

Dear friends in Christ, Greetings in His precious name. We hope and pray that you all are well and staying safe. We can feel the Lord's protection upon us as He has kept us safe and unharmed especially during the time.

Projects on campus:

There were several things here that we needed to get repaired and constructed. As you know, we communicated these needs to all of you and you responded generously. With the lockdowns and due to a shortage of masons and laborers, work is intermittent, however we have been able to work on two very important projects, the chapel restrooms and the boundary wall.

* Chapel Restrooms: A very dear friend gave the first amount for the restrooms and we started right away. These are now complete, and we are very thankful for this much-needed facility.



Boundary Wall: The other much-needed project was the security wall. The times are getting worse here and it was difficult to manage security issues without a wall around the campus. We feel relieved to have construction underway.



PANDEMIC UPDATE:

As of late, India has been in the news worldwide and we are hearing of the catastrophic condition and toll the covid pandemic is having on their population. We want to assure you the bible college is taking prudent precautions. They are quarantining at this point with only those leaving the premises for absolute necessity. As a whole, India is enforcing strict lockdowns, and thanks to our donors, this isolation is feasible for our families at the campus with the new boundary wall. We take time to recognize God's perfect timing of this provision. Projects and operations are going to continue as they can safely proceed.



Now we have two upcoming big projects, which are connected, literally! Those are of the cafeteria and kitchen. The projects will have to be worked on simultaneously. These will need skilled masons and laborers unlike for the restrooms and the security wall. Since we are standing at a crucial step concerning the mission right now, we need all your prayers for our government to be in favor of our work and to permit us to continue with this work. If so, we will start the construction work on these 2 projects as soon as we can.

Water Scarcity:

As every year, the underground water level has gone way down. The water that the government provides in town is for very short periods and will be available only a few days a week, twice a day for an hour each. There is news of fights over water on public water hand pumps. There is no water left on our campus either. Since April 1st, we are buying two tankers of water every day to provide for all the families on campus and for the construction work that is going on. It is a scary situation because this condition will become worse till the end of June, IF the monsoons arrive in time.



Good News in Difficult Times:

As Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer". All of us have been watching the news closely now for a year and it seems like we don't hear very positive or encouraging announcements.

At the same time, God's Word tells us to be strong and have patience because He has beautiful plans for the future of those who trust Him. Not that we haven't felt hopeless or discouraged in this past year, but the Scriptures have given us renewed strength and hope. Whenever we have talked to our parents in Cincinnati, they have always encouraged us, praised the work we do at this end, and applauded us for our efforts. That has always given us a renewed enthusiasm and zeal to continue in our walk.



Preschool Achievements:

We are so proud of our pre-school teacher, Mrs. Walter, who has been teaching these precious children since 2008. All the kids who graduate from there after 3 years are stars for us but we have 2 incredible stories out of which we have kept you posted off and on about one

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1. Samrat was born in 2008. The doctors had given up on him and he could not move even a finger by himself. He could only move his eyeballs to focus on objects. His parents asked if we would give permission to let him lay in one corner on a mat at our pre-school while the classes went on and they could go to their jobs for the day. We agreed to this. His parents would drop him off and pick him up later in the day. At first, Mrs. Walter would change his sides for him and talk to him at intervals. After all the kids were gone, she started to give more time to him, talking to

him, quoting Bible verses, and telling him Bible stories. She also started to massage his arms and legs regularly for long hours. After several months, he started responding by making noises and smiling at her!! This was a miracle for the parents. The story of recovery only got better from then on. Samrat went through 2 surgeries of his legs. One of our very dear friends in the US and the four of us helped with finances for the surgeries, and now he can walk with the help of a walker and can recite verse after verse from the Bible. Though his speech is not very clear, one can tell and follow which verse he is quoting. He is very excited to sing choruses and take part in other Sunday school activities. At present, he is in a bigger city, Bilaspur for physical therapy sessions. We praise God for His miracle and the progress story of Samrat.



2. Nayan Walter- Nayan is not related to the teacher, Mrs. Walter, though has the same last name. She has a medical condition called cerebral palsy, so she is a special needs child. She was born in 2010 and even though her parents thought that she would never be able to attend any sort of educational institution, Mr. and Mrs. Walter suggested sending her to our pre-school, to Nayan's grandfather who was an elder and active member of the church. They started sending her to our pre-school in 2015. Mrs. Walter started to pay extra attention towards Nayan and saw that she had more control over her feet and could use them, so she had her hold a pencil with her toes and gave her a notebook. It was very difficult at first, but now Nayan can write all the alphabets in Hindi and English and all the numbers. She can solve math problems and write small sentences. She loves to draw. Recently, she participated in the county's drawing competition and won the 2nd prize. This was a time of rejoicing for the whole family and for the pre-school. We are so proud and



happy for both Samrat and Nayan and thank God for His miracles in their lives.

A Loss :

We are sad to inform you that the senior pastor at Marwahi, Mr. Eric Walter (husband of the pre-school teacher, Mrs. Walter) passed away of Covid on November 22, 2020. He worked with us from 1985 till his death. Please pray for the bereaved family. Their older son, Abhay is our former graduate of 2008 and has been working with us ever since. Now he is taking care of his father's responsibilities too.

Apart from all these adverse things going on around us, the Lord has been gracious and caring. Hopefully, the stories of these children will bring a smile to your faces, and may you feel the greatness and awesomeness of the Almighty. We are very thankful for His provisions including our Christian friends whose love, prayers, and support keep us moving forward. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and know we pray for you all and thank God for all of you in our daily prayers. The fact is that it is the least we can do for each other and at the same time, it is the most!!

In His service –

Jay and Romola, Ernest and Numreta