



# CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2013

## Escaping Human Trafficking

Gangubai Shinde comes from a middle-class family. When she was fifteen, her parents forced her to marry a man twice her age. Her husband accused her of being unfaithful, and he began beating her. Although Gangubai realized that she was not safe living with her husband, she stayed with him for two years. During that time he tortured

One day **her husband** took her to the city, where, unbeknownst to Gangubai, he **sold her** to be a prostitute.

her and frequently tried to burn her. She became pregnant, but as a result of the abuse, she miscarried in the third month of pregnancy.

One day her husband took her to the city, where, unbeknownst to her, he met with a brothel owner and sold

Gangubai to be a prostitute. Then he told her he had some work in a nearby place and he would come back to her after finishing the work. That night, a woman told Gangubai, "Your husband is busy with some other work in the city. So he has asked me to take you to my home and he has given some money to pay for your stay at this hotel." Gangubai trusted her and left the hotel. After staying with her for two days Gangubai realized that things were not right. She asked the woman about her husband's return. The brothel owner told her, "Your husband has sold you



for 10,000 rupees [less than \$200] in the market to turn you into a prostitute." Gangubai broke down in tears and collapsed. The next morning when she awoke she found herself in bed with a strange person. This was like a terrible nightmare. One of the women there explained that she

had to stay and had to give half of the money she earned to the brothel owner.

Six months later, Gangubai had done business equaling more than the 10,000 rupees for which she had been purchased, but she was still unable to

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## Introducing the New Can for Change

The soup-can bank has been a tradition in Covenant World Relief for forty years. It is a symbol for families and individuals to remember to give to the work of CWR and our partners around the world. This year, we are unveiling a new design for the can's label with a new slogan: "The can for change." Always know that whatever you give—whether coins, cash, checks, or credit card—will glorify God and further the kingdom, as we and our partners love, serve, and work together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized.



**"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."** — ROMANS 12:11-13

# Escaping Human Trafficking

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escape. Even if she tried to flee, she had no hope left for her life. So she stayed and continued as a prostitute.

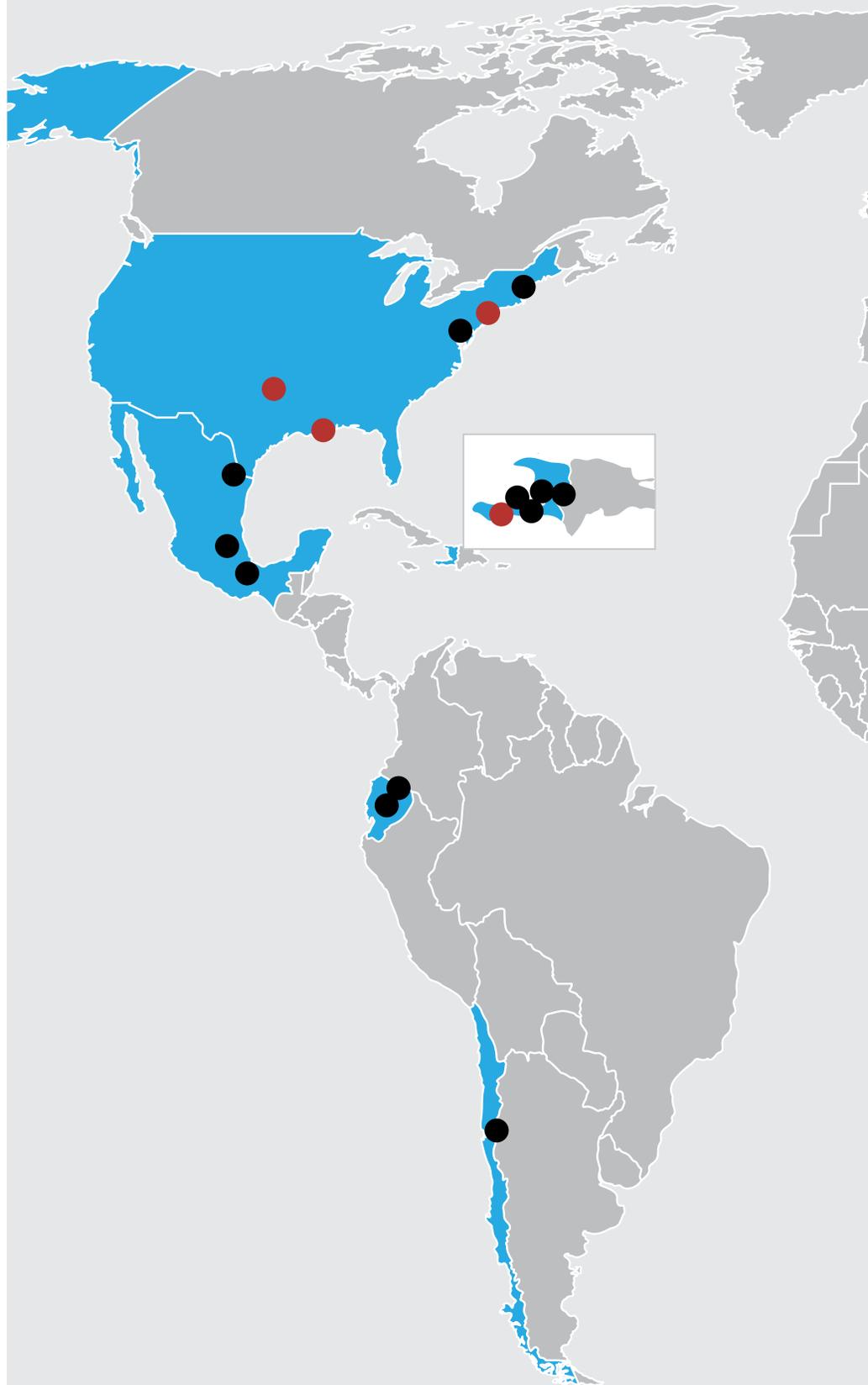
Gangubai worked for almost fifteen years as a prostitute. During this time, she gave birth to a daughter and a son from a regular customer. Gangubai cared deeply about her children, so she made even more time for business so that she could support them. She put her son in a Christian school. When her son was in the fifth grade she learned that he had a cardiac problem. She shared this problem with the school's headmistress. Through the school she came in contact with Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC). HCC helped Gangubai pay for the boy's treatment, but after three years, he died. He was eight years old. Gangubai felt like nothing was left in life.

