



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



Greetings, mission friends,

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel! Together we have granted over \$1.7 million for community develop-

ment and disaster response within the last year. We have funded 39 community development projects in 18 countries and sent additional resources to nine countries in response to 19 disasters. All of this was made possible through the generous engagement of Covenant churches and donors like you. The ministry of CWRD connects Covenant churches to like-minded organizations around the world, and transformation happens in the lives of thousands of people through the skilled ministry of our global partners.

Church engagement with CWRD can take many forms. Some churches choose to highlight the ministry and encourage church members to support us. Other churches make CWRD a part of their annual budget. Some congregations get deeply involved with one particular CWRD partner. And some actually introduce our team to wonderful organizations that become new CWRD partners. In this newsletter we are excited to share with you a few examples of how Covenant congregations are extending their ministry impact through global partnerships that are changing lives all over the world. We hope you enjoy this update and thank you again for being partners in transformation!

Adam Edgerly, Director
COVENANT WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT



Families access health care center in Nepal on new path

Creating Pathway to Health Care in Nepal

Working with families of the Gorkha District in rural Nepal, Shanti Nepal helps organize and provide quality health care services, education, and supplies for the most disadvantaged in the community. More than 3,700

women, children, and families have received basic health care support. In addition, Shanti Nepal seeks to reach people with disabilities and others marginalized by the caste system.

One issue facing the medical center was that patients needed to navigate a muddy hill to receive necessary medical attention. Mr. Jas Bahadur Aale Magar, a retired veteran from India, had developed skills in engineering in the army. He committed to constructing a stone walkway, making the Satdobate Health Center safe and accessible. Health centers like this are the only places where basic needs such as prenatal care and medication can be addressed. Completing the pathway enhances the powerful impact this center has on this community.

Shanti Nepal also empowers community transformation through advocacy. The reorganized community-based advisory boards have worked closely with families and city government to provide medicine and education, specifically working to educate and provide safe drinking water and basic hygiene for the community. **Surveys of stakeholders conducted by the advisory board have indicated only 6% of the respondents have a clean and sanitary toilet in their homes. Safe drinking water is also a major concern as only 24% of homes have access to the city water supply, with less than 1% indicating they have a consistent location for hand washing.** Through Shanti Nepal's advocacy, municipal officials, and the advisory boards, family and group education has shown a sustained change for the Gorkha District and the surrounding communities.

HCC DeKalb, Meet HCC India

In 2015, Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb, Illinois, sent a group of youth to the Covenant event then known as CHIC (Covenant High in Christ). With a reputation for being a transformative experience, CHIC provided this group an especially impactful moment when they participated in **Project Blue—an immersive experience designed to help participants learn about the water needs in the majority world**, including places like rural India where significant time is spent walking long distances to retrieve daily water. The group returned home with a new passion, and their zeal to improve water access spread to the whole congregation. In 2019, the church sent a team on a vision trip to the Hindustani Covenant Church in Pune, India.

A new relationship was forged. The two HCC churches are in regular communication and the DeKalb congregation has continued to raise



funds for Project Blue and HCC India's expansive water projects and ongoing water needs. Raising more than \$100,000 for clean water projects over the years, HCC DeKalb has led the way for CWRD to partner with HCC India to provide clean water to thousands of families.

Along the way, HCC DeKalb became aware of additional needs of their Indian brothers and sisters and coined the term "**Project Bluer**" for their annual CWRD campaign raising funds for a variety of HCC India projects, including transformative work with children laboring in the city landfill and women trapped in prostitution.

This relationship between churches with matching initials exemplifies what CWRD desires for the whole Covenant Church: a partnership of mutuality that

leads to transformative community development around the world.

If your church would like to learn more about deepening their commitment to a CWRD partner, please contact our team today.

Global Partnership with Metro Community Church and Zimele Wethu Foundation

When Peter Ahn, lead pastor of Metro Community Church in Englewood, New Jersey, visited an orphanage in South Africa in 2007, he was so moved that he returned home with a vision for global partnership in the rural communities there. A few years later, he introduced CWRD to Zimele Wethu Foundation in South Africa. Zimele USA was founded in 2008, and raises around \$200,000 each year for Zimele Wethu Foundation in South Africa.

Every year, members of Metro Community Church and Zimele USA visit Zimele Wethu self-help groups in South Africa to celebrate the progress of the

work. This year, Adam Edgerly and Nils Clauson accompanied Peter Ahn and Angela Yu Bae, Zimele USA executive director, on their annual visit. We were led by our dear friend Dr. Audrey Matimelo, the executive director of Zimele Wethu Foundation. Dr. Audrey showed us a variety of projects, including wells for irrigation, community farms, orchards, and even a mobile kitchen. We were amazed by the effectiveness of the self-help groups that bring women together to start businesses, empower themselves financially, and care for the needs of their communities.

