



***New India Evangelistic Association, Inc.***

**305 Old Ashby Ridge Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104**

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## **Newsletter June Update 2021**



**Salvation will surround you like city walls, and praise will be on the lips of all who enter there  
(Isa 60:18 NLT)**

Dear friends and family,

Warm Greetings in Jesus' name! We are just emerging from a devastating and tragic few months for our beloved nation, India. We recorded a high of 414,000 daily positive tests and 6,148 daily deaths due to Covid recently. 119,189 died in May alone, of the 381,903 deaths recorded in the nation thus far, since the epidemic started. In Bihar State alone, 28,060 beds were set apart to treat covid patients in government and private hospitals, which saw almost 100% occupancy for the past six to eight weeks.

At the writing of this note, 15.4% of India's population have received at least 1 dose of the C-19 vaccine, and only 3.5% are fully vaccinated with 2 doses. Stats indicate that 9.6% of the global population are fully vaccinated, with the UK leading at 45.7% and the US at 44.6%

Since March, at our community hospital in Bihar we have served 1,669 patients and recorded 10 deaths as the hospital team has worked tirelessly day and night. The tragedy of the 2nd Covid wave has been the incidence of infection in several members of each family at the same time. This has led to resurgent numbers nationally, tragic scenes of non-stop funeral pyre burnings and in some areas unidentified bodies thrown into lakes and rivers by terrified relatives.

Without doubt this could be termed as India's darkest moment; weeks of unabated suffering which has left in her wake - death, disease and despondency across the land.

Even as we emerge from a scathing public health pandemic, questions of existence arise; especially from within the unorganized and unskilled labor sector of the population, where means for livelihood have been significantly curtailed.

Sadly, the possibility of a 3rd wave is the talk now, with a focus on vulnerable parts of the population, especially children. We are busy considering solutions focusing on current national healthcare priorities.



H. Khatoon, aged 41 was wheeled out of the Critical Care Unit yesterday. This was the first time since admission 21 days ago, that she had the strength to be wheeled out, sit in the open verandah, see the sky, behold the garden...and attempt a weak smile!

10 days into her illness, unfortunately she suffered cardiac complications and for several days following, she struggled to breathe, tolerate the all-to-frequent chest pain and to overcome.

As she looked at the camera this morning, a smile was on her lips as she weakly managed a few syllables which meant the world to her ...."when can I go home?"

We are confident that with joy and praise to her Creator, she will soon walk home stronger and healthy!

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Our context today in India comprises of **four** cardinal concerns - a catastrophic second wave of C-19 (*with 400,000+ new cases per day*), acute shortage of basic and life saving facilities/personnel (*such as oxygen, ICU beds, medicines, vaccines and health care staff*) urgent need to scale up production and supply of health care solutions (*to tackle exponential rise that needs medical support*), and the preparation for subsequent waves of COVID-19 (*by building rapid surge capacity for prevention, detection and treatment - including care in institutions or home-based settings*)

The next days will be spent on aligning ourselves towards greater preparedness, focusing on oxygen supply, health care infrastructure, vaccine supply and delivery, medical devices, personal protective equipment, training and capacity building for health workers, and Information, Education and Communication for behavior change.

Up to a dozen of our health staff who provided care for C-19 patients tested positive recently and have ALL recovered well. We thank you for your prayers, good wishes and constant support, and encouragement over the past weeks and months. Having provided over two million meals to the needy, rations and financial assistance to well over five thousand families and individuals have all been meaningful and greatly appreciated. In the next weeks, we will serve our communities again with a sixth cycle of food, vitamins/hygiene kits and also direct bank transfers to the most needy and vulnerable.

We still have a battle at hand, but must **Press On!**

Gratefully yours,

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