



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

Ministry Update

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



Issue #4, Spring 2011

NEW PROJECTS PROMOTE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Covenant World Relief has six new projects: mobile medical clinics in Burma, education and community development in East Asia, agricultural training and support in Ecuador, agriculture in Haiti, education for refugees in Kenya, and education in Thailand.

Mobile medical clinics in Burma provide basic medical care and disease prevention to the Karen people who are facing severe persecution. The Karen people are internally displaced people (IDPs), a type of refugee.

In East Asia, we are partnering to train young people in community development principles. As they are learning best practices, they will also be doing practical projects in their local area.

Deforestation and the use of harsh pesticides has plagued the Pacto Sumaco community of Ecuador because of their dependence on growing naranjilla. This new project will equip them to grow mushrooms that do not need pesticides. This will improve health for the entire community as well as provide a more stable source of income.

In Fond-des-Blancs, Haiti, a new project will create an environment that enables farmers to quadruple their current harvest without re-inventing their traditional crop productions. They will benefit from advanced technology, improved irrigation, quality seed, marketing and technical support.

In Kenya we are continuing the education project for Congolese refugees in partnership with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya. The number of Congolese refugees continues to increase, and those who are already enrolled in the program have greatly benefited.

Community leaders in northern Thailand have approached our partner, the Sustainable Research Development Foundation, and asked for help in providing quality education for children. These children have been very susceptible to sweat shops, factories, the commercial sex industry and human trafficking. A new residential tutorial learning center will provide after-school and weekend learning opportunities for 32 students as well as additional opportunities for children in the community.

Please check out our website for more information on these new projects and opportunities to support them directly.

“Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.” PSALM 106:3



Refugees from Congo find hope through education in Kenya.

JAPAN DISASTER RESPONSE

For all of our nearly 25 years living in Japan we heard, “someday the big one is coming.” My children had monthly earthquake drills in their schools. Every September 1 the Japanese commemorate the 1923 earthquake in the Tokyo area when 140,000 people were killed. They use this day to carry out disaster relief drills expecting that the big one would be coming. On March 11 it came and was bigger than anyone expected. We are thankful to be able to partner with the Japan Covenant Church and others carrying out relief work among the most vulnerable in northeast Japan. We are also thankful to all of you who are so generously giving to support the relief efforts.

—Dave Husby



CWR COMES TO YOU

Did you know Covenant World Relief staff and advocates are available and enjoy coming to your church? We are available to lead Sunday school classes, preach in worship services, and host interactive experiences about relief and community development. Contact us if you are interested.

HAITI

More than one year after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, our response has moved beyond relief to recovery and long-term community development. Covenant World Relief is now moving forward with partners in three key areas: agricultural development with World Relief, training Haitian medical personnel and improving medical delivery systems with Medical Teams International (MTI), and long-term housing solutions with Habitat for Humanity. Two separate teams of ECC medical volunteers have worked with MTI at a new clinic, partially funded by CWR, in a community called Canaan. Through these partnerships and others, CWR will be engaged in long-term development in Haiti for years to come.



Mary, a Covenant doctor, assists at the Canaan clinic.

CWR GATHERING AT THE FEAST

We will be hosting a gathering during the Feast for anyone who is interested in learning more about Covenant World Relief. Details coming soon.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The UN has said that women do two-thirds of the world's work, produce half of its food yet earn only 10% of its income and own 1% of its property. Studies also show that when women are empowered, their families benefit and ultimately the entire community is improved. Their families become healthier, more children go to school, agricultural productivity improves and income increases.

Covenant World Relief is deeply committed to empowering women and many of our projects focus on supporting and empowering women.

- In Bangladesh, families are benefitting from new clean water systems. When women do not have to spend as much time on daily tasks (cooking, cleaning, household chores), they are freed to pursue education and to work outside of the home.
- Mother and infant mortality rates in Burma among the Karen people are strikingly high. The mobile medical clinics provide emergency and on-going medical care to these vulnerable women and children.
- Several women's agricultural training and support groups have been formed in the Central African Republic.
- The Colombia egg project provides a fresh start and an education for young women who have struggled with substance abuse.



Women in Bangladesh receive access to clean water.

- The Colombia education project provides foundational pre-school education. While the children are in school parents are freed to work or search for work.
- Five of our current projects in India are solely focused on empowering women through micro-finance and other means.
- In Kenya, Congolese refugees are receiving education, a key component of empowerment.
- The Togo fistula project provides fistula surgery and training, loans, and micro-enterprise support.
- Teenagers in Vietnam are given apprenticeships in a field of their choice to break the cycle of poverty.

Would you consider specifically supporting our work in women's empowerment?

EFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS

CWR seeks to be as efficient as possible, which includes maintaining low overhead costs.

You can help us reduce administrative costs by giving through automatic withdrawal. We can save on paper and postage when you receive updates electronically, which also reduces the impact on the environment. Please sign up for:

- Automatic Withdrawal (ACH) Giving www.covchurch.org/relief/give
- Electronic Updates email us with the subject line "CWR Updates Electronically"



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

Loving, Serving, and Working Together.

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

Phone: 773-784-3000

Email: covenantworldrelief@covchurch.org

Website: www.covchurch.org/cwr

Facebook: www.facebook.com/covenantworldrelief

Blog: blogs.covchurch.org/cwr

Haiti Updates: blogs.covchurch.org/haiti

Give: Online, by check, by electronic funds transfer