This partnership is deeply rooted in friendship and a common ministry vision. This network of mission friends continues to grow as the people of Metro invite others to join in the partnership.



Can for Change at Work



In *Fiddler on the Roof* Tevye, a milkman in the village of Anatevka in Russia, sings one of the most memorable songs of the musical, “Tradition,” which sets up the story’s major theme of a community trying to continue their traditions as the world around them changes. **For Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD), one of our longest-standing traditions is Can for Change.** Every fall, soup cans with

the CWRD label and lids are distributed by churches across the denomination and later collected, filled with donations.

Located in North Minneapolis, Minnesota, Community Covenant Church serves a diverse but often under-resourced neighborhood. This congregation is steeped in tradition with Covenant World Relief and Development as the late Jim Sundholm, who served as director of CWRD from 1999 to 2009, began his ministry there as Christian education director and eventually as pastor. He often told a story about an especially difficult year when the congregation was struggling to meet its expenses. When they took the offering on CWRD Sunday, Pastor Sundholm was astonished by the congregation’s generosity. But the church leaders responded, “Why

are you so surprised? The people of our church have struggled this year, and their response reflects that understanding.” Empathy often leads to compassion.

In addition to helping to bring transformation to communities across the world, Can for Change is also a reminder of the impact giving makes on a donor. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). The Cans for Change allow children to contribute—and to experience the joy of giving. Luke Swanson, current pastor of Community Covenant, says, “Giving is not something that is inherently in the DNA of our children. It needs to be modeled and learned. The Can for Change allows the young of our church to develop the early habit of giving and experience the joy of giving to those in need through CWRD. The cans make it so simple for a child to come and lay their gifts at the front of the church. Children beam with pride as they complete this task in front of their church family. It is a small act of giving that could have lifelong implications.”

We invite all Covenant churches to participate in the traditions of CWRD Sunday and Can for Change! Can for Change lids and labels can be ordered for your church covbooks.com/products/soup-can-labels.



*Pastor Peter Ahn and
Magida of Zimele Wethu*

*Members of Zimele Wethu, Angela Yu Bae (second from right),
and Audrey Matimelo (far right) visiting mobile kitchen project*




CAMP2CAMP

Last summer Covenant camps participated in Camp to Camp: Ukraine, an awareness and fundraising campaign supporting Covenant World Relief and Development partners in Ukraine. Campers raised support for partners who are creating safe and interactive spaces for Ukrainian children fleeing war so they can experience Jesus in meaningful ways. We are looking forward to hearing the final amounts raised by Covenant campers this year!

CWRD Year in Review

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Thank you for your generous support and partnership with Covenant World Relief & Development. Here is a glimpse of your support of CWRD this year!

\$1.1M sent to 28 partners in 18 countries for

39 community development projects

\$517K

19 DISASTER RESPONSE GRANTS IN 9 COUNTRIES

including

\$250K for the Ukraine response

\$80K for the Turkey/Syria earthquake

\$1.75M GRANTED

\$120K WAS GRANTED THROUGH THE FREE INITIATIVE

6 domestic & 4 international projects focused on fighting sex trafficking.

16 GRANTS* serving refugees and IDP (Internally Displaced People) from at least 7 different countries

*INCLUDING BOTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE GRANTS

- CLEAN WATER
- PEACEMAKING
- FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
- MICROENTERPRISE
- COMMUNITY HEALTH

- WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
- TRAFFICKING PREVENTION & CARE
- AGRICULTURE
- REFUGEE CARE

ALSO THIS YEAR:

\$666,793 RAISED FOR WASH (WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE) INITIATIVES

Covenant Kids Congo raised funds from **29 churches** and **328 individuals** for WASH initiatives in the DR Congo through Team World Vision.

\$1 MILLION+ CWRD SURPASSED OUR \$1M MILESTONE GOAL OF DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE

From 2021 until now, CWRD has raised a total of **\$1.04M** and counting in designated funds for Ukraine from **140 churches** and **1230 individuals**.

100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry. 90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs. God has blessed us with increased partnerships and projects. We depend fully on you to continue this ministry. If you would like to learn more about giving to CWRD, please go to giving.covchurch.org/cwrd.

World Vision



COVENANT KIDS Congo

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES: A New Approach to Child Sponsorship

Twenty-nine churches have participated in Chosen, the sponsorship initiative begun in 2021 to empower a child to choose their sponsor. In addition, 15 churches participated in traditional sponsorship. Sponsorship through our partnership with World Vision is Christ-centered, child-focused, and community-based. The most effective way to help one child is to strengthen their entire community. Your monthly sponsorship gift is combined with other donations, including grants, to invest in long-term resources for your sponsored child, their whole family, and their neighbors. Because CKC focuses on improving the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of the most vulnerable children, for every child sponsored, four more experience the benefits because funds are pooled for the community. If you or your church would like information on sponsorship or inviting your congregation to participate in Chosen, please contact lyndsey.watson@covchurch.org.

