



# CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

## A New Beginning Pooja's Transformation at the Home of Hope

In February 2025, Covenant World Relief and Development, represented by director Nils Clauson, had the privilege of leading a delegation to visit the ministries of the Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC) in India. The delegation, which included Grace Shim, executive minister of Serve Globally, and President Tammy Swanson-Draheim, witnessed firsthand the incredible ways that HCC lives into being the church by serving society's vulnerable and marginalized. This is a hallmark of HCC's identity, making them a core partner of CWRD.

One example of this transformation is seen in the story of Pooja. Two years ago, Pooja began her journey of exiting the harsh realities of Pune's red-light district—an epicenter of human trafficking. This journey led her to HCC's Home of Hope, a safe house where women like Pooja find security and work towards healing. After having lived so long on the streets, her adjustment to a stable and supportive environment was challenging. With patience, care, and the right resources, Pooja's life changed in ways she never thought possible.

At the Home of Hope, Pooja found more than shelter; she found a family who nurtured her, believed in her, and equipped her with new skills. Although she initially struggled to adjust, she gradually embraced training

in tailoring and micro-business. Over time, she uncovered her talent for jewelry-making, crafting beautiful necklaces that she now sells to local shopkeepers. She also began designing and stitching clothing for her neighbors, turning her newfound skills into a source of income.

This financial independence brought holistic change to Pooja's life. For the first time, she was able to pay her medical bills, cover her son's school fees, and even begin repaying accumulated debts. She recently reached a major milestone, moving into a rental home of her own, a testament to her resilience and determination.

Today Pooja's life is marked by hope and confidence, her radiant smile reflecting the remarkable journey she has undertaken. "I couldn't have imagined this life just a few years back," she says, thankful for the unwavering support from HCC and CWRD.

Pooja's story serves as a powerful example of the opportunity Covenanters have to partner in ministries with sister churches such as HCC to have profound impact on the lives of real individuals. **Together, we can work collectively with global partners for a Christ-centered transformation that truly serves the vulnerable and marginalized in communities around the world.** Thank you for being a critical part of this transformation.



**MORE CWRD  
STORIES ONLINE**



### Conflict Portends Instability for DRC Covenant Work

The last several months have brought intense conflict to eastern DR Congo, leading to widespread displacement, humanitarian crises, and instability. Thank you for your continued prayers for our partner AGIR-RDC and the region. Scan to read about the escalation of the conflict.



### Following Christ Together with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya

To read more about how the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCCK) is responding to the needs around them, scan the QR code above for a recent article on [covchurch.org](https://covchurch.org).



## CovCares and the Power of Goat Farming

In the Cange community of Haiti, Marcelin, a 52-year-old mother of six, is a recipient of an animal husbandry program through CWRD partner Sustainable Action International (SAI). The goats she received through the program became a cornerstone of her livelihood. By selling five goats, Marcelin was able to construct a safe and secure home for her family after their mud house was destroyed. In addition, she shares, “The goats provided food for my children and helped pay for their schooling.”

Through SAI’s breeding initiative, the first-generation offspring are gifted to a

new family. In the most recent project, 37 goats were given to new family beneficiaries, expanding the cycle of giving and ensuring that more families can experience similar transformations.

Inspiring projects and life-changing initiatives like this are funded through the CovCares Giving Catalog. **Thank you for your generous support and participation in making these transformations possible!** This year, 391 donors gave gifts to CovCares. To learn more or give an Easter gift, visit [giving.covchurch.org/covcares](http://giving.covchurch.org/covcares).



# Celebrating 80 Years

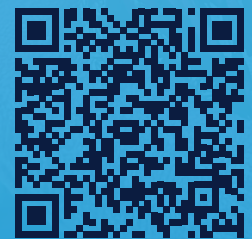
1946-2026

**Do you know 2026 is the 80th Anniversary of Covenant World Relief and Development?**

**Save the date for January 25, 2026!**

We cannot wait to celebrate with you in Chicago at our anniversary film premiere and gala.

**WATCH THE PROMO VIDEO!**



**Honor the past, be part of the future.**

## Local Church Resources

At Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD), we equip churches with resources to live out the gospel in tangible ways. Together we bring hope and transformation to communities worldwide—including our own.

**FREE Week of Prayer**  
[covchurch.org/2022-prayer](http://covchurch.org/2022-prayer)

**Mission Committee Handbook**  
[covchurch.org/mission-committee-handbook](http://covchurch.org/mission-committee-handbook)

**Communion Wafers**  
[covchurch.org/cwrw-wafers](http://covchurch.org/cwrw-wafers)

**CWRD Sunday Materials**  
[covchurch.org/cwrw-sunday](http://covchurch.org/cwrw-sunday)

**Refugee Journey**  
[covchurch.org/refugeejourney](http://covchurch.org/refugeejourney)

**Global 6K for Water**  
[covchurch.org/6K](http://covchurch.org/6K)

