

WINTER 2016

God Is Never Late: Irwan's Story

UNDERSTANDING THE PEOPLE WE SERVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Untimely deaths are all too common on the impoverished islands off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. A villager named Irwan grew up with this bleak realization until a timely exception: his family experienced the hope of Christ through those serving him.

A fisherman by trade, Irwan and his wife Idermawati enjoyed a simple life with three young children. However, after their third child was born, Idermawati began experiencing severe headaches and seizures. Weeks passed and her condition worsened. Visiting the village shaman, or traditional healer, did not help. Desperate, they traveled to another island's shaman, but returned more helpless and poor than before. Idermawati's

seizures became more frequent and often left her unconscious. Irwan cried out to God to help his wife. Days later, instead of a miracle, Idermawati became febrile, started seizing, and remained unconscious. Irwan cried at the overwhelmingly hopeless situation while family prepared for her death.

As time was running out, Irwan heard of a doctor from the mobile clinic conducting exams nearby. Immediately, Irwan begged the physician to come to his house. He came and diagnosed Idermawati with epilepsy. She received an injection to stop her seizures, in spite of the island belief that injections are taboo. The doctor was their last chance, so Irwan allowed him to treat her and transport her many hours away to a larger island's hospital. The village people told Irwan to let her die on their island, but Irwan refused to

continued inside

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...
Colossians 3:17

Welcome to our New Newsletter

Now that World Relief has merged with Mission Committee and has become known as Apostolic Christian HarvestCall, you'll be getting mailings under the HarvestCall name. We look forward to continuing to let you know what the Lord is doing around the world through your contributions and participation, with periodic newsletters and Emails (if you are not on our Email list, please sign up at harvestcall.org.) Thanks for your faithful support as we continue to work through the integration from two organizations into one.



Patient being examined during mobile clinic



Approaching an island/village to set up the clinic

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me. ..." Matthew 25:35,36

Lifting Up Lives through Lifeline

A faithful elderly widow whose meager surroundings were destroyed by an earthquake struggled to find shelter under a ragged tarp stretched over rubble and debris. This was her only home. Her testimony to several brothers assessing the situation was "sometimes when it rains I get wet and sometimes in the sun I get hot. But I know that God will take care of me... And I know that God will take care of you."

A destitute young woman tried desperately to raise three young children, even resorting to selling herself, and sickness and death followed. These precious orphaned children were left alone, with needs to be met along with an opportunity to fill them. They now reside in a home for the orphaned supported by a loving church family.

These are two actual stories of lives that were touched by the ministry of Lifeline, a HarvestCall program in eastern Haiti. Working closely with the Bethel Church of God, Lifeline supports many humanitarian aid efforts in Dumay, Haiti, including food, shelter, school, and medical needs.



Dumay children

Providing Shelter

Even prior to the 2010 earthquake, many Haitians lived in make-shift homes consisting of whatever materials they could find. This situation grew worse in the aftermath of the earthquake. Lifeline has been building small homes for those affected by the earthquake and others in need.

Approximately 10 homes are funded and built annually by HarvestCall volunteers willing to travel to Haiti on construction work teams each winter. In addition, a basic dwelling place for orphaned children has been built in the Dumay compound.

Providing Food

Many residents in the Dumay neighborhood are undernourished. Approximately 250 children rely on the Lifeline feeding program of a daily meal of rice and pinto beans as a main source of nutrition.

Providing Education

Education gives children a brighter hope for the future and helps break the cycle of poverty. Up to 300 students, ages 3 to 14, attend the Bethel School of Dumay. They could not afford other schooling and some walk over an hour to school from the surrounding mountainside. The students each receive a meal as part of the educational program. In addition to teaching the typical curriculum of reading, math, science, and language, children are taught the word of God. Some Haitian students at the school in Dumay are sponsored through the HarvestCall Child Sponsorship Program. HarvestCall also supplies school kits, soap, clothing, rice, and beans.



Providing Medical Care

A small medical clinic in Dumay provides medical treatment to those in need with the assistance of caring medical teams. HarvestCall is instrumental in supplying medical kits for this effort. A medical team has been available at this facility for one week every two months. The Lifeline committee is prayerfully considering the

expansion of this care with both American and Haitian doctors in the future, as the Lord leads and funding allows.



