



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

Ministry Update

Loving, Serving, and
Working Together with
the Poor, the Powerless,
and the Marginalized.



Issue #7, Winter 2012



HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON

During the holiday season we are filled with gratitude for all of the blessings God gives us. We thank him for our families, for abundant food, for health, and for so many other things. It is during this time that many of us also think about those who are poor and marginalized. Covenant World Relief receives the vast majority of our donations in November and December. We are extremely grateful

for all who give so generously during this time so that the lives of the vulnerable can be transformed.

However, the reality is that hunger has no season. While traveling in remote rural areas of India recently, I met low caste and outcaste people (Dalits) who struggle year-round just to survive. I met the man in the photo to the right who hasn't been able adequately provide for the needs of his family. He is one of nearly one billion people in the world who live on less than one dollar a day. Now because of a small loan from a CWR-sponsored project, he was able to rent a small piece of property and grow peanuts. With this cash crop he will be able to buy food for his family and continue to farm the land.

Covenant World Relief responds to disasters and supports long-term community development projects among the most vulnerable all year long. Would you consider giving to CWR monthly to help us in these vital life-saving and life-changing ministries? Please consider using the automatic giving form enclosed in this mailing or online at covchurch.org/cwr.

—Dave Husby



NEW PROJECTS TO FOCUS ON JUSTICE

The Covenant World Relief commission recently approved several new community development projects. One project is in Monterrey, Mexico, a town that has been wrought with poverty and violence. Through a holistic approach that includes education, occupational opportunities, and conflict resolution training, the project will focus on peace-making. You can read more about this and other new projects on our website at covchurch.org/cwr.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." MATTHEW 5:16

THANK YOU

At the end of the calendar year, we are always overwhelmed by your generosity and faithfulness. As I open checks or respond to your emails, it is amazing just how faithful you all are to the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized in the world. We are also so thankful for your creative ideas on how to raise money and communicate the work of Covenant World Relief, as well as for the many prayers you offer for us and for those we serve. Please know just how grateful we are to serve alongside you as we all follow Christ in caring for and serving alongside the most vulnerable.

— Chrissy Palmerlee



Participants in the Fuentes Libres project in Mexico count money that is given in micro-loans to women in the community.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

When major disasters strike, like in Haiti and Japan, we know within moments that our partners are responding and that Covenanters will be giving generously. When CWR responds to disasters, you can stay updated through our Twitter, Facebook, blog, website, and Covenant news stories. Within one day of major disasters, and often within hours, we will be communicating through these avenues and will make online giving options available.



Smaller disasters take place almost daily throughout the world. For these smaller disasters, Covenant World Relief must evaluate whether or not to respond. Several factors are important in this decision. The first question we ask is, "Does CWR have a partner in the area that will be responding?" We also consider whether the disaster affects the most vulnerable and whether Covenanters will be giving to this effort.

How can you best be involved in disaster response? You should know that your financial donation does make a difference. At least 90 percent of your donation to CWR for disaster response will go directly to the project. Cash donations can be used immediately to purchase critically needed items.

Donations to the CWR general disaster fund are the first gifts used after a disaster. By "banking" these funds, you allow us to respond immediately. These funds are also used to respond to smaller disasters that affect the most vulnerable but never make headlines.

Immediately after a disaster, please pray for those who have been affected and for the aid workers. Inform your church and family about the situation and ask them to pray as well.

Although we all like to be involved hands-on, going to the disaster zone and sending items generally is not the best way to help. Disaster response is a highly technical and sensitive effort. Professionals with specialized skills and experience in disaster situations are best suited to respond. If volunteers or specific items are needed, we will communicate those needs on our website, Facebook, and Twitter.

Covenant World Relief is committed to long-term community development, not just immediate relief. Disaster relief saves lives, and community development forever changes lives. In all disaster response, we hope that relief will lead to long-term transformational development. CWR is committed to stay after the disaster.

WE'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We'd love to come and visit you! In fact, we have an event specifically created so we can come and visit you and your area churches called "Deeper with Covenant World Relief." This event brings together area churches (or just one church) to learn more about the ways we are making a difference together in the world. If your church is interested in hosting a Deeper with CWR event, please contact us.



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A ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church
8303 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago IL 60631

Phone: 773-784-3000

Email: covenantworldrelief@covchurch.org

Website: covchurch.org/cwr

Facebook: facebook.com/covenantworldrelief

Blog: blogs.covchurch.org/cwr

Twitter: twitter.com/CovWorldRelief

Give: Online, by check, by electronic funds transfer