



# COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

## Partners in Transformation

Issue #12, Winter 2013

*You've helped us rise out of poverty and we aren't going back.*

—A participant in the Kenyan Women's Agricultural Development project



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS DAVE?

"Partners in Transformation" is the new CWR tagline. CWR is blessed with phenomenal partners God is using to bring about the transformation of individuals, families, and communities. In order to strengthen and deepen these partnerships and to monitor CWR funded projects, our director, Dave Husby, tries to visit CWR partners every one to two years.

In September, Dave visited water, agricultural, and education projects with the Kenya Covenant Church. He also visited Jitokeze, a women's empowerment through agricultural development program in West Pokot.

Dave and Chrissy were with CWR's Latin American partners in Medellin, Colombia, this October. Each partner shared his or her expertise with the others. It was a wonderful time of mutual learning and deepening relationships.

In November, Dave visited Covenant pastors and Covenant related partners in New York City who are carrying out relief and recovery work after Superstorm Sandy. The extent of the destruction is disheartening, but it was very encouraging to see the quality of work being done by our partners.

Dave visited the CWR-funded human trafficking, clean water, microfinance, education, vocational training, and agricultural projects of the Hindustani Covenant Church this December. Dave also went to Truthseekers in Delhi and visited the CWR projects providing education for low caste and outcaste children. He also visited the program seeking to end caste

discrimination and providing caste reconciliation. While very different in their approach, both of these ministries are addressing root causes of poverty and injustice. It was encouraging to see the breadth, depth, and effectiveness of their work.

In January, Dave visited two projects with the Sustainable Development Research Foundation, one education program among Hill tribe people of northern Thailand, and the other among HIV impacted people in southern Thailand. Dave also visited a recycling business project for youth in the slums of Bangkok, and went to the border of Burma where CWR is partnering in providing medical relief and development among the Karen tribes who are suffering great persecution.

If you would like to learn more about these projects please check them out on the CWR website. You can also contact us for more details. We are deeply grateful for our ECC church and individual partners who give faithfully and generously to these life-transforming programs.

## GIVING MADE EASY

Regular donors to CWR are the sustaining force of our ministry. Would you consider becoming a monthly donor? Instructions are included on the enclosed card or available on our website. Thank you!

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.* Romans 8:26



Goats purchased through the Covenant Cares catalog make a difference in India.

## SUPERSTORM SANDY

Covenant World Relief is partnering with the East Coast Conference, Covenant churches, and Covenant-related partners to respond to the devastation from Superstorm Sandy. One partner, the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC) has been key in assessing the needs, providing a hub for receiving and distribution of goods, and hosting volunteers. NaLEC works directly with grassroots level organizations, including many churches, who are caring for their local communities. Stay connected on our website and facebook for updates and requests for volunteers.



This Staten Island home has been officially designated uninhabitable.

## BIHAR—A BACKWARD STATE

Many states in India are designated as “backward” states by the Indian government. These backward states are undeveloped and people suffer from poverty, a lack of education, and gender inequality. Bihar is a backward state. In fact, Bihar is the poorest state in all of India.



The Sitamarhi district of Bihar is the poorest region in the state, with nearly 90 percent of the population living in extreme poverty. All but a very small minority of wealthy men face systemic oppression from gender inequality and the caste system. The climate and geography are such that they face numerous recurring floods. As an agricultural people, the systematic oppression and recurring disasters make life overwhelming. Many farmers have committed suicide.

Only 26 percent of women are literate. Health and education facilities are inaccessible. Recurring floods damage crops and steal the livelihood of most families. Inadequate sanitation and access to clean water create numerous health problems.

Our current project with the Hindustani Covenant Church empowers families so that they may provide for themselves. They are given a new perspective on life because they are able to rise up out of poverty. Would you join us in providing relief and transformation in this backward state?

More than 1 billion people around the world live on less than \$1 per day, and more than 2 billion people live on less than \$2 per day.

## VISIBLE TRANSFORMATION

I first met Sunita in November 2010 when she had just been rescued from the red light district in Pune, India, by the Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC). She had been sold to a brothel by a relative when she was fifteen years old. I met Sunita again on my visit to India earlier this month. What a change in countenance! She is still in the HCC rehabilitation program for former commercial sex workers, but is now participating in the communion wafer making business and mentoring women who have more recently been rescued. Amazing transformation!



Sunita 2010



Sunita 2012



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