

Dear friends in Christ, Greetings from Damoh, India. It's been very hot and humid here in India since the monsoon season came earlier this year!! The rains caused the temperatures to go down, but the humidity is terrible and the power outages (blackouts), makes things worse! The COVID 19 cases are increasing fast everywhere. It has been difficult for the government to manage because of the uncertainty of this pandemic. We continue to pray for all of you, for His safety and protection to guard you. We request you all to continue to keep us in your prayers as well.

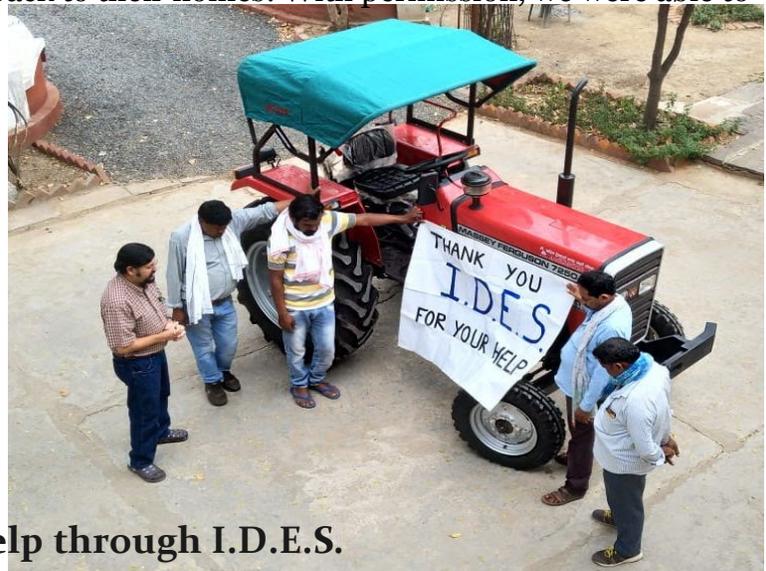
Amid the pandemic, our students faced several challenges returning home.

3 of our Meghalaya (Northeast) students were given special permission from their state and were able to go back to their homes. We have 21 students from Arunachal Pradesh, the farthest state on the Eastern part of India. The Journey is incredibly long and difficult to get there. We sent a request to their political leader to arrange for them to travel back to their home. The students were eventually given financial aid for their travel. Some students had to leave early and were placed into a quarantine while others were sent back due to illness. The remaining 15 students left on June 30th and we pray that they reach home safely. We still have students from 4 India states including Nepal. The relations with Nepal are not so good now, so we don't know when 14 of our students will be able to go back to their homes! With permission, we were able to transport one student back to her village by car.



A blessing

We were in dire need of a tractor and we requested I.D.E.S. to help us out. We are so grateful to them for providing us with the funds to get a nice tractor. Ernest was able to purchase it and we could use it soon after the purchase. A big thank you to our partners in Christ who are always there to help us out in difficult situations.



Help through I.D.E.S. during the lockdown to villages

Our partners, I.D.E.S. provided help to us so that we could distribute several food items, among other necessary items to this village. Ernest and his team did a survey and found out that there are 55 families in this small village. They were in dire need of food items as they are mostly milkmen, farmers, and daily wage laborers. Because of the lockdown, the doors of their earnings were closed. We were able to help them with rice, wheat flour, lentils, sugar, tea leaves, cooking oil, salt, and several spices. We also educated them about the precautions they have to take during this difficult time and taught them the importance of washing hands and the use of masks and sanitizers. We distributed masks and sanitizers to everyone. They also got to know about the love of Christ, which is free for everyone.





The disastrous locusts

The locusts have been extremely heavy this year causing destruction and destroying thousands of farmers' crops in different parts of India. In June, for the first time in Damoh we got to witness millions of locust that stayed in one location for about one hour. We didn't have any firecrackers or loud instruments to run them away but we were able to use our kitchen utensils and bed sheets to chase them away. One of our local farmers told the reporters that the locust are proving to cause great loss and are concerned on how they will be able to make up for all their losses. Only time will tell how much of a loss our farmers will have to suffer!

God opened doors

As you all know; all of our 64 students were stuck here because of the lockdown in our area as well as in other states. We were able to send 15 of our students of an adjacent state in our bus with special permission from the mayor of Damoh and also from the mayor of Chattisgarh. Some of them had to be in quarantine centers for 15 days before they could go home. One of our students was found positive of the Coronavirus and had to be sent to a bigger city hospital for treatment. We are so thankful to God that he recovered and was sent home a couple of weeks ago.

Help to a village

Ernest and his team found out about a small village of 32 families who had no means to feed their families. The package that we helped them with, should suffice for at least a couple of months. They were also supplied with mask and sanitizers . They were very grateful for all the help and the opportunity to hear the Gospel. We are very thankful to I.D.E.S., who always steps in at our time of need and able to

Floods

As we mentioned earlier, the monsoons came sooner this year. Last year, they came to our area by mid-July, but this year they started in June. Some states of India have already faced life-threatening floods and landslides, especially in the North-eastern hilly states. In our area: During the summer, the heat was so high that it caused cracks on the concrete roofs in some of our campus buildings. Our staff families live in these buildings and some have small children and some have their old parents also along with little children. After the summer, the very heavy rains came down all of a sudden, earlier than expected. The cracks on the roofs leaked so bad that the families had no rooms that were not leaking. It was hard to find a corner where they could sleep or even cook in the kitchen. So, we had to get the roofs repaired under an emergency.

At a glance:

- * Ernest is still holding different offices in our guest room.
- * Our faithful worker, Gannu was saved from a poisonous snake that crawled over his foot!
- * The fishermen tell us that there are no big fish left in lakes nearby! Until next month, please take good care of yourselves, stay safe, and know that we are praying for you. Please keep us in your prayers as well, as our small town went from being in the green zone to the red zone (from the Coronavirus). We would not be able to continue this work without your partnership.

HEAR A MESSAGE FROM JAY HENRY

Jay Henry has recorded a video message for you. All you need to do is give us your email address and we will send it to you.

You can do this by either visiting our website

www.BethlehemLivingWater.com

and clicking the **UPDATE PROFILE** button

OR email:

info@bethlehemlivingwater.com

to let us know you'd like the link for the video to be emailed to you.



May God bless you all. In His service, Jay, Romola, Ernest, and Numreta.