



Hope Ministries *Update*

Bringing the Hope of Jesus to India Since 1979

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PERSECUTION CONTINUES IN INDIA

Dear Friends,

You may have heard about the persecution that is taking place in various states in India. Hindu extremist groups have been attacking Christians, beating and killing Christians and destroying their homes and church buildings. *Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. [9] Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*



About four months ago, in a state called **MANIPUR** in the northeast section of India, above Bangladesh and on the border with Myanmar, severe persecution has started. This is a very small state with tribal groups. In the middle of the state there is an area of flatland where their capital, Impala, is located. There are Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus who live in this area. Hindus are called Meites. They are majority, educated and have political power.

Two tribal groups called **Kukis** and **Nagas** live in the surrounding mountains. There has been a conflict of land between the Meities and the other two groups for a long time. On May 3rd of this year the conflict escalated and from May 4th the Meities, police and RSS started killing Kuki tribal people. The conflict was very severe with the killing of women and men, cutting off their heads and hanging them on the door posts. Bodies were also mutilated and thrown into the streets. Many church buildings and homes were burned and destroyed. Many Kuki tribe people lost their families to violence. Some escaped the capital city and went into the mountains to hide.

As soon as this violence started, the Internet was shut down for the entire state, so not many people even in India knew about the persecution unless somebody called and told them about the killings. Nobody could stop the violence. No political leaders of the state who are predominantly Hindu who belong to (BJP) Bharath Janata Party didn't do anything to stop the violence. Even Prime minister Modi didn't say a word to stop the killings. The violence still continues today.

We felt that we should go to Manipur to help the people. I found a contact person in Manipur and traveled with my son, Jesse and nephew, Finny. The trip required a four-hour flight the six hours in a small car through mountains on broken, rough roads. It was very scary.

When we arrived in Manipur, a pastor met us. The next morning, we sat down with him and asked what should we buy and what the people needed. He suggested that we buy basic supplies like rice, beans, cooking oil, blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine napkins, diabetic test kits, and biscuits, etc. We bought the supplies and loaded them on to a truck and traveled two hours on a very badly damaged road to an office in the mountains. We met volunteers who were organizing the distribution. They asked us if we would like to go to the farthest refugee camps where not many people were going to distribute goods. I said, yes, we would like to go there. It took us another three hours of driving to get to the camps where we distributed the essential goods.

These camps consist of churches and school buildings in remote mountain areas. The people all live in these buildings and sleep on floors on mats and blankets. They seem to be very scared for their lives. They were very grateful to receive our help.

The pastor who led us to these places told us that he had formerly pastored a church in the capital city of Impala. He had a house and a few acres of land to grow rice and vegetables. On the second day that the violence started, May 4th, a mob of 200-300 came with guns, knives, and sticks to his church to destroy his church and house. When he saw them coming, he and his family fled into the woods and escaped without being seen. The mob destroyed the church and house and burned them. That was the beginning of severe violence. Now more than 300 churches and many more houses have been destroyed and hundreds of people have been killed.

The pastor said that he belongs to Kuki tribe. Most of the Kukis are Christians. They are the descendants of Jacob's son, Joseph, and his son, Manasseh (in the bible). They need our prayers and any help we can afford. Please pray for them and pray for those who are persecuting so that they can come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

CHRISTIAN RALLY IN MALIKIPURAM

The Christians in the Hope Ministries area organized a peaceful rally in support of the Manipur Christians. More than 15,000 people from the surrounding churches walked peacefully to a town called Malikipuram. They sang Christian songs and knelt in the middle of the road and prayed for peace in Manipur, and for the protection of the persecuted.

The police were surprised at the number of people who came to peacefully protest and pray. They said that they never knew that there were this many Christians in this area. Everything went peacefully and God was glorified. Many churches are now collecting money to support the victims of violence in Manipur state.



GOSPEL MEETINGS



After three years of isolation, fear, and loneliness during Covid 19, people were anxious to get out and meet others for fellowship. Many people asked if we were going to conduct Gospel meeting this year. We prayed about it and felt that we should conduct Gospel meetings at our headquarters in Mori.

Because it was late in April and the temperature was already rising above 90 degrees during the day, we held open air meetings during nights when the weather was cooler. We held three nights of

Gospel meetings on April 26, 27, and 28.

Many people came from the surrounding villages, and some came from tribal villages 200 or more miles away. God blessed the meetings with His mighty presence. People were blessed and rejoiced in the presence of God.

Pastors' Seminar: We held pastors' seminars during the day for two days in Hope Church. Nearly 150 pastors and evangelists attended. After worship, the pastors taught the word of God. We fed those who attended the seminar, as well as those who traveled long distances and stayed on the premises for the duration of the meetings. Some new believers were baptized. Praise the Lord!



BORE-WELLS (GIVING LIVING WATER)

We drilled five bore-wells with the funds that we raised through the Indian dinner that we cooked at Suffield Fellowship Church in Suffield, Ohio, in January. What a blessing it was! The people gave generously and we were also able to buy 300 Bibles in the Telegu language to distribute to the people in the tribal villages in India where we drilled the bore-wells, as well as to church members, Sunday School children and evangelists who needed to replace their worn-out Bibles.



After we went to India in March 2023, we drilled two more bore-wells in the remote jungle villages. The heavy rains held us back from drilling and stopped us from going there to dedicate the bore-wells for a few months, but eventually we were able to drill.

