



# Heartland International Ministries

Winter 2019

## A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SLUMS

**O**n the outskirts of Delhi, entire communities of people exist on the fringes of society. The name “trash dump villages” is given because the surroundings have been reduced to a dumping ground. The village is built inside of the trash dump. The people collect the trash and work to segregate the plastic, paper and metal for recycling; that is their earnings for their livelihood. Others living in the slum are laborers, rag pickers and street beggars.

Pastor A. Vashi was called to start a church in the trash dump village in 2012. Of the 50,000 people living in the slum, almost

half are children. The literacy rate is only 23%, which makes educating the children a very difficult task.

Vashi created and runs a literacy and Bible education program which directly impacts the lives of hundreds of children. The New Life English School has a makeshift classroom in a partially collapsed mud brick house. The children are particularly at risk of disease, malnutrition, abuse and human traffickers. Despite the threats from neighboring Hindus and sometimes even the government, Vashi feels called to help these communities and especially the children.

The people in these poor communities are receptive to the Gospel and open to the help the Christian community provides. Pastor Vashi's eyes light up when he describes stories of change and hope in the lives of these people. He sees great potential for the Gospel to take root in the children and the adults. H.I.M. and pastor Vashi hope to raise more support to continue working in the trash dump village and to grow the New Life English School. We are asking for prayers and financial support for their basic needs to be met, enough study materials and better facilities for the children.



### IN THIS ISSUE

HOPE MINISTRY  
H.I.M. CHILDREN'S HOME

MISSIONS  
OFFERING HOPE IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE FEEDING PROGRAM  
PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH

# ROCK STANDING



**Byron Whetsone,  
Executive Director**

**A**t Christmas, we gather together to celebrate the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ and of course we all have different traditions and customs we use for this special time. I am always drawn in my thoughts to the way God announced His Son's birthday. In our culture, we give gifts, we have family meals, we worship on Christmas Eve, we open presents to show our love for each other and we celebrate with football games, basketball games, and after Christmas shopping trips. All very important stuff.

In my view, our great God of the universe began planning Christmas as the salvation for humanity from the beginning, in the Garden of Eden. Later he gave Abraham the call to go, when he was 95 years old. He gave Moses the LAW 1,500 years before he gave the world the Savior. It is remarkable to me that he called prophets and everyday folks to be a part of the salvation plan along the way. Much of the Old Testament foreshadows this very birthday event.

When I think of it in this context I really stand in awe of the Lord, in the greatness of the Lord. It is God's immense plan for humanity, with His use of complex and amazing characters, to shape the world for the birth of Jesus.

"Suddenly an angel appeared with a multitude of heavenly hosts" to a handful of shepherds tending their sheep. Further clarity in my mind about the greatness of the holiday we celebrate at Christmas. Our Lord has given the entirety of humanity the incredible gift of Grace, to those who believe. He holds a great personal celebration, He holds a Happy Jesus birthday party and invites a small group of humble shepherds to experience with Him in person. No stadium concerts, no jet plane fly-over, no show of military strength. But our God is so excited about His plan, He had a kind of intimate personal celebration. God is sharing Christmas with us every day and we should have more amazement of Christmas in our lives year-round. My prayer for you and your family is for a blessed and wonderful Christmas celebration. Remember, you have been given the gift of everlasting life and that is the greatest gift ever for all of us.

To God Be the Glory. Happy Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byron Whetsone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Byron Whetstone, Executive Director

***"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,"  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."***

(Luke 2:13-14)

# EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE MINISTRY

During disasters such as hurricanes, tornado or other natural disaster, trees need to be cut and cleared to facilitate recovery of the communities. Chainsaw crews, whether volunteer or paid operators, are in desperate need of having their saws sharpened so that they can work safely and efficiently. That's where PALS (Partner and Leader Servant) Tom Stanton comes in.

The purpose and goal of his ministry is to go to wind and/or fire disasters to sharpen chainsaws and give aid to the victims of the disasters. This includes extending comfort, emotional counsel and spiritual aid to the victims and often to other relief workers, including sharing the Gospel through the Word of God.

The need for sharpeners is extreme! Tom tells of going to the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. After driving straight through from Northern Minnesota to Atmore Alabama, where he set up to sharpen at the First Baptist Church, he went to seven different communities to scout the needs. Every single community literally begged Tom to stay in their community. This is where the deep need for this ministry was placed on Tom's heart.

