



TOGETHER **IN** PRAYER

Global News from the World Mission Prayer League

“You only believe
the part of the Bible
you do.”

Rick Warren



Cooking for migrant workers

IN THE NAME OF JESUS... Neeraj and Nijhar Ekka, USA & India

During the COVID-19 pandemic, like many other countries when India suddenly imposed nationwide lockdown, this country with a population of 1.3 billion people came to a screeching halt. Millions of people were stranded in many places. Among the worst affected were migrant workers, who suddenly found themselves robbed of their only means of livelihood. For weeks they survived somehow, and when the lockdown was relaxed a bit, millions of migrants used any means possible to return to their villages. Many trains and buses arranged by the government were not enough for people returning mainly from big cities in the southern and western parts of India. Thus, some found delivery trucks to get to a certain point, and then they walked. Some rode their bicycles for thousands of miles; many others simply walked day and night for hundreds of miles.

As migrant workers – men, women and children – started pouring into Ranchi, some women in the outskirts of the city were curiously looking at them. These women were members of a local Lutheran church. They saw hungry, thirsty, scared and desperate people and families walking on the highway to their villages. Soon something happened. They felt a surge of compassion and three of them thought of the same thing: providing a meal for these people. When they collected food materials from different homes, they had 13-14 kilos of rice, a few kilos of dal (lentils), and some

vegetables. In front of them were hundreds of desperate people walking away hungry and thirsty.

Soon these women started cooking rice, lentils and vegetables. Some students from Ranchi Seminary joined their effort and mobilized prayer and resources for this ministry. Before long, other men, women and young adults from the church and community also came along to be part of this service to the hungry and thirsty in the name of Jesus Christ. Seeing this selfless service, the government officials invited the group to go to bus stands and railway stations to provide food for the migrant workers. Though the government was providing dry food such as bread, buns (a kind of fluffy bread), and fruits like bananas, etc., not all of the migrant workers received them. Since these people had not eaten a hot meal for weeks, they were overwhelmed to receive hot rice, dal and vegetables. Not only did these servants of Christ provide hot meals, they also helped to arrange transportation for many.

The Neighborhood Kitchen for migrant workers continued for 12 days. During this time the group received enough donations from ordinary believers, and even from non-believers, to provide hot meals and safe drinking water to more than 15,000 migrant workers. In addition, they also packed food for their onward journey. They also distributed several hundred masks, soaps and sanitary napkins. *(continued on page 2)*

TOGETHER IN CHRIST, PRAYER & GLOBAL MISSION

The World Mission Prayer League is a Lutheran community in the mission of God, numbering more than 6,000 praying members and more than 100 full-time workers in 20 countries around the world.

You can become a part of our community, too! Praying members receive this monthly newsletter – and an opportunity to join together in transforming the world through prayer. To become a member, visit us at wmpl.org/membership, or simply give us a call at 612.871.6843

IN THE NAME OF JESUS... (continued from page 1)

While they served they remembered what Jesus said in Matthew 25:35, “When I was hungry you gave me food, and when I was thirsty you gave me water...” and they felt blessed to be part of the ministry of the Neighborhood Kitchen.

This ministry was covered with prayer from beginning to end. We also had opportunities at the Prayer League to join them in prayer. We praise God for, as one leader of this ministry said, “God’s Church has left the building to come to the people in the street.” ■

You can watch a video of this ministry here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmKPbQpYklw&feature=youtu.be>



Grateful traveler

FOCUS ON UNREACHED PEOPLES: THE ISLANDERS*

Chris McWeeny, Home Office

He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. Psalm 18:19 NRS

My phone buzzes and I am delighted to see a message from my Island friend Farida, a new sister in Christ. Seeing her name triggers memories of her last visit with my husband Jason and me two months ago...

The back of my hand is wet with my own tears this morning as Farida sits beside me in the living room reading Scripture translated into her language. As a Bible translator, one of the most rewarding moments is when a seeker or new believer is granted spiritual wisdom to first understand and then personally embrace the Word in their own language – and it is so in this moment as my Island friend learns more about our heavenly Father.

Farida has come with her son Ammar to visit Jason and me at our home on the mainland. They’ve spent a week with us, participating in our daily lives and sharing with us something of themselves, too. We’ve had time in the Word together, time waiting at the rheumatologist’s office together, and time to pray together. Jason has spent time with Ammar walking from one motorcycle parts shop to another seeking solutions for his bike. We’ve watched Farida grow in Jesus, learning to walk step-by-step with him, and learning more each visit when she reviews our translation efforts which bring God’s Word into her heart language. Nevertheless, I am cognizant that she, and any other believer, face almost insurmountable obstacles to openly following Jesus back in their Island homeland. They let us know that life is more difficult there with the current government; injustice more common and people more afraid. Even Farida seems more fearful and less open than on some visits.

This morning Farida and I are reading through Psalm 18. As an opportunity to learn if we understand and will obey the passage, we each write it out in our own words, share these with each other, and talk about how we will apply what we have learned to everyday life. When my Island friend rotates her paper to show me her response, my eyes look upon a simple line drawing that brings tears to my eyes: a tiny vulnerable figure with dangling legs is being lifted out of danger by a huge hand. That simple sketch vividly portrays the Almighty hearing her call for help and powerfully lifting her from distress to a wide, safe place (v. 19). My Island friend and I are learning what a strong heavenly Father we have!



Stock photo

I blink at the quick recollection and swipe my thumb across the screen to open Farida’s message: “My dearest Alison, I have walked through a difficult situation this past week...” As I read on my concern turns to rejoicing. Farida has kept turning to the Father in this trial instead of allowing fear and anger to take control. I read that she has reached out to the Father and is learning to lean on his everlasting arms in this situation sooner than in past trials – a sign of growth and an answer to prayer.

Jason and I are here on his business visa. We live in a coastal city on the mainland where some Islanders live but also where many come across the sea to visit for medical needs, for business, or for study. We are the newest members of a small team involved in Bible translation into the Islander language, and we are beginning to see the harvest from the soil that others prepared and seeds others have faithfully sown. ■

PRAY for the 400,000 Muslim Islander people in South Asia

- May more Bible translators join the team to bring God’s Word into the Islander language. Jason and Alison may be the future answer to your prayers right now!
- Pray for Islanders who know the Savior, but have limited opportunity for teaching and fellowship. In their isolation, the enemy uses fear to challenge their faith. Ask that they would remember the One who helps us, and turn to the Almighty in every situation.
- Thank God for several Islanders willing to read and discuss translated drafts of the Word with a translator. Pray that those reading the Word would be drawn to faith in the Father.
- Ask God to enable workers on the Scripture App for iPhones to get past the hurdles so the 50% of Islanders who use Apple products instead of Android can also have access to the Word in their own language.
- Pray that God would so work that Islanders will hear, read and see the Word – and that their lives will be transformed through the powerful working of their Savior.

“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NAS

*Inspired by unpublished letter of WMPL fellow workers