



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

Ministry Update

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



Issue #8, Spring 2012

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CHICKEN RAISING

CWR has recently entered into a new partnership with The Torchbearers Foundation for Mission, Reconciliation and Development in Cameroon, Africa. Sharon Davis, an ECC missionary, is working with Torchbearers and will be managing a new CWR-funded chicken raising project along with the Torchbearers agricultural team.

The project was conceived by several village groups in Northwest Cameroon which are working with the Torchbearers Foundation. Torchbearers works with small village groups to empower people through financial and other kinds of training based on biblical principles. Through this project 350 families will be able to increase their family income by about \$20 per month. CWR is helping to get the project started, and it is estimated that the program will be self-sustainable within four to six months.

You can directly support this project by designating your gift to CWR to the Cameroon Chicken Raising Project either by sending a check or giving online to this project.



ECC missionary, Sharon Davis (right), in Cameroon

WHY REGULAR GIVING MATTERS

We are so thankful for every gift to Covenant World Relief—and we are especially thankful for our regular donors. Some give regularly by check, others give online, and still others give through automatic withdrawal each month. These faithful donors allow CWR to plan how much we are able to grant to our partners, they provide us with support throughout the year, and they care deeply about the ministries of CWR. Thank you all for being so faithful to CWR and to God’s call to love and serve the most vulnerable. More information about regular giving is available on our website at covchurch.org/cwr.



“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 JOHN 4:7-8

THANKS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

“The vulnerable and orphaned children (VOC) project is special because it targets the real people who are in a very desperate need in their respective communities. Since the beginning, this project has no biases in its service deliveries regardless of people’s background, culture, religion, tribe, ethnicities, gender, appearance, etc. Both the poor parents/guardians and the local communities in those respective areas of VOC-operations expressed their deepest gratitude to the CWR and ECC congregations in USA for supporting their needs which they have been lacking for several decades due to brutal war.”

—Matthew Jock, project director for the ECCSS (South Sudan)

GOING DEEPER

Dave Clark, mission team leader from Good Samaritan Community Covenant Church in Valley Springs, California, contacted CWR about having Dave Husby speak at a Sunday morning service. After the date was decided, Dave Clark called and said, "Since Dave is coming all this way, perhaps we could have a gathering on Saturday evening for all of the ECC churches in the area. If that works we will provide the supper." It turned out to be a wonderful gathering in which we were able to show videos and photographs of various CWR ministries around the world and go deeper into the inner workings of CWR. Since May of last year, we have held seven of these "Deeper with Covenant World Relief" events. If your church would like to host a Deeper event please let us know. We would love to schedule one in your area.



Dave Husby speaking in California

RECOVERY IN JAPAN IS BOTH FAST AND SLOW

I visited the earthquake- and tsunami-affected area of northeast Japan for the third time in February. I lived in Japan for nearly twenty-five years and we often experienced earthquakes, but never any close to the March 2011 quake, which was the largest in Japan's recorded history. Hundreds of miles of coastline, including numerous villages, were destroyed by the tsunami that hit about thirty minutes after the earthquake. Ninety-five percent of the thousands who died drowned.



It was amazing to see how quickly the recovery has taken place. Most of the rubble has been cleared. Roads and bridges have been repaired. The majority of the people who lost their homes are now living in temporary housing constructed by the government. Compared to Haiti's disaster recovery, this is amazing progress. The number of people who need food and supplies continues to decline. CWR partners continue to provide aid to those who are still in need.

What has been clear from all of my visits is that the emotional toll, including the thousands of people who suffer from post-traumatic stress, has been enormous. This kind of emotional damage cannot be quickly and easily cleaned up. Pastor Iwatsuka, who is part of the church network that CWR has been helping to support, explained the importance of spending time with those who have been through the disaster and listening to their stories over and over. On a recent visit a man living in temporary housing said to Pastor Iwatsuka, "Thank you so much for visiting today. Every time you visit another piece of rubble is removed from my heart."



Pastor Shimizu, the leader of the Covenant Church of Japan, told me, "We expect to be involved in the earthquake recovery for years to come. We are thankful to those in the ECC who have prayed for Japan and given so generously to make long-term recovery ministries possible."

If you would like to be a part of equipping Covenant World Relief to respond immediately to disasters, please consider giving to our disaster relief fund. These gifts allow us to respond to a disaster before it even makes headline news.

—Dave Husby

A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

A Covenant pastor recently chose to name Covenant World Relief as one of the beneficiaries in her trust. What was surprising about her decision is that she isn't a pastor nearing retirement. In fact, she is healthy and in her thirties. She made this choice to ensure that the ministries she supports now, including CWR, will receive support even after she is gone. We are so grateful for her and for the hundreds of others like her who have decided to make a legacy gift. If you are interested or want more information about legacy gifts, please feel free to call or email us.



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