During her depression, HCC staff helped her and prayed for her. Mina, one of the HCC staff, counseled Gangubai about leaving the sex business. Gangubai had lots of question in the beginning but she slowly came to trust Mina. After some time, when she decided to leave the sex business, HCC helped her to deal with her problems.

The project started by the Evangelical Covenant Church and HCC for the rehabilitation of commercial sex workers was a great beginning for Gangubai. HCC offered her a job. She talks to needy girls and takes them out from the sex market. As of today, Gangubai has helped rescue at least ten girls from the red-light district.

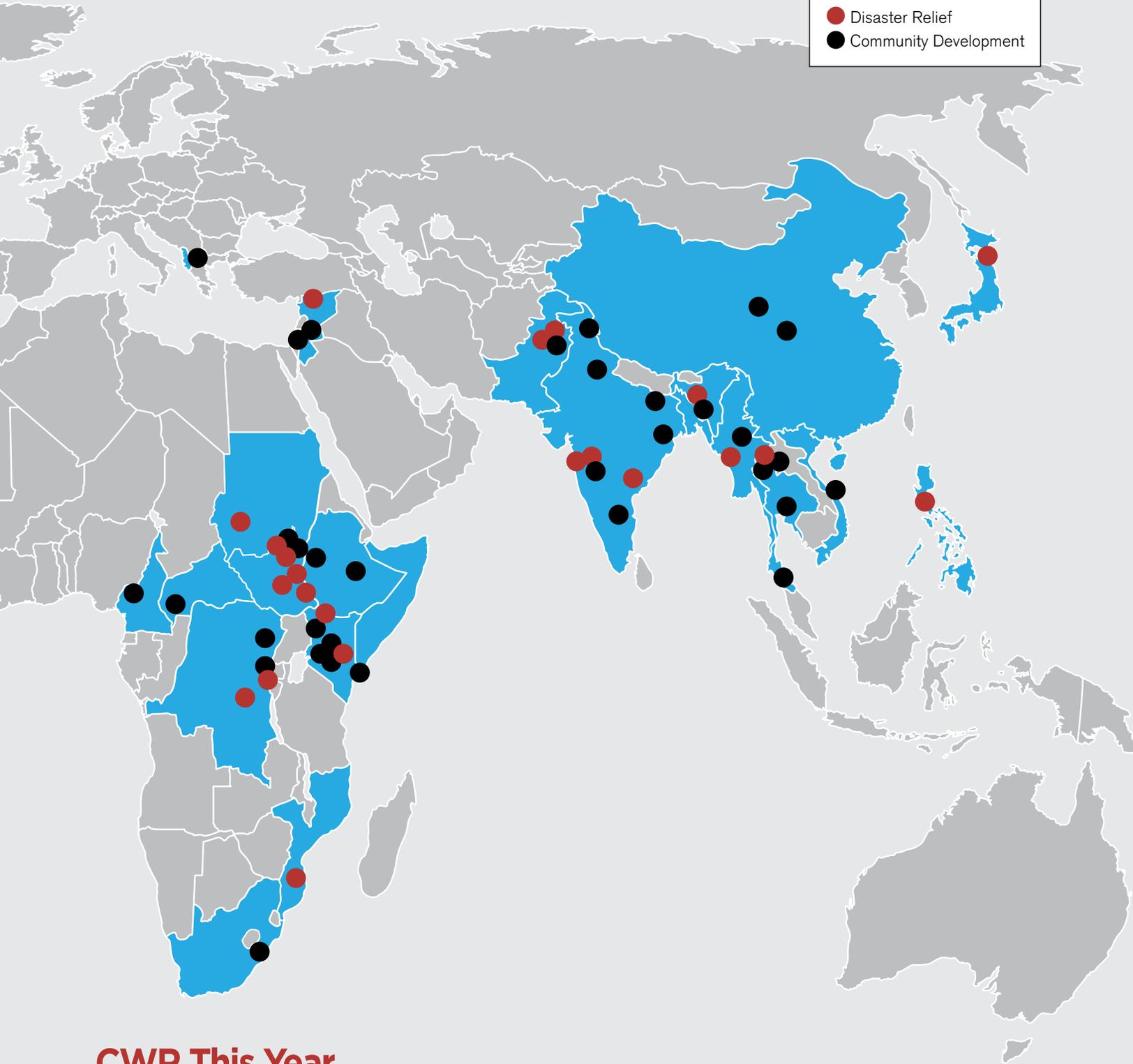
Former customers still approach Gangubai. Now she explains that she is working for the church to help other girls. At first they would laugh at her, but she didn't let it bother her; instead, she continued her new job honestly.

