



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

Partners in Transformation

Issue #9, Summer 2012

WHY COVENANT WORLD RELIEF?

In a world filled with relief and development organizations, some Covenanters may wonder, "Why should we give to Covenant World Relief?" Here are six significant reasons:

- 1) **The Relief and Development Ministry of the ECC:** CWR is the ECC at work in the world, participating in God's transforming mission among the most vulnerable.
- 2) **Trusted Partnerships:** CWR chooses to work through time-tested, trusted, effective partnerships. These partnerships leverage resources, empower local ministries, increase local involvement, reduce overhead, and facilitate immediate response to disaster and human suffering.
- 3) **Experienced:** CWR has been working with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized for more than 60 years.
- 4) **More than Relief:** The majority of CWR human and financial resources are utilized in transformational community development programs. Disaster response is vital to save lives and facilitate recovery. However, it is through long-term engagement with the most vulnerable that individuals, families, and communities are truly changed.
- 5) **Low Overhead:** CWR is committed to maximizing the percentage of funds used in direct ministry. This means that at least 90% of every dollar donated goes to programs serving the most vulnerable.
- 6) **Multiple Giving Options:** If you are not already one of our faithful partners, please consider one or more of these giving options:
 - Check, online, and automatic bank transfer.
 - Undesignated, issue specific designations (e.g., water, hunger, disaster relief, etc.), project specific designations—more than 30 around the world.

PEACE-MAKING IN MEXICO

A few years ago Monterrey, Mexico, was considered to be one of the safest and most prosperous cities in Latin America. But drug and gang related violence have swept over the city. Covenant World Relief is partnering with the Family Development Foundation in the areas of violence prevention and conflict resolution. Claudia Garza, the co-director of FDF, shares about the children who attend the FDF Kids' Club:



Kids' Club in Mexico learns about conflict resolution and peace.

"They live in La Campana, a difficult environment, characterized by poverty and the lack of opportunities. Abuse and violence are part of their daily bread—violence in their home, violence at school, violence in their community. Working with these kids is something that really is worth it. In spite of the environment in which they live, we are excited to see that they are acquiring values that they practice daily. Since February we have been sharing Project Change with them, a violence prevention workshop for elementary age boys and girls. Listening to them they fill your heart with joy, they are transparent and loving, and they see life with much optimism."

FDF also offers conflict resolution classes for the women who meet regularly at the FDF center. These classes address conflict within families as well as conflict within the community. At a time when businesses and others are leaving Monterrey because of the violence, FDF has chosen to remain in full operation and is seeking to be peacemakers and agents of transformation in their community.

*They share freely and give generously to those in need.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
They will have influence and honor.*

Psalm 112:9

LETTER FROM AN EAST ASIAN “LEFT-BEHIND” CHILD

Dear Aunts and Uncles of CWR,

Like many of my friends, I am a “left-behind” child. In order to bring us a new happy life, my parents work in the other cities years and years. They seldom look after us because they’re out; so, the responsibility goes to our grandparents. I thought of myself as a lonely helpless child. I would walk on the street seeing other kids with their young mother. That reminded me that I had it once before.

But, with CWR’s help, the school I attend setup a “left-behind children’s home” last August. My life has changed since that time. Lots of the children like me are here to do activities like table-tennis, soccer, piano, and computers. We didn’t even dare to dream this way of life before. If we have problems in our daily lives and study, we may talk with our “Sister” [program counselor] and find help from our “Loving Mom” [program director]. They cheer up our spirits, make us be brave, and give us enough energy to face beautiful tomorrow. Now I know how to be strong, and surely it all goes to CWR, to the people who care for us.

Yours sincerely,

Sue

**English name used to protect privacy*

WATER PROJECT IN KENYA

We are celebrating the completion of our water project with our partner, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK). Not only has the ECCK established a source of clean water through drilling a well and installing an immersion pump and water tanks, but the profits from the water sales are dedicated to the ECCK’s education project for Congolese refugees.



Pastor Simon Kamau reports that the project experienced unexpected obstacles but also surprising opportunities. For example, the project was frequently stalled by the bureaucratic hiccups in the Kenyan government’s licensing process. We were encouraged, however, to hear that the water project inspired the local community to join together their resources to repave the road – formerly full of potholes – which leads to the water access point. We wonder which transformation was more significant: that the community now has a consistent supply of water; or that the idea has been sparked that they can work together to achieve their own development!

VIDEO FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Through our partnership with Zimele in South Africa, hundreds of women are joining together in self-help groups (SHGs). *Zimele* comes from the Zulu word meaning “to stand on one’s own two feet”. Self-help groups are support networks of about 10-20 women developing critical life and business skills. Through pooling together their savings, the women are able to take out loans and start small businesses to provide for their family’s needs. As this process develops, representatives from each SHG are sent into “cluster groups,” which identify and address pressing economic and social issues in the communities.

You can access this video with your smartphone by scanning the QR Code or by going to CovChurch.tv/zimele-selfhelp/.



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Give: Online, by check, by electronic funds transfer