In one of the tribal villages where we drilled a bore-well, a group of

Hindu extremists from a neighboring village came at night and destroyed the corrugated sheet metal roof of the church by cutting holes with axes. The villagers knew who did it, but didn't say anything to them. They were just praying for them.

Later, the neighboring village responsible for destroying our church roof came to us and asked our staff to drill a bore-well in their village. Our staff told me about the request. I told them, when God provides, we will drill a bore-well for them in their village. God heard our prayers and provided funds to drill a bore-well for the villagers who had destroyed the church roof in the other village, so I called our staff and asked them to go ahead and drill a bore-well for those who requested.

When our staff went with a drilling company to drill a bore-well, the villagers told them it was useless, that the government had already tried to drill, even bringing in a geologist to test, but they couldn't find any water. While we were getting ready to drill, the villagers were watching, saying that there was no water in that area where we are drilling. Our staff and pastors prayed, and the drilling began. They drilled about 100 feet and found no water. The villagers kept telling them, "There is no water, the geologist told us". But our staff said, "We are praying to our God to provide water." When they drilled around 120 feet, there was a trace of water. At about 150 feet, there was a huge gush of water that sprayed everywhere. John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The villagers were shocked and surprised and kept saying, "How did this happen? The geologist told us that there is no water in this area. How did you find the water?" Then our evangelist told them, "Our God heard our prayers and provided water." The villagers couldn't believe that our God answers prayers.

Now their hearts are softened and open to hear the Gospel. Our evangelists are going to their village and sharing the Gospel with the villagers. Praise the Lord! Please pray for these villagers so that they can come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. What a powerful sign God showed them.

Children's Homes: As you may know, many children were forced to leave our children's homes by India's Child Welfare Department during Covid 19. Then our state started giving free school supplies and a yearly gift of money to the parents. These incentives caused many children to attend public schools, rather than private schools like ours. As a result, many private schools were closed because of a lack of students.

Later, the families and children witnessed some things that were different from what the public schools had told them. So now they are coming back to private schools for better education and discipline.

This year more children came back to our children's homes and schools than in the previous year. We now have close to 150 children in our four children's homes. They are happy to be back. God is providing for their needs through people like you.



I was so happy to hear some exciting reports from former students: One young man came to visit us while we were visiting the children's home in Vizag. He said that he had studied from 1st to 10th grade in our children's home there. Now he is studying to write the exam to be qualified to study medicine. He also said that his brother who studied in the same children's home is now a doctor and his wife is, too. Another young man who studied in the Gopavaram jungle area became president of a village. A couple of girls are studying Bachelor of Science in Nursing to become nurses. Many children have become evangelists and pastors. Praise the Lord! To God be the glory! It was a great blessing to hear good reports like these which makes us happy and praise the Lord for His grace. Thank you so much for supporting the children and evangelists.

NEW EVANGELISTS IN THE TRIBAL VILLAGES



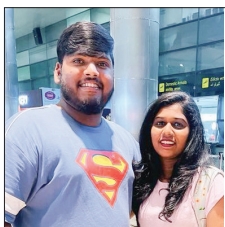
A year ago, there were 12 evangelists from the tribal villages who expressed their desire to join Hope Ministries. Now they have joined us and are continuing their ministries. We bought a drum (musical instrument), a lantern, and a bicycle for each one of them. They were very happy and grateful. Now they are able to reach more villages, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

They said that the financial support they receive from HMI is being used to help build new church buildings. We know that they have personal and family needs, but they choose to use some finances they received to advance the kingdom of God.

Pastors and evangelists that are supported through Hope Ministries are working diligently to reach the lost. They not only pastor churches, but they go out into the villages almost every day to visit church members, visit hospitals to pray for the sick, and share the Gospel with those who are able to listen. God goes with them and performs signs and miracles and saves those who are lost. New churches are being established where there is an opportunity. Please lift them up in your prayers

Every day they face difficulties, sometimes beatings, but they continue to preach the Gospel to the lost. Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

UPDATE ON JESSE & STACY BEERA



Jesse and Stacy are growing up and doing well. They are 23 and 21 years old, respectively. Jesse just finished his bachelor's degree. He is planning to pursue an MBA and take IT courses. He is actively involved in day-to-day activities of Hope Ministries such as book keeping, leading a youth group, and running the sound system, in addition to meeting miscellaneous ministry needs as they arise.

Stacy is in Philippines, studying medicine. She will be transitioning from her 1st year to her 2nd year in November 2023. She is in good health and studying diligently. Please remember both Jesse and

Stacy in your prayers.

Jaya and I thank you so much for your prayers and financial support for the ministry. Please continue to remember us and Hope Ministries in your prayers. We are praying for you and your families. May God richly bless you and keep you!

Yours for India, Jacob Beera

HMI

Prayer and Support Opportunities in this Newsletter

Summarized, here are some of the opportunities for you to partner with the ministry. The first section lists prayer and support opportunities that are mentioned in this newsletter. The second section lists ongoing opportunities including core monthly child and evangelist support. Any amount of support will help and be appreciated. Thank you for continuing to partner with Hope Ministries to reach the unreached and minister the love and compassion of Christ in India.

Prayer and Support Opportunities in This Newsletter

Children's support	[]	\$20 per month
Evangelist support	[]	\$35-50 per month
Bibles	[]	\$10 Each
Bible School Believers	[]	\$20 per month
Ministry Vehicle \$25,000	[]	\$ _____
Where Needed	[]	\$ _____
Nursing students	[]	\$ _____
Bore-well \$2,000	[]	\$ _____

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