

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

June 2024

FROM THE DIRECTOR —

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the notes, cards, and emails letting me know you have been praying for me as I underwent hip replacement surgery in May. I am grateful to God for continuing healing and renewal of energy. Thanks to Linda Bonasera for keeping things going in the office during my absence. Thanks, too, for your faithful giving which allows us to provide the tools and resources that assist our partners in their efforts to meet both spiritual and human needs of those they serve.

Annette L. Jones

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN GHANA

News from Good News Theological Seminary in Accra (GNTS)



After years of hoping to establish such a place, an African Independent/ Initiated Churches (AIC) Research Center has been set up on the campus of Good News Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana. This is very likely the first such center for the study of AIC's in all of Africa and is likely to draw scholars from afar to study the history and impact of AIC's. They are asking for contributions of any books, articles, pictures, artifacts or other materials that relate to the AIC's. Books can be sent to East West InterKnit for shipping to Ghana. Please include something toward the cost of shipping.

Allow Us to Introduce a Current EWI Scholarship Recipient—

Udechukwu was raised in a Christian family but described how he came to faith through reading the scriptures and hearing the testimonies of other believers. After completing a two year pastoral training program at Christ Holy Church Seminary in Onitsha, Nigeria, Udechukwu's ministers, who had attended Good News Theological Seminary, told him about the school and

helped to send him there to pursue a diploma. His time at GNTS has already had an impact on his life and ministry. He wrote of learning much more about how to interpret scriptures and of being able to handle theological questions from a Biblical perspective. While still a student, he is using what he is learning at Good News Theological Seminary in a teaching ministry that is pointing people to Christ and building them up in the faith.

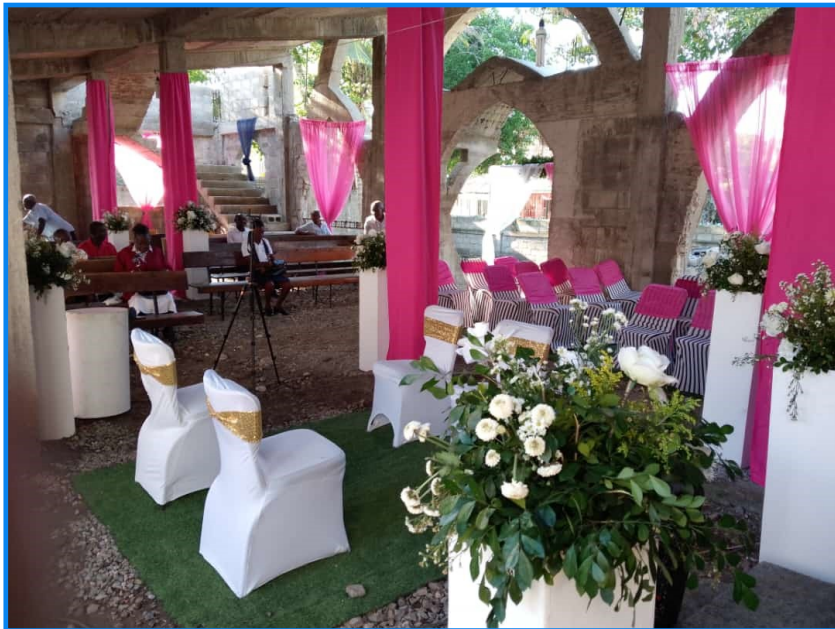
To date over fifty worthy students like Udechukwu have received scholarships funded by your donations to East West InterKnit. They are now serving in ministries in Asia, Africa and Haiti, well equipped for that service by the training they received, as well as encouraged by being chosen to receive a scholarship that allowed them to obtain it.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN HAITI

An Update on Mission Evangelique du Nord d’Haiti (MENH)

The violence continues in Haiti where more than 2,500 people have been killed or injured across the country between January and March, according to the U.N. In addition, 360,000 persons have been displaced. More than 90,000 have fled the violence in Port au Prince and headed toward Cap Haitian and the surrounding area. Our partners in the area tell us local officials are attempting to screen all incoming persons to prevent gang members from settling in the area. Cap Haitian has remained comparatively free of the extreme violence but is suffering from the same lack of food, gas, and medicines as Port au Prince. It is being reported that nearly a million in Haiti are on the brink of famine.

