



# CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2019

## Our Shared Ministry of Body, Mind, Heart, and Soul

By **Donn Engebretson**, Director for Global Advancement

I wish that everyone who supports the mission of Covenant World Relief was able to explore CWR-supported sustainable development projects in Mexico. Together with CWR director David Husby and Covenant missionaries Nils and Erika Clauson, I recently traveled to four projects in Monterrey, Mexico City, and Oaxaca.

Not long ago, I heard a speaker say that our world has too many inactive believers and too many unbelieving activists. Inactive believers are those who warm the seats of the church, profoundly accepting the teachings of God's word but tending not to live out those transformative truths in the brokenness of our world. Unbelieving activists are those who are

deeply engaged in the hurting places of our world but who do not know the presence and power of Jesus or the living words of the Bible. It was truly wonderful to see our friends in Mexico, who know and trust in the Savior of the world, actively engaging their faith in some of the most painful and challenging places in their communities.

In our visits we talked to believers involved with Ministry to the Abused and Exploited in Mexico (MAEM). They work with people who have been hurt by abuse and exploitation,



Leaders are equipped to minister to the abused and exploited in Mexico.

too often by people in their own families. The ministry of MAEM leads them in group engagement with curriculum that allows them to confront, grieve, and eventually heal through the awesome power of Christ in community. This kind of healing, empowerment, and transformation in Christ is the hallmark of every project you support through CWR all around the world.



## Women Gain Confidence, Vocational Skills in DR Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, CWR partner Humanitarian Organization for Lasting Development (HOLD) is investing in women's lives to transform entire communities. Most of these women's stories began as stories of hopelessness and despair. Young mothers, some of whom became pregnant after being raped, were living with shame and ridicule from their families and community because they have given birth to a child without being married.

HOLD provides a means for women to rise out of poverty through vocational

training in cosmetology, tailoring, culinary arts, professional cleaning, and literacy classes. The young women learn about their rights and the rights of children. They pray together. They support and care for each other. Many start their own savings accounts. They gain confidence and self-respect. Some become peer educators who help bring about change in their communities. We are continually inspired by the dedicated, professional leaders of HOLD who are committed to seeing God's transforming power in the lives of these young women.

**He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God —MICAH 6:8**



# Community Transformation in Nepal

By **Dave Husby**, Director of Covenant World Relief

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Community Health Empowerment Program (CHEP) implemented by Shanti Nepal, a Christian social organization funded by CWR that empowers poor and marginalized communities. I expected to see a focus on raising awareness of various health related issues including sanitation. What I actually saw was so much more. The CHEP program includes providing access to clean water, improvement of primary health care, teaching advanced agricultural techniques, and access to microloans for small businesses. In the marginalized community of Dalits, where people live beneath the social caste system, the women participate

in a savings group and are receiving small loans. The woman in this photo is very proud of her growing herd of goats that she was able to start through her small loan. Although Dalits are often oppressed and discriminated against, the women we met with were very strong and believe that change can happen when they join together and support each other. I am deeply grateful that CWR is able to partner with such an excellent partner as Shanti Nepal and for the generous Covenanters who give to make this community-transforming CHEP program possible.

**Support community development at [CovChurch.org/cwr/give](http://CovChurch.org/cwr/give)**

## Bread for the World: Offering of Letters

**Bread for the World is a Covenant World Relief partner dedicated to ending hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. The message below shares their vision for ways to engage the church in this mission.**

As God's hands and feet in the world, we work toward a beloved community in which every person has an equal opportunity to thrive. We also reflect God's love by challenging individuals and institutions that have the power to change laws and structures that keep people vulnerable.

Each year Bread for the World urges elected leaders in Washington, D.C., to enable people in our nation and our world to feed their families and move out of poverty. An Offering of Letters event—when people in your congregation sit down together to write personalized letters or emails to members of Congress on specific issues—is an effective tool that helps shape our

government's response to hunger.

Visit the Offering of Letters website for more information and to get involved: [bread.org/ol](http://bread.org/ol).



This information originally appeared on [bread.org](http://bread.org) and is shared with permission.



## CovenantCares Gifts for Mission

CovenantCares is your place to engage and connect with God's work in the world through the Evangelical Covenant Church.

When you purchase a CovenantCares gift, you partner with our brothers and sisters throughout the Covenant to make a significant impact.

**We are stronger together.**

[covcares.covchurch.org](http://covcares.covchurch.org)



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