Today Gangubai lives outside of the red-light district with her daughter, Renuka, and continues working with HCC. She is always thankful to HCC and God, because she now knows God's plan for her life.



**KEY TO PROJECT TYPES:**

- Disaster Relief
- Community Development



## CWR This Year

This year, Covenant World Relief sponsored 70 projects in 29 countries. Our disaster response and long-term projects include the following types of ministries:

- Advocacy
- Agriculture
- Clean Water
- Disaster Response
- Education
- Emergency Shelter
- Food Security
- Health
- Human Trafficking
- Justice
- Micro-Finance
- Refugee Care
- Sanitation
- Vocational Training
- Vulnerable Children
- Women's Empowerment

## Partners in Transformation—CWR and You

**5** Your generosity supports work on five continents...



transforming lives in 29 countries... **29**



**70** through 70 projects worldwide.



For more information and to give to CWR, visit our website today at [CovChurch.org/cwr](http://CovChurch.org/cwr).

## Whole-Life Transformation in Mexico

Sara Albina Ramos Narváez is a participant in the Fuentes Libres community bank program in Oaxaca, Mexico. She found out about the program two years ago and decided she wanted to participate. She has used her micro-loan to pay off her land, buy natural fertilizer, and harvest corn, beans, and gourds. And with the income she makes from selling her produce, Sara repays her micro-loan. Sara is proud to say that she has never missed a payment. She also puts money into savings every week and uses the rest of her earnings to buy food and other necessities.

Sara especially loves the program's Bible study, which has helped her in her day-to-day life. She has come to understand that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. She gives thanks to God for allowing her to be part of the group because she has learned to save and manage her money. She is also grateful for the relationships she has formed with other women, as they support one another.

The Fuentes Libres program in Mexico provides whole-life transformation to women like Sara.



## Home-Based Care

Thirty years of violence from civil war and inter-tribal conflict in South Sudan has resulted in a large number of children who are orphaned or have a single parent, typically only a mother. With funding from Covenant World Relief, the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan has been implementing the Vulnerable and Orphaned Child (VOC) program since July of 2010. Matthew Jock Moses leads the project and is about to complete a master's degree in community development.



Vulnerable and orphaned children are cared for by their families in South Sudan.

The VOC program seeks to address more than the children's immediate needs and focuses on education, nutrition, and medical care. Matthew strongly believes that it is best for the children to be raised in a family, by their mothers or relatives. In order to keep these orphaned and vulnerable children out of institutions, the program works with widows and other relatives, empowering them through vocational training, micro-loans, and counseling. You can help keep these children in families by contributing to this project online or by check marked "South Sudan Vulnerable and Orphaned Children."

## Leave a Legacy with CWR

Legacy gifts can be dedicated directly to the ministry of Covenant World Relief. These important gifts enable CWR to fulfill our mission of joining God in loving, serving, and working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized. As you consider your will and plan your estate, please remember Covenant World Relief. If you have questions about how to direct a legacy gift to CWR, contact our office.