The MENH churches have been able to remain open and active despite the concern for safety and complete lack of material resources. However, our partner reported that the threat of violence and the resulting economic challenges have had a negative impact particularly on the outlook and values of the youth. The MENH churches are realizing the need to faithfully share the Word of God and to engage the youth in all facets of church life, especially as relates to evangelism. They recently brought together a group of 30 young people who indicated a willingness to engage in evangelism. Sixteen participated by going door to door to distribute New Testaments and other literature and to share the gospel with those they encountered in the surrounding communities. Twenty-two individuals committed their lives to Christ as a result of student efforts during March and April.



The unfinished church in Plaine du Nord decorated for a group wedding..

The churches have also launched what they call a collective wedding program.

Because weddings in Haiti are expensive many couples in Haiti choose to live together rather than to marry. When they become followers of Christ the church helps them grow in their faith and understanding of God’s plan for the family. A group wedding allows them to have a very nice ceremony without incurring expenses. The church usually covers all expenses for wedding clothes, decorations, and a reception.

Two couples enjoyed a collective wedding at the church in Plaine du Nord in April.

Current Prayer Concerns

- Please pray for the mission in Haiti as they seek to reopen the clinic and try to keep up with the needs of the school including teachers’ salaries.
- Please pray for the efforts of the pastors to engage in evangelism and encourage the believers.
- Please pray that those wishing to marry will see the benefits of this new way to celebrate a wedding and accept the church’s support as they begin their lives together as a couple rather than just striking out on their own.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN INDIA

Mission updates



About 400 children from the church and the surrounding area took part in a week-long Children’s Gospel club held by Bethel Mission Church in south India. Similar programs were also held at some of the branch churches. The children had a great time participating in the programs that included storytelling, songs, and dance, as well as scripture memorization. They also enjoyed a daily snack.

Bethel Mission Pastor Frank recently had the opportunity to visit some of the 64 mission stations to encourage the pastors and their congregations as they face pressures from those who oppose Christianity.

He also had the privilege of preaching at an open-air gospel meeting organized by one of the branch churches in a neighboring state. Several hundred people attended and Pastor Frank reported, “God moved in our midst in a special way.”

Current Prayer Concerns

- Please pray for wisdom and safety for all the pastors as they share the gospel despite the many restrictions imposed on them by the officials and by pressure from communities.
- Please pray for the children who attended the Children’s Gospel Clubs, that the good experience will cause some to search for greater understanding as they mature.
- Please pray for the various outreach programs of the mission that seek to communicate the Good News to the unreached.
- Please pray for Pastor Frank as he travels to the US in July.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — IN KENYA

An Update on Julian's Ministries in Oduwo

The heavy rains of April and May have subsided at last. During the deluge the elderly were moved to safer homes and were cared for by the church. Although those who took refuge in the school and church have now been able to return to their homes, life has not returned to anything close to normal. Some families lost cattle and one family lost a child who drowned while sleeping on the floor in her home. Nearly all crops have been destroyed and it is now too late to replant. It is raining again which affects access to the internet and keeps them from being able to charge their solar powered phones. The Oduwo evangelists, unable to work on the farms, used their down time to visit and share the gospel with those who had not yet made decisions for Christ. They also ministered to suffering Christians desperately in need of encouragement. Even in the worst weather they continued to gather for Bible study including a group of teenagers led by Julian.

Current Prayer Concerns

- Please pray for Christine, an orphan who has been with them for more than 12 years, who is recovering from major surgery.
- Please pray for the evangelists whose crops were lost. They receive little pay, if any at all, and struggle even in good times to meet the needs of their families.

PARTNERSHIP AT WORK — FACILITATING BIBLICAL TRAINING

The East West InterKnit Library Development Program

Because of frequent power outages and limited access to the internet, Bible schools and seminaries in the developing world depend on physical books for training their students. Typically, however, they can neither find nor pay for the kinds of books they need. These schools are preparing hundreds of men and women for ministry often in places that may have less than a 1% Christian population and where they can expect to face serious opposition.

East West InterKnit (EWI) helps to meet the need by collecting and sending your gently used donated books and Bibles for the use of those who are eager to receive them. During the month of April, we shipped 34 boxes of books to schools in India, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Nigeria, and Burma bringing the total number of books shipped to over 90,000. We are also deeply grateful for your financial gifts that enable us to get the books to those who depend on them. This latest shipment cost close to \$2,300.

By passing along your gently used books to East West InterKnit you are doing vastly more than merely clearing your shelves of study materials you no longer need. You aide in the training of hundreds of men and women who have gone on to serve as church planters, missionaries, evangelists, pastors, youth workers, and educators. One Bible school that receives books from EWI reported that their graduates have planted more than 800 new churches throughout India in recent years. More than 6,000 graduates of another school are now engaged in church planting.

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