There are many stories of people professing faith in Christ through Expressions of Hope Ministries. Only in eternity will we know, for sure, of the impact

of this unique ministry. The fact is, the need is great for this type of ministry and it is so easy to get into. Tom has gone to many disasters using a minivan as a base of operations.

The system of sharpening chainsaws developed by Tom allows a person to sharpen between thirty and fifty saws an hour. The average sharpener



can only sharpen a maximum of six saws per hour. When chainsaw operators stop cutting to sharpen his or her saw, the whole clean-up process is impeded. Not to mention, dull saws are very dangerous. Quickly sharpening a dull saw increases the productivity of the very limited human resources.

Tom says that he would be willing to do training classes to teach teams and small groups to do this Ministry. Sadly, Tom's health is beginning to fail and he has missed out going to several disasters because of his body wearing out. There is a sense of urgency to put together several trained teams that have a burden for this work.

Expanding the opportunity for others to join the ministry is a big desire of Tom's. Participants in this ministry can be anyone with a heart to help others affected by disasters. Many retired men and women are familiar with disaster operations but can no longer safely operate chainsaws or pull brush. Still, they desire to be involved in serving those affected by a storm. This is an ideal ministry for them.

Tom claims two life verses. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Tom was given this verse shortly after he came to know Christ in October 1971. The second verse jumped from the pages of his Bible during the summer of 2019. Acts 20:24, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."



# H.I.M. CHILDREN'S HOME



**P**rasad and Susan G. are natives of south India. They have developed and oversee a dynamic and expanding ministry in Kerala, a southern state in India. They started a boy's orphanage in 2000 with 10 boys. When it opened the name was Beyond Two Thousand Christian Mission (BTCM); now, the name is H.I.M. Children's Home. What started with 10 boys has grown to house between 45 and 60 children at a time. When asked why they started the orphanage, Prasad said, "We want to raise orphaned, poor and neglected children in a Christian environment so they find purpose and fulfillment in their lives."

Orphaned children don't have a future on the streets. The boys, ages 5 – 15, attend Sunday School, get a chance to hear the gospel and study Bible stories. To date, H.I.M. Children's Home has

been able to house 600 children. They have gone on to become staff members of the school, police officers, teachers, pastors, and other occupations. Some are studying in Bible colleges.

This year monsoon season was

*“We want to raise orphaned, poor and neglected children in a Christian environment so they find purpose and fulfillment in their lives.”*

*Prasad*

very bad for Kerala state. Heavy flooding and mud slides affected the orphanage and many local churches. They don't receive assistance or aid from the local government because they are Christian. The Hindu religious fanatic government was re-elected and they give Christians and Christian organizations a difficult time. Even with all the

issues of religious persecution, people are still coming to Christ, especially from the villages.

Through generous help of H.I.M. donors they were able to complete the ground floor and the 1st floor of the orphanage. The newly built kitchen is ready to be furnished. The staff and boys have created a vegetable farm and raise chickens to help support themselves. They are still working to finish the 2nd floor of the building. The new government has given them until April 19, 2020 to finish the floor. Otherwise, they will cancel the permit for the orphanage.

Heartland International Ministries and H.I.M. Children's Home are grateful for all the love, concern and support received from everyone. Thank you for sharing in our efforts and for carrying the burden in the spiritual growth of these children along with us.



# MISSIONS – FROM FRED’S HEART

The word Missions does not appear in the Bible, but a vast revelation is given to the theme of missionary work. The words evangelist and witness come closest in meaning to the subject.

Old Testament references to the divine purpose of having God’s Word proclaimed include Proverbs 14:25-27; Isaiah 6:8, Acts 10:43 & 14:17.

Old Testament missionary activity is seen in Joshua 2:18-19, 2 Kings 5:2-4, John 1:2 and 3:2. Psalm 96 is known as the missionary Psalm.

