



CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2016

Community Transformation: One Woman at a Time

Zithuthukisa is a self-help group of eleven women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Since September 2015, they have been committed to saving 5 rand (approximately 36¢) each per week. The group's accumulative pool of savings is now R3,979 (approximately \$280). From that savings, forty-five loans have

been given to the members and all loans have been repaid. The self-help group has thrived because of their commitment and the community they've built. They have started a small business of buying and selling common household items. This business has helped them to more than double their savings.



Women join together for support, to save, and run a small business in South Africa.



A Syrian Refugee Longing for Home

I was recently in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and was able to meet many Syrian refugees. Mr. A is the Shawish (community leader) of a small refugee camp. Four years ago Mr. A and his family, including his 11 children, fled their home in Homs, Syria, because there were so many people being killed in his community. After arriving in a refugee camp in Lebanon, Mr. A was informed by Syrian pro-government forces that they had kidnapped his father and sister and demanded \$13,000 in ransom. Mr. A was barely able to scrape the funds together by using savings and an \$8,000 loan. He made the payment, but his father and sister have never been released and he doesn't know whether they are dead

or alive. Mr. A is anxious to return to his home when peace final comes, but he knows that his house has been looted and badly damaged. In the meantime, Mr. A's temporary structure in the camp serves as the site where CWR partner Medical Teams International (MTI) is providing medical care for the refugees as well as training refugees to be community health volunteers. This is just one of many tragic stories of the 21,000 refugees being served by MTI and more than one million Syrian refugees in the tiny country of Lebanon. Please continue to pray for peace in Syria, so that Mr. A and other Syrian refugees will be able to return to their homes someday soon. —Dave Husby

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. —PSALM 147:3

A Brothel Owner's Change of Heart

Ms. T is a brothel owner in the red light district of Pune, India. She has thirteen girls in her brothel engaged in the commercial sex industry. Recently Ms. T expressed that it is painful to see her girls in the sex business and she told a staff worker from the Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC) that she wanted to help some of her girls give up this work, live elsewhere, and adopt a new life. This came as a great surprise to the HCC



To order communion wafers from the Home of Hope, contact our office.



Women leaving the commercial sex industry find rest, vocational training, and counseling at the Home of Hope in India.

staff worker who is seeking to help women and girls begin a new life through counseling and training at the Home of Hope. Some of these women, who are living at the Home of Hope, have left their work in the red light district and are now making communion

wafers as a means of self-support. We rejoice that Ms. T is now seeking the welfare of those girls in spite of losing her income. If you are interested in using the communion wafers made at the Home of Hope in your congregation, please contact the CWR office.

Finding Courage in Mexico

Alma had been married for twenty years when she began to suspect that her husband was being unfaithful. When the evidence of his unfaithfulness was beyond doubt, she found the courage to confront him. He explained everything away and denied any unfaithfulness. He became very angry toward her, their two teenaged children, their friends, and the whole world. For two years, Alma and her children endured his economic, verbal, psychological, and physical abuse. All the while she hoped that things would change so that her marriage and family could be saved.

Marriage counseling was helpful, but Alma's husband soon made it clear that he wasn't interested in making the relationship work. Alma was concerned for the well-being of her children and herself. She again found courage, this time to face the painful divorce proceedings, the sharp criticism from family and friends for not putting up with the abusive marriage, and the judgmental comments about her being a "divorcee."

Several years later Alma was part of a group of women who attended a "Mending the Soul" conference in Mexico City. She

was deeply moved by the stories she heard of many abuse survivors who were now being transformed by God's redemptive healing. God gently nudged her to share what she learned at the conference, to share her own

story, and to minister to others. She became a founding member of MAEM (Ministry to the Abused and Exploited in Mexico), a ministry partner of Covenant World Relief, and is currently the treasurer. God has used Alma's story of redemptive healing. Her loving, nonjudgmental listening, and the peace she conveys motivates children, adolescents, women, and married couples to find the courage to begin their own process of healing.





CWR YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you for your generous support and partnership with Covenant World Relief. Here is an update of your support of CWR!

JUNE 2015 - JUNE 2016

\$1.6M+ 
SENT TO PROJECTS



CHURCH PARTNERS
285

NEW DONORS
590

100% of every gift to CWR goes to the ministry of CWR. **90%** of every gift goes directly to ministry programs.

82 PROJECTS
31 COUNTRIES
5 CONTINENTS

23



CWR PROGRAMS FOCUS ON **PEACEMAKING** IN THE MIDST OF FAMILY, POLITICAL, TRIBAL, AND ETHNIC CONFLICT

28 **DISASTER RESPONSE** PROJECTS IN 13 COUNTRIES, PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, AND MEDICAL CARE

10 PROGRAMS EXCLUSIVELY SERVING **REFUGEES** AROUND THE WORLD

12 PROJECT BLUE PROGRAMS PROVIDE CLEAN WATER IN **9 COUNTRIES**



Thank you for your generous support!

** undesignated gifts allow CWR to respond immediately and strategically to the areas of greatest need*

Peacemaking in the Midst of War

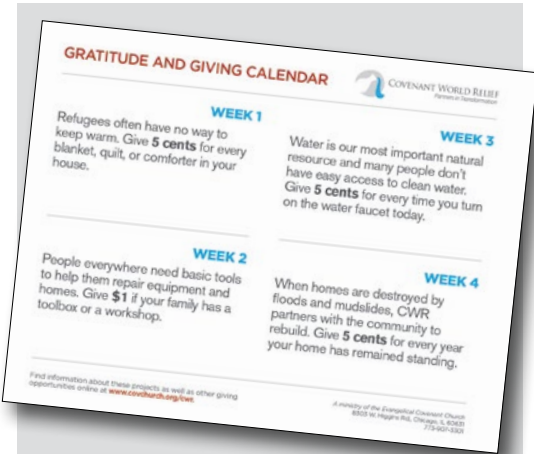
Rev. Mathew Jock Moses, the new president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE) submitted a report on a CWR-funded program entitled Peace, Reconciliation, and Healing Training. A total of 310 church and community leaders from two refugee camps participated. Men and women from the Nuer, Dinka, Shiluk, Murle, and Equatoria tribes came together to be equipped as trainers of trainers and serve their respective communities.

Mathew wrote, "The aim of CWR and ECCSSE is to equip the participants to serve as ambassadors of peace and be able to unite the antagonistic communities of South Sudan who are desperately looking for peace." Mathew continues, "The peace, reconciliation, and healing training has to



coincide with this crucial time when the people of South Sudan are desperately looking for peace. The youngest nation in the world is at the brink of collapsing economically due to the ongoing crisis."

Please pray for pastor Mathew, Covenant missionary James Tang, and the leadership of the ECCSSE as they seek to be peacemakers in the midst of the ongoing civil war in South Sudan.



Giving Thanks

The Gratitude and Giving calendar is a **free** resource for you to use along with the soup-can bank. This resource helps us all to be more thankful for the items we have and to become more aware of the needs of others around the world and respond by giving thanks and giving change. Find it now at CovChurch.org/cwr

Creative Fundraising

Sue Ellen from Rockford, Illinois, was inspired by Project Blue to use her own gifts and talents to help others around the world gain access to clean water. You can buy her artwork in greeting cards and prints. All of the proceeds go to Project Blue. Learn more at CovChurch.org/projectblue



A word from Serve Globally Executive Minister Al Tizon

“Covenant World Relief puts into motion the mercy and justice of God. As Serve Globally’s relief and development arm, CWR not only responds immediately to disasters through our global partners, it also supports community development projects, also through our global partners, that bear long-term, sustainable fruit in whole communities around the world.”