

## Dear Friend,

**Thank YOU For Giving!**  
Because of your prayers and support, and through the help of the Vision 2000 network, close to **20,000 individuals** have received relief since April . . .

Your gifts and prayers are impacting: children from Love One More homes and their families, children and families within our churches, widows, wage earners and people within our adopted villages in greatest need, as well as pastors and their families. Your support and prayers are even reaching Hindu families who have received not only relief but *the good news of Jesus.*



India, along with its existing woes of poverty, floods, cyclones, famines, economic inequalities and a host of other issues, is currently facing the brunt of COVID 19. As always, the most affected are the poor and marginalized. The premature timing of the nationwide lock down and draconian measures that were imposed have resulted in untold misery upon a significant number of the population already struggling to make a living, including daily wage earners and migrant workers.

Several million people from the poverty stricken regions of India have temporarily migrated to the industrial areas for work over the last few years, leaving behind their permanent homes and families. For a good number of the migrant workers home is hundreds of kilometers away. Devoid of employment, unable to access food, already living in squalor without basic necessities, these millions were unable to return home. After more than two months since the announcement in March, thousands were still found struggling to make their way back to their native places. Many of them had to walk hundreds of kilometers and in the process, dying of starvation, sickness, heat and sheer exhaustion.

All this leaves us as Christians deeply concerned over the mounting economic imbalance, inequality and deeper issues of justice that gravely affects the people that we serve. **How can we not be concerned over issues that break the heart of a merciful and compassionate God?** His Word clearly proclaims that the Lord "watches over" and "sustains" the poor and marginalized (Psalm 146:9) and that He stands on the side of the poor, suffering and oppressed (Psalm 113:7-9). We are, in a small way trying to bring a little hope and encouragement throughout the regions of the country we serve. With YOUR help, we have been able to reach several thousand families with immediate relief. Our skill training centers in rural communities have been mobilized to produce masks for distribution. The doors of our Life Centers always remain open and are used to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people in the community. We continue to provide sustenance and support to children and their families under our care. Their neighbors are also being helped and we are providing support to our pastors most in need.

**We may not be able to lighten the burden of millions but surely we can walk another mile with one more brother. We may not be able to light up the entire world but surely we can light a candle in the dark corners where we are placed. It is with this conviction that we are facing and overcoming this crisis. It is because of your prayer and support** and because we stand in solidarity as members of God's family that we are able to do this.

Needless to say we are facing this storm with the empowerment and enabling power of the Holy Spirit and the compelling love of Jesus and are ever reminded of His words: "I am with you always" and "I will never leave you or forsake you." It is in His name and on His behalf that we are called to serve. It is also encouraging to see God mysteriously working in these dark moments and to be able to join Him in what He is already doing.

**Sam Stephens**  
President, India Gospel League



"I am so thankful for all the prayers, support and much needed groceries. I know this help is from God. As Mark 11:24 says 'Therefore I say to you, what things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them'. I see these words fulfilled in my life and am praying for Rev. Stephens and all the IGL families."  
 –Pastor Moses

**Will you help pastors like Moses? As the lock down in India continues, there are still pastors struggling to survive.**

**Your gift of \$45 will help a pastor and his family for one month.**

**Give today!**

INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE IS ACCREDITED BY:



## The Needs of Our Pastors . . .

Over 90% of the 7,000+ church planters in the Vision 2000 belong to indigent populations in rural, tribal areas and are ministering with a singular vision of preaching the gospel and planting a church.

IGL provides limited assistance for the first two years to a small percentage of church planters. It teaches local congregations to support the church planter as part of their discipleship; to build ownership and sustainability of the ministry. Church planters, therefore, are supported by their rural congregants with weekly tithes either in cash or kind. They are dependent solely on these gifts. However, in the present circumstances, both the people and pastors are struggling for survival; sometimes, for just a meal a day.

### Pastor Moses from the Mahabubabad Region shares his testimony.

"Many years ago, God called me to be a full time pastor to the people in the Mahabubabad Region. We have no building so we meet in my home. God always gives us the things which we need to survive. Since the lock down we couldn't conduct church services. Because of that, we didn't receive any tithes from our church members, so our family went through great suffering. I could not even buy the things which we needed as a family. But we have a strong faith in God and we prayed. God listened to our cry and finally sent help to us."

### Pastor Rameshwar lives in the village of Kanjar in the Shahabad Region.

Just after a week of the lock down, Pastor Rameshwar's family was left with only a bag of rice that barely lasted a week. Another pastor in the area found out about this need and brought him food and essential supplies. Pastor Rameshwar and his family were overjoyed and shared that it is yet another testimony of God's faithfulness in their lives as they prayed and trusted in Him.

We have so many stories like these from pastors who survived on prayers and their faith in God. **And yet, everyone's path is different...**



## Pastor Killed for His Faith

*A few villagers did not approve of his Christian activity and openly opposed him. False allegations were made against him to the Naxalites.*

**Increase in Persecution\*** As we were pulling together stories for this newsletter, we received the terrible news that an IGL Pastor from Maharashtra was shot and killed. Pastor Tando, just 30 years old, had just finished a prayer and fasting meeting. A group of Naxalites\* came to his house and abducted him and his body was found near his village. This is the fourth death of a Christian for their faith in India since May. Please pray for this pastor's family, as he left behind a wife and four young children.