Bro. Paul Zimmerman with orphaned young people living in Dumay

Knowing the Cross of Christ:

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" 2 Timothy 2:2

While there is a great need for humanitarian aid, it has no lasting value if the spiritual needs are ignored. Lifeline is also active in the important work of teaching sound biblical doctrine to pastors of the Bethel Church of God in Haiti. This congregation has expressed much interest in the doctrine and practices of the Apostolic Christian Church and has requested ministers of the Apostolic Christian Church to speak at their pastoral conference on a variety of spiritual topics. After careful consideration, the Mission Committee approved this request and provided financial support.

The conferences are hosted by Lifeline and now funded by HarvestCall. They are attended by many of the pastors from the 125 churches scattered throughout Haiti. Pastors travel up to twelve hours to attend the conferences, by foot, bus, or Haitian tap-taps. In addition to helping pastors increase their spiritual understanding, these events provide an environment where pastors are lifted up and encouraged in their service of helping souls find salvation through Jesus and the sacrifice He paid on the cross.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Pray for the work at Lifeline.

Support the ministry financially.

Consider joining a work team. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed. Schedules are published in the *Silver Lining* and HarvestCall website, along with team coordinator contacts.

Consider sponsoring a child to give them an educational opportunity through the HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program.

Support the ministry with local congregation projects assembling school and medical kits.

For additional information, contact:
Bro. Paul Zimmerman
(815) 692-2173, p Allan2@frontier.com

Reaching the lost through medical services in India



Devanand Sonawane (Patient Assistant) and Dr. Ashwin Parkhe

Sharing the good news of God's Word is the primary goal of The Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India (RGMMI), which receives financial support from HarvestCall. Sharing the good news is done in many ways. One way is the medical arm of the mission and the Dayaa Hospital in Nashik. The hospital began as a humble dispensary in 1971 and served the poor with medical needs, including upper respiratory tract infections, and water borne and airborne diseases. For many years, care and treatment were dispensed with the love of Christ and the light of his Word.

Over 30 years later, expansion was needed and the upgrade came in 2009 when the facility was renovated and reclassified as a Trauma unit. At that time, orthopedic and other emergency medical services became available to people in the Nashik area as well as the peripheral villages. Since regular trauma centers are quite expensive in India, the charitable services of the RGMMI sponsored Dayaa Hospital are very much appreciated.



USA visitors with RGMMI Nashik, India church family

Dayaa Hospital is headed by Dr. Ashwin Parkhe, an orthopedic surgeon and his team, consisting of one medical officer, two nurses, and three ward-aids and patient assistants. Most of the team are Christians and all, including non-Christians, attend the nearby church worship services. Morning devotions are held before the start of each work day. In this way, the primary goal of the mission is encouraged and upheld.

In recent months, a Patient Assistant named Jebeld, came with a repentant

heart, confessing the need for a Savior, Jesus Christ. Jebeld had come to RGMMI from a tribal village located over 800 miles from Nashik. He was attracted to the RGMMI vocational training program and the medical services of the mission. He first enrolled in the vocational electrical program and graduated with



RGMMI Silver Woods English Medium School



Update

WINTER 2016

Opportunities to Serve at Home & Abroad



Morning prayers with staff and patients

distinction. Jebeld's desire was to serve people in a Christian environment and he approached our mission pastor, Dr. Surendra Parkhe, for assistance and guidance in his next steps. After taking basic first-aid and a medical care course, he was employed as a Patient Assistant.

Before coming to the mission, Jebeld did not know how to pray, had never seen a Bible, and was not familiar with any hymn of praise or a worship service. Since coming to know his Savior, Jebeld is now an ardent Bible reader, praying frequently as he is inspired. Jebeld's humble attitude and obedience to God's word is appreciated by the RGMMI staff. His loving countenance is a good witness to patients and their relatives that spend time at the hospital. And, Jebeld's change of heart and love of Christ will follow him back to his family far away when he visits there as well!

Dayaa Hospital plays a significant role in this area of India. Jebeld is just one of many examples of how this medical arm of RGMMI is helping the propagation of spiritual awareness through medical assistance and sharing the gospel in word and deed.

