



New India Evangelistic Association, Inc.

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Newsletter Summer 2020

What's Happening in Bihar, India for Covid-19 Response!



Dear friends,

Warm Greetings in Jesus' name! Our lives, just like millions and millions of people, have been profoundly changed since the covid-19 global pandemic erupted. The end of March and much of April were spent *adjusting* to the realities of a nation-wide lockdown, restrictions in movement and return of children and staff to their home towns and villages. Month of May saw several interventions to help the needy at different levels, with food packets, finances and health services and more. It has been about 85 days since this “*new normal*” has descended on us....and we find ourselves as unsettled as before; cautious in our work and yet courageously facing the future.

Relief

One of our first activities was putting together relief packets each worth US\$25 for about 1,250 families with enough to feed a family of six for a month. All put together with the total rice and wheat procured and distributed, there was enough food material for 450,000 meals! Besides this, assisting and helping girls and women with hygiene supplies, and enough soap for a few weeks formed part of these relief packets. In most of our delivery spots, health programming was also done on the needed individual care during this time, and over 5,500 beneficiaries have been assisted. Masks have been made on site, gloves and PPE procured for the hospital staff and medical services have continued since Day 1. At the writing of this letter, we are making plans to have the 2nd cycle of another 1,250 relief packets readied and this multiplies the overall impact, service and love provided by NIEA staff in different communities in north India primarily.



Financial support to gospel workers stranded at home during the first eight weeks was provided, with over 125 additional families on two occasions. A 14-page booklet on health awareness with some Do's and Don't have been prepared in 10 different languages and distributed widely among thousands of our contacts and associates in these language communities and hundreds of churches. As we feel that the peak in India is yet into the future, our efforts to help, serve, bless and encourage various communities continues uninterrupted.

Readjustments

We have been able to upskill our Bible school faculty and develop an online platform for digital learning by current and future students. This is an incredible opportunity to manage the present situation due to lack of residential study opportunities. Dozens of our churches now meet online and pastors are encouraged to connect with prayer groups and church members digitally, even in rural and interior villages. Children in village schools are now being encouraged to study at home, as tutors visit them; while senior children of our children's homes will soon return for online classes as public board exams are likely to be slated for Mar-Apr 2021. Translation teams continue to be on the go, developing their products, connecting with churches and are attempting to reach about 70% of their overall project pre-covid goals.

The Board of NIEA have met almost every fortnight to discuss and dialogue on the various issues emerging as a result of this situation. Staff welfare issues, relief and re-design of course and programs of NIEA, sharing of prayer needs have been a tremendous source of encouragement. May 24th was our first NIEA Day of Prayer during this pandemic for field associates from across India; and 28th of June was the 2nd Day of Prayer for the ministry.

Renewal

This time has given us ample opportunity to reconsider all that we are doing and the things we are spending our lives for. It has caused us to be sharper, consider the temporary nature of things around us, and commit to build deeper and with far reaching impact. Even as Laly coordinates online classes for teachers and students who never ever had such a need or opportunity, it has been both challenging and fun! Alex has been busy at the hospital (and serving the wider ministry outreaches) besides providing encouragement to a team of about 40 health care workers who are on the fore-front of this silent and invisible war.

Our next lap of the race is going to be better; it is going to be more intentional and carefully re-drawn.

As we carefully continue in this walk of faith, do pray for us and the hundreds of colleagues, pastors and team members of the NIEA serving in over ten states of India and beyond into Nepal as well.

Let us be *"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame..."* (Heb 12:2)

Your financial support at this time is very important.

Blessings,



With Christian love and warmest regards,

Dr Alexander Philip,
Executive Director, NIEA – India.