\*The Naxalites that killed Pastor Tando are a group of far-left radicals, supportive of Maoist political ideology. Their origin is traced back to the formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

Source note: Persecution Relief



## Children's Gospel Clubs Update

**This year the start of CGCs has looked completely different than other years, but God in His sovereignty already had plans orchestrated.** The W.H.O. announced COVID-19 as a pandemic and shortly afterwards, the Indian government declared a nation-wide lock down. They extended the deadline multiple times and continue to do so each month. Originally the leadership and teacher training had been delayed. But praise God for technology. Through online training, almost 1,000 young people have completed training! We are grateful for the hearts of these young leaders and teachers.

### Solomon is a college student who was trained to be a teacher at CGCs. He shares his story of this year's training:

"While helping my father, I was introduced to Children's Gospel Club and served as a CGC teacher. I was disappointed that we might not have training or CGCs. But I was overjoyed by the CGC online training! Our almighty God made a way indeed. I was inspired and enjoyed the process. I have personally set a goal to reach out, enroll, and disciple at least **one hundred** new children in CGCs this year."

**Children's Gospel Clubs start with a fun week-long program that explains the Good News, then provides a whole year of Bible classes. Kids (and their families) learn all about God's love, creation, grace, heaven and truth.**

Small groups of CGCs are now meeting in rural villages not yet touched by the pandemic. They are also meeting in homes that are a part of Operation HOPE.

**This year's theme is 'GOING FORTH WITH GOD'.**

Stay up to date with Love One More and our children's ministry by signing up for our L1M ENews at [IGLWorld.org/getLove1MoreEnews](http://IGLWorld.org/getLove1MoreEnews)

## Being Strategic— Building sustainable, stronger communities

**IGL is currently working toward stronger, sustainable communities.**

Through skills training and microcredit loans, IGL is setting people up from relying on relief to a sustaining, longterm recovery. Throughout June, in places like Bihar, pastors trained their congregants on cottage industries. Microcredit loans were distributed to help start businesses and help people get back to work.

**Kitchen Gardens** The Irular Colony is a good example of families learning to develop a sustainable and stronger community. Classes were held on planting and maintaining kitchen gardens, as well as the making of pickles, soap and detergents. We found 25 families maintaining gardens and they were not only able to sustain themselves, but shared the produce with their neighbors. In addition, five women who are part of the Women's Transformation Group took the initiative to prepare homemade snacks and sell them in their village.

**Microcredit loans** There were six women who bought cows with IGL's microcredit loans and by selling the milk were able to sustain themselves even though they couldn't go out and work. This has inspired other women to produce and sell locally to enhance the village economy and become sustainable.

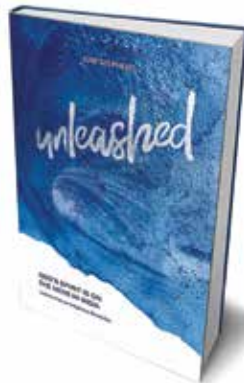
**New Strategy** By now you may have read or heard about Operation HOPE as we have shared about it on social media and in emails. But if you haven't read about it, here's the back story. It began back in November 2019, when IGL celebrated the planting of 100,000 churches across India. *A reached goal worth celebrating but what's next? 'ACHIEVE 2040'—A Church In Every VillagE by 2040.* Strategic priorities were outlined to accomplish this God-sized vision.

*Read more on back panel.*



Thousands of Families throughout India are a part of Operation HOPE—Houses of Prayer Everywhere.

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[IGLWorld.org](http://IGLWorld.org)



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\$12/book for 1-9 books  
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**"Our current challenges require a real-time response from the church."**

—SAM STEPHENS

In *Unleashed*, "boots on the ground" pastor and indigenous missions expert, Sam Stephens, shares his burden for the struggling Western church, offering principles and insights from the spiritual revolution that is sweeping through the villages of India. Anyone who considers themselves a worker or leader in the church will gain valuable tools and insight for joining in the work God is doing to unleash his church.

## Being Strategic— Building sustainable, stronger communities



(Continued from inside) One of those priorities was to implement "Houses of Prayer Everywhere,"—Operation HOPE. It was critical to initiate this house prayer movement **as persecution against Christians and minorities was intensifying**, and has increased even more since May\*. There was and still is every chance that the indigenous church will be driven underground. Over the last three months, amidst the lock down, when churches could not gather, Operation HOPE gained tremendous momentum.

**Rekha Kumari from Buxar is a new believer.** Before Christ, she was a staunch Hindu. She accepted Jesus as her personal Savior after experiencing a miraculous healing that no doctor or medical care could afford her. Today she is an active believer, eager to know and proclaim the gospel to her neighbors. With the lock down in place her local pastor introduced her to Operation HOPE. She now gathers with her family, reads the Bible and prays every day. The Lord has helped her to understand the scriptures and she in turn shares it with her family and neighbors. Today, her house of prayer is a beacon of light in the community and many continue to hear the life-giving words of Christ. Today it is estimated that **nearly a million people** across India in different regions are part of Operation HOPE.