Helping Victims of Flood and Fire

REBUILDING IN BASTROP, TX THIS WINTER

Since May of 2015, Bastrop County, Texas has experienced two floods and a wildfire. The first flood came at the end of May – the wettest 30-day period on record. Large areas of Texas and Oklahoma experienced flooding during this period. More than two dozen lives were lost across the Lone Star State. In mid-October, following a hot dry summer, a wildfire burned through the Hidden Pines area of Bastrop destroying more than sixty homes and charring 4600 acres. Fortunately, no lives were lost as a result of this fire. Once again – near the end of October – severe flooding struck the area for a second time in just five months. A total of more than 14 inches of rain was recorded at the Austin airport over a twenty-four-hour period with nearly six inches recorded during the 9-10 AM hour. Rivers and streams throughout the area overflowed their banks causing severe damage to hundreds of homes and in some cases total destruction. Hundreds of families were displaced from their homes.

The Bastrop County Long Term Recovery Team has been working tirelessly to identify families who are unable to recover on their own. Both of

continued on back





No place to dock at this island, so team and medical supplies were loaded on smaller boats and brought in

Irwan's Story

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

listen. Idermawati received immediate medical attention and care and recovered at the hospital. Now, a daily medication keeps her seizure-free and able to care for her family. Irwan praises God for helping; saying God's timing is never late. The couple believes God has given Idermawati a new life.



Idermawati

Unlike many islanders, Irwan's story ends well. But, nutrition and sanitation are poor, and shamans attempting medical treatments often do more harm than good. As a result, quality of life can be poor and the death rate higher than average. The approximately 27,000 inhabitants in the surrounding islands grossly outnumber the few local medical providers available. HarvestCall provides funding to both the local hospital and the Tello Mobile Clinic, a boat-based Christian outreach clinic that serves the neighboring islands. Medical exams and health education is provided free of charge to families like Irwan's. The Good News is also shared with each visit to a village. Irwan's faith in the true God began and grew through his family's tragedy and the same is happening to others. Although far apart, we have an incredible opportunity to support these people through prayer. Pray for the Indonesian medical personnel as they work to improve physical conditions and care for those in spiritual darkness. Also, please prayerfully consider



Dental education for children



Health Education before the clinic, held inside the village head's home

A nearby school classroom is used to teach villagers about basic hygiene, sanitation, breastfeeding, etc.



supporting HarvestCall in sponsoring the mobile clinics/hospital. Your contribution would help treat conditions

like Idermawati's epilepsy. What a privilege we have to pray for and support our fellow Christians across the world!

Come help victims of flood and fire

Rebuilding in Bastrop, TX

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

the flood events received FEMA declarations which mean that federal money is being paid to assist families in their recovery. While these funds are helpful, they are often not sufficient to cover the full cost of rebuilding or repairing the damaged and destroyed homes. This is where Apostolic Christian HarvestCall is able to offer assistance with material costs and volunteer labor. Additionally, we want to direct hurting families to the Rock of Ages, our best refuge and shelter in the time of storm. Our aim is not only to meet their

rebuild. Christ's love will be shared with hurting hearts as we serve them in His name. We have the opportunity to be His hands and feet as we minister to those whose lives have been turned upside down resulting in hopelessness, frustration and despair. They need to know that we care and most importantly that God cares.

Beginning on February 7th thirty volunteers are needed each week to serve in this rebuilding ministry. Both skilled tradesmen and unskilled workers are needed. There is an opportunity

for every willing heart to serve in this ministry. Volunteers will be housed at Trail's End Ranch in Red Rock, Texas

which is approximately 30 minutes south of Bastrop. There are accommodations for both men and women in numerous bunk houses; each equipped with bunks, showers and toilets. Additional RV hookups are also



Volunteers can stay in bunk houses at the ranch

physical needs but also their spiritual needs. On the day this article was being written, the Long Term Recovery Team discovered a family of five who are living in tents on the site of their burned out home. This family needs our help.

In early February volunteers will begin ministering to the needs of families impacted by these natural disasters. Damaged houses will be repaired and destroyed houses will be



STAY CONNECTED | Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.

Stay in touch with email updates | Go to the HarvestCall website (www.harvestcall.org) and select "Join our email list" on the home page. Enter your email address.

Free newsletter | We will mail an Update newsletter four to five times a year with recent news regarding HarvestCall