

Clemente Newsletter

November 2020

Country-N Update : " Thank You ! "

About 600 families received assistance from the Bishops' Crisis Relief Fund (BCRF). These families came from three districts and about six different municipalities. I was surprised how God multiplied your gifts for the Lord's work in South Asia Country-N.

Some of you might remember, I wrote in a social media post that there was flooding in one western area of Country-N. As Reuters reported, heavy rains triggered flash floods and landslides killing several people and displacing "thousands." (Reuters, 07/11/2020) Several of our FM partners were among these thousands. Praise the Lord, now they are receiving compassionate help and, as we speak, we are still hearing of good news -- details of how the people of Country-N are being fed, clothed, and comforted. We will continue to provide you with stories in the weeks to come as news reports trickle down from the mountains of Country-N.

Pastor Y hiked from his mountain village to a town in the valley to receive the BCRF assistance. In mid-October, he bought sacks of rice and other food items, and then he paid for the services of donkeys to transport these goods back to his village. It would take another three to four days for them to travel back home with these life-saving commodities. Thank you for your help.

Why am I sharing these details? I just want to illustrate the fact that during this Covid crisis, our FM partners in Country-N are suffering the most. Several things complicate their suffering. The Covid pandemic restrictions, the government lockdowns of stores and commercial transactions, the isolation of villages due to the terrain and location in the mountains, limited services for travel, the grueling existence of poverty in the people's lives, and the seasonal onslaught of torrential rains and flooding. Thank you for your compassionate prayers.

Now, about 600 families are slowly recovering from their ordeal because of your donation to the BCRF ministry. Please continue to give generously. Every dollar helps. Meanwhile, our brothers and sisters in Country-N are praising God and celebrating this global family we call FMC. Thank you for participating in the Lord's work in Asia. Thank you for sharing your life so that others can live and face this pandemic with dignity.

Partnership Building

"I can't remember what it was, but it must have been important to a fourth-grade boy. I took it home with me and posted it on my bedroom's wall. I remember very well your visit to our church and our Sunday school group." Sean recounts to me his memory of our visit to his church during our early years as FMWM missionaries. I stand in the fellowship hall of this church after speaking at the morning service in October, greeting the people and chatting with some old friends. It is good to hear from Sean and to know that our early visit was a meaningful experience for him. I am happy that he is still connected with this Christian community.

Visiting local churches during the Covid pandemic has been very challenging. We have done all the required things, such as wearing face masks, watching our physical distance, and washing our hands. I only visited a

select number of churches. I felt the need to limit my visits mainly as a precaution. With new advisories and restrictions being put into place, I will not visit churches in person for the months of December and January. I am grateful for the good news of successful Covid-19 vaccines, and I pray for the process of approval and making them available to the public. Praise God. I am making tentative plans to visit churches in Michigan and Illinois again by late winter/early spring. Meanwhile, we will continue to communicate with local churches and partners in ministry and share the news of what God is doing in Asia. God is good.

Faithful Finances

We are so very thankful for your prayers and financial support that have sustained us throughout this year. As we look ahead to 2021, we anticipate needing an additional \$1500 per month to cover our ministry expenses.

If you would like to contribute towards ministry development and leadership training in Asia through the Clementes, you may send a check to:

Free Methodist Church - USA
770 N High School Rd
Indianapolis IN 46214

Checks should be made out to "Free Methodist Church - USA" with "Clemente MSA" noted in the Memo line.

FMWM will provide you with a receipt as all financial gifts are tax-deductible.

Prayers and Praises

***** Please pray for the continuing distribution of relief goods in the southern district of Country-N. Pray for our district leader and pastors as they share the hope that is in Jesus Christ.

***** Praise the Lord for the six women from Higher Ground International Fellowship in Kaohsiung who were baptized recently. Four are members of the Mothers group who are Filipina women married to Taiwanese. Pray for these international families to have a strong witness to others in Kaohsiung.

***** Pray for Jacob as his school is switching from a hybrid model to completely online classes for the remainder of the first semester. We're thankful he was able to participate in theater and the show did go on -- at least for the cameras, with an online viewing available soon. We're also thankful for youth group gatherings this Fall -- some outdoor and some online.

***** Praise God for good health and a great first semester for Carmen at Asbury University! We're happy to be all together again from now until the second week of January.

David and Sarah Clemente - 90 N Yorktown Rd - Macomb, IL 61455