



CWR UPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2019

Recovery, Courage, and Confidence in Ecuador and Colombia

CWR Director David Husby and Dr. Robert Owens, CWR board member and retired superintendent of the Southeast Conference, recently had the opportunity to visit CWR supported projects in Ecuador and Colombia. Throughout their visit, they witnessed the transformational power of the gospel through the work of CWR partners.

In Manta, Ecuador, as the city continues to recover from the devastating 2016 earthquake, the Good Samaritan Project is working alongside 30 business, both financially and through business counseling and leadership training. In reflecting on the visit, Owens wrote,

"I was impressed by the church being at the center of the rebuilding efforts, laying a foundation rooted in God's word. I sensed a confidence emanating from the team and a spirit of relational bonding."

In El Bagre, Colombia, the "Be Peace, Make Peace" project is empowering young people to initiate programs to help get their peers, as well as the church and politicians, involved in seeking peace. Although the town has been ravaged by violence because of the recent discovery of gold mines, Owens



Dr. Robert Owens offering a blessing for an Ecuadorian business owner.

says that the young people involved have "exemplified a courageous spirit in the midst of a very dangerous environment."

CWR projects are bringing recovery, courage, and confidence to people all over Latin America and the world because of your continued support. Thank you for continuing to give generously for mission and ministry through CWR.

Finding Reconciliation in the Desert

In the middle of the Jordanian desert, away from civilization and much of the conflict between Palestine and Israel, CWR partner Musalaha is working to bring people on both sides of the conflict to reconciliation. Normally interaction between Israelis and Palestinians is limited as most social, cultural, and educational initiatives are kept separated within each community. However, Musalaha aims to counteract this imbalance and work to bring about reconciliation.

Musalaha's Desert Encounter program is designed to engage Jews, Muslims and Christians from both Palestine and Israel in building relationships with the aim of seeking reconciliation and increased advocacy. In their 20 years of experience, Musalaha has identified



six stages of reconciliation, which they implement through an 18-month program. This program helps people from each side build relationships both individually and as a group. Through teachings and team-building activities,

participants begin to trust each other, share information about themselves, and show vulnerability. Meaningful relationships develop and the negative feelings each side have toward each other begin to break down.

In the final stages of the program participants find forgiveness from each other and take action, both together and in their own communities. Their perspectives shift

dramatically, and they bring new perspectives and peace back to their communities. Thank you for supporting CWR so that Musalaha can raise up leaders to bring peace and reconciliation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people.

—PSALM 85:8A



Momma Mdabe with Zikhona (right) and her sister.

South African Communities Caring for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children

My name is Zikhona and I am 13 years old. I live in South Africa near the city of Durban where Covenant World Relief partner, Zimele Wethu Foundation is working in rural communities. I am in fifth grade at the local elementary school, and I have decided that I want to be a doctor. I want to show others love and give to others in the same way that I have received so much love and assistance through my life. I love helping people. Being a doctor means I will be able to help sick people in the community.

One of the people who has shown me the most love and care is Momma Mdabe. When my parents died, she took my two siblings and me to live with her and her three children. Momma Mdabe does not make a lot of money, but she is dedicated to helping change the lives of orphaned children like me in her community. I could not have asked for a better home and family. They have loved us and created a safe place for us to grow up. My brother Khanyisani, who is 12, spends most of his time at school, and he says that he wants to become a pastor. My little sister who is in grade one is very energetic and brave, and she wants to become a police officer. Momma Mdabe says she wants to help us see our dreams come true. I thank God for Momma Mdabe and our family. I have been given so much, and I want to use what I have to help others.



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vulnerable children

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