



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

PSALM 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Earthquake Response | Turkey-Syria

On February 6 a series of earthquakes and aftershocks registering at 7.8 hit the region surrounding Turkey and Syria. The area was already dealing with food insecurity and fragile infrastructure in part due to 12 years of war and most recently the conflict in Ukraine. Geir O. Pedersen, special envoy of the secretary-general for Syria, said, “The earthquakes struck when affected people’s needs were highest, when the economy was at its lowest, and when infrastructure was already heavily damaged.” These factors, along with frigid winter temperatures and storms, contributed to the astonishing death toll of more than 57,000. The earthquakes brought unprecedented devastation to the region.

Just six months before the earthquakes, Covenant World Relief and Development staff Adam Edgerly and Nils Clauson visited the Middle East. Through Jeff Anderson, regional coordinator for Middle East North Africa, they were introduced to a potential ministry partner.

MERATH (Middle East Revive and Thrive) in Beirut, Lebanon, is a Christian organization that works alongside more than 50 churches and faith-based organizations in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. With its partners, MERATH distributes vital food assistance, much-needed winter items, and essential products to thousands of vulnerable households, especially those with young children. They also provide supporting health services.

When the earthquake hit, CWRD sprang into action and Covenanters responded with nearly \$200,000 in donations. As God provided, MERATH was able to step in and provide much needed resources to hurt and displaced people following the disaster. As of April 1, MERATH had been able to reach 4,200 households with food, supplies for hygiene and basic needs, blankets, and winter clothing. MERATH also equips the local church with the resources to reach those in need. Like all our partners, MERATH will continue to be present when these events are no longer in the headlines but the suffering of vulnerable people continues.



SUPPLIES DELIVERED IN SYRIA

IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM RELIEF: Why Support CWRD in Disaster Response?

When a disaster happens, the Evangelical Covenant Church responds. Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD) works hard to facilitate immediate response through our partners on the ground. We are also committed to long-term engagement through the recovery phase. Adam Edgerly, CWRD director, along with our team and Covenant leadership, discerns how we respond to disasters throughout the world. The entire denominational team works together to get the word out to churches and individual donors. This is no small task. Our marketing and communications team works closely with CWRD to prepare press releases and communication to alert you to the need. The finance and advancement teams aid in the creation of wire transfers to our partners so funds can be used for the desired purpose. CWRD works with on-the-ground ministry partners to coordinate the initial and continuing funds and how they will be distributed. Our ministry partners, who are vetted and evaluated in an ongoing process, reach out to those in need.

So why support CWRD in disaster response?

When tragedies strike, your generosity, the CWRD team, and most of all, God’s provision make a real difference to those in need.



Rural Sustainability

HAITI

CWRD is a long-term partner with Sustainable Action International (SAI) a ministry serving Haiti and its rural communities. The Attalege program has brought so much joy, hope, and encouragement to the community despite a difficult year.

Dieula, a mother of two, is 45 years old and living in the community of Gingembre. She was part of the community development program last year where she received training not only on animal production, but also on agroecology, food production, and sustainability as a woman farmer.



Within the year, Dieula became a better farmer. She protects the environment where she works and promotes environmental protection in her community.

Through the female goat that Dieula received as a gift in the Attalege program, she now has six goats, and the first female she received is in gestation again! This program truly impacts her life for good. She shares with the community how she has become a better mother for her children, a better wife to her husband, and a better citizen for her community.

This was the dream of the Attelage program to bring hope, help, and encouragement to rural farmers. Truly God continues to use us all mightily for his kingdom.



SAVE THE DATE:

Choose Your Date CWRD Sunday

Each year, churches across the denomination highlight the ministry of Covenant World Relief and Development on CWRD Sunday, typically the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year, your church is invited to choose your own date! CWRD Sunday materials, including a video and bulletin insert, will be available for download any time after September 15. Scan to view CWRD Sunday materials.



SCAN HERE
TO ACCESS
CWRD SUNDAY
MATERIALS.



Introducing Paul Swanson

On February 1, 2023, we welcomed Paul Swanson as manager of operations for Covenant World Relief and Development! Paul is a lifelong Covenanter who served as global personnel in Quito, Ecuador, for two years, where he taught at the Alliance Academy International. After that life-changing experience, Paul went on to lead numerous work trips to Ecuador with Merge ministries.

Paul has extensive experience in administration, management of budgets, and curriculum development. He was a high school teacher, coach, and administrator of the Physical Welfare Department for Niles Township High Schools in Illinois. In a district where more than 56 languages are spoken, Paul has continued to grow in his intercultural communication as well as his management skills. Please join us in welcoming Paul to the CWRD team!



PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMATION



Learn more and give at covchurch.org/cwrld.