hard to support our staff and hard to provide for the 150 CDC kids. This year there were new governmental conditions due to which no one could send us any funds. Prayer was the medicine that sustained us."

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