During the present age, God is seeking men. (John 4:23) For this reason he calls His people to preach the gospel everywhere. (Matthew 28: 19-20, Acts 1:8.) Believers have an obligation to be ambassadors of Christ. (Romans 1:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:20) They are assured of the presence of Christ. (Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5)

They are put in trust with the gospel, (1 Thessalonians 2:4) and sent forth (John 17:18) through open doors, (1 Corinthians 16:9), into “the regions beyond” (2 Corinthians 10:16). They are

to preach the gospel, (Acts 10:42, 43) which is defined in 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4. They work under divine compulsion and use every means possible. (1 Corinthians 9:16, 22)

Missionary activity is of primary importance. It is the secret of blessing upon the local congregation. Missionaries are to be helped by prayer, (2 Corinthians 1:11) and supported by the home churches, (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2) as workers together with God. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

*This article was written by Fred Kornis in 1985 while living in the Philippines.*





# PASTOR P.K.'S FEEDING PROGRAM HELPS WOMEN



*People were afraid to visit them but Pastor P.K. said God gave him a heart for the people. He is the only one who visits and shares the gospel with them in their homes.*



Pastor P.K. is based in central India. He oversees several vital areas of ministry in rural villages. But he is especially passionate about the work he does in feeding those who are rejected by society; the orphans, widows and lepers.

The leprosy food program started approximately 15 years ago when a man with leprosy came to Pastor P.K.'s church asking for help and prayers. P.K. went with him to be shown where he and the other patients lived. It was a colony only for the people with leprosy, most of them living by begging in the streets. He was so moved by the people he saw that he had to help them. People were afraid to visit them but Pastor P.K. said God gave him a heart for the people. He is the only one who visits and shares the gospel with them in their homes. With the help of H.I.M and the church members, he continues to help. Some of the patients have come to know the Lord,

started going to church and some of them were baptized. There isn't a permanent place to distribute the food to them but he is looking for a place for food distribution and that can be used to have a church for them exclusively. This wonderful ministry provides food for approximately 90 patients.

Pastor P.K.'s church is located in the slum section of Hyderabad, India. The people live far below the poverty line and the population is mixed with





# AND CHILDREN IN RURAL VILLAGES IN INDIA

gypsy tribals. He was walking in the streets near his church when he saw several widows sitting outside their homes. They were all Hindu and did not know Jesus and had never come to church. He began helping them with rice and oil and some groceries. Their children are often neglected and go without food. He is currently helping 100 women that need food, soap and sometimes clothes. Right now, due to funds, they are getting food once per month and most only eat one time a day. He is wanting to start a home for those that are destitute so that he can care for them and share the love of Jesus. Starting the New Hope Women's Center

is the dream but currently he is feeding them at the orphanage. Slowly he has started sharing the love of Jesus and how He has changed lives. Some of the women have accepted the Lord and started coming to church. He has been able to help and reach them with food and show the love and compassion of Jesus to those who are hungry and needy in the community.

The New Hope Orphanage is currently housing 22 children, 12 boys and 10 girls. With the help of donors and by God's Grace, they are able to feed, shelter, and provide education and medicine to help them. We are thankful for the prayers and support of people like you.





# PAKISTANIAN CHRISTIANS LIVE IN DAILY FEAR

Christians are being openly persecuted for following their faith. Open discrimination and violent attacks are being widely reported in media outlets and Pakistan is ranked as one of the worst offenders of Christian persecution.

Under Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws, Christian persecution is a growing problem and Christians continue to live in daily fear that they will be accused of blasphemy — which can carry a penalty of death.

This was the nightmare that Asia Bibi lived for nine years when she was imprisoned and placed on death row because of false claims made against her faith. The living example of Asia Bibi is not only a source of strength for our faith, but also a true expression of our hope — a hope in Christ. To a confident believer, hope is the anticipation of a brighter future with the Savior. Asia Bibi was released resulting from a persistent public outcry against this injustice. She always fought

passionately, never giving up but continuing to trust in her Savior. A few months ago, we were deeply saddened to hear from one our PALS in Pakistan that yet another converted family was severely persecuted for their decision to follow Christ. Non-stop persecution is an everyday occurrence for Christians at the hands of the majority religion. The family's wood and straw hut was set on fire by an angry mob of almost a hundred people. The fire destroyed everything they had including money that



A prayer from our PALS Ruby:

***Dear Lord, help me to have a confidence in Christ that a glorious future is ahead of me though I go through hardships or persecution for your sake in this world.***

***Amen***



# OF DEATH FOR FOLLOWING THEIR FAITH



they received from selling their livestock only a few days before. All of their personal belongs have been burned. A temporary shelter, some clothing, bedding, and a few other things have been provided to the family for survival. But prayers are needed for the protection of the family

and finances to help them with a new hut/house, household items and livestock which is their main source of income and survival.

Asia Bibi, and others like this family, teach a great lesson to the world; that we have to hold on to the confession of our faith. She made history — as a

Pakistani uneducated believer and as a woman — if she could stand up for her faith, then why can't we hold on to the hope of our confession.

Please stand with Heartland International Ministries to pray that the Lord will protect them and others who turn to Christ.





# OFFERING HOPE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pastor Erl R. has been working with the Igorot (meaning mountain people) Tribal Group in the Philippines since 1998. Pastoring 12 women in a seemingly forsaken outskirt of Benguet Province, she helped pioneer a church for them, Jesus Christ the Chief Cornerstone Church (JCCC). Only 6% of the people



in the Philippines are Christians, while 58% still practice paganism and animism.

The Church is successfully reaching the Igorot Tribe with the life changing message of the Gospel through ministries that provide both spiritual and physical support. They have a Church Building Project and a Feeding Ministry. The Feeding Ministry brings the Gospel to children and their families which helps them establish a relationship with Jesus. Most of the ministry workers that

help with the food program are parents. If families are unable to come to the church for food, the ministry has a House-to-House extension that brings the church and gospel to them. The Feeding Ministry also provides clothes, shoes and Christmas gifts for the children.

The work on the Building Project is only 50% complete. There is so much more to be done on both the inside and the outside of the church. Even though progress is slow, the congregation has worked hard and God has provided for the ministry through the years. A tradition in the Philippines known as "Bayanihan" (the spirit of community unity, work and cooperation to complete a project) is vital to their community growth. Many bayanihan projects are helping the church get built in stages, since the average monthly income in the Philippines is \$200.

The church continues to rescue hurting people from a life of paganism/animism. They have



grown to a congregation of 90 adults with 30-40 children. Due to lack of transportation many walk to church. Even during the intense rainy season the average attendance is still 70-80 people. Please pray for Pastor Erl R. and the congregation as they demonstrate the love of Jesus in the Philippines.





## NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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**Joni Miller**  
**Director of Development**

**J**oni Miller is the new Director of Development for Heartland International Ministries. Prior to joining H.I.M. she worked in several non-profit and marketing positions in the Kansas City area.

In her new role, she is dedicated to building on the 20-year history of spreading good work throughout the world. She is eager to plan for the fu-

ture and support the mission, beliefs and founding principles of H.I.M.

Joni lives north of Kansas City with her husband Mark, their 3 children (Conner, Garrett & Sydney) and two dogs (Bentley & Finn). She has a passion for helping others and is excited to make a difference.

Please join us as we extend a warm welcome to Joni.

## DONATE AND CHANGE SOMEONE'S WORLD

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**B**lessings to you and your family during this season of Christmas and as we near the end of 2019! The abundance of labor, wisdom, and grace to maintain the work of Heartland International Ministries is sustained by your gifts, your prayers, and the grace of God. Lives are changed through the ministry we share because you are enabling others to share the story of the Gospel – a distinct priority of God's love.

Our Partner and Leader Servants (PALS) are living in nations where the word of God is often discouraged by the government and culture. They work tirelessly to build hopeful communities around the world with the results continuing to multiply. Together, with your support and generosity, we can advance the Gospel in the most needy, impoverished places around the globe. Your financial gift is vital to

our organization. When you make a donation, it enables us to respond quickly and ensure critical projects receive the resources they need. With such a strong foundation, the future is bright and promising for HIM. We would be blessed for you to consider making a gift to HIM as we near the end of 2019.

***"...In all your ways  
acknowledge him..."***

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

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There are times in this life's journey when words can't express the feelings of our heart. The following gifts were made in thoughtful memory of or in honor of a special loved one or friend.

**Given by Fred and Barbara Kornis:**

*In Memory of Tony Reyes*

*In Memory of Nancy Mendelsohn Feldman*

*In Honor of Vicky Rogers*

*In Honor of Rick Mortensen*

*In Honor of Ray Murray*

*In Honor of Jim McCormack*

*In Honor of Dr. Dick Williams*

*In Honor of Genevieve Martinez*

*In Honor of Keegan Alexander Rice*

**Given by Charlotte McCormack:**

*In Memory of James McCormack*



# OUR NEW LOOK

Same Wonderful Organization – Just a New Look!



We are excited to announce the launch of our new logo as part of the ongoing growth of Heartland International Ministries. Our ministry has grown and developed over the years, and we felt it was time for a change. We have refreshed our logo to reflect who we are today and to symbolize our future but our work and dedication to our mission has not altered.



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