



Microloans: Small Amount, Big Impact

Shalikram Sitaram Dilawekar is a manual laborer in India. He owns three acres of farmland and depends on the monsoon rains to help grow his crops. In recent years, he and his family members have suffered because of crop failure from the lack of sufficient rain. He has not been able to work in manual labor jobs in his village or nearby towns.

Shalikram has seven members in his family including his aged parents who solely depend on him for survival. The only option he had left to care for his family was to borrow money from moneylenders at a high rate of interest.

He was fortunate to receive a microloan from CWR partner the Hindustani Covenant Church through the Melghat malnutrition program. He bought a few important basic tools using the loan and now has the confidence that he will be able to earn some money using the skill that he has. He has begun making agricultural tools from wood, which are preferred by local farmers. Now he is able to earn an average of 800 Rupees (more than \$11 per day) by selling those local agricultural tools.

He and his family are now happy because he is a self-employed person.



Shalikram in India receives a microloan from CWR partner the Hindustani Covenant Church and begins business making and selling agricultural tools.



Jorge, from Manta, Ecuador, stands where his house once stood. The La Victoria Covenant Church stands with Jorge and the community as they recover from the devastation.

Loving Neighbors in Times of Disaster

More than six months have passed since the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake along the northwestern coast of Ecuador. Nearly 700 people were killed and thousands of people were forced to flee to camps for shelter, food, and medical care. The La Victoria Covenant Church in Manta has demonstrated sacrificial love for their neighbors in areas that were damaged more than their own community. The pastor said that more than 70 church members have participated in relief efforts. The congregation has donated more than \$12,000 as well as other supplies. He said that they have also emphasized the importance of emotional and spiritual care for those who have suffered from trauma. He said, "We have hugged them, cried

with them, and listened to their stories." The La Victoria church is now planning to enter a phase of working toward long-term recovery. They will continue to provide emotional and spiritual care, but will also focus on training people for new livelihoods, now that the tourist industry has been devastated. They will also help those most in need to rebuild their houses. The La Victoria Covenant Church is committed to seeing people's lives rebuilt as well as their community. This will take years and Covenant World Relief would like to stand with them as long as possible. Please continue to give to CWR Ecuador Earthquake Relief so we can continue to stand with the La Victoria church and those who continue to recover in Ecuador.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Preaching Peace at All Cost

Last spring I met with Pastor John Kiruga, the moderator of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK), in a small café at the Nairobi airport. For four hours Pastor John shared with me his passion for peacemaking, particularly between Christians and Muslims. In early June, John and the ECCK received a grant from Covenant World Relief to pursue peace between Christians and Muslims in Garissa and Mandera, towns in northern Kenya. In 2015, Al Shabaab gunmen killed 148 university students in Garissa. They were singled out because of their Christian faith. On June 29, I received the following email from Pastor John.

"I am at Garissa. We had a very good peace seminar since yesterday. Heading to Mandera tomorrow. Pray for us. Pray for Kenya. More details next week. Again pray for us. Mandera is not that safe for now, but we must preach peace at all cost. John."

On July 1 we received word that Pastor John was one of six people killed when gunmen attacked the bus he was riding on, soon after he had left Mandera for his return to Nairobi. Preaching peace ended up costing Pastor John Kiruga his life. He has been a tremendous inspiration to me and to others who believe that peacemaking is a vital



component of proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

This year we are seeking to raise awareness of the importance of peacemaking. We will be highlighting the peacemaking work in which many CWR partners around the world are engaged. In partnership with Make and Deepen Disciples there is now a free, supplemental Christian Formation curriculum—Kids Helping Kids: Peacemaking. Learn more and use this resource at CovChurch.org/KidsHelpingKids

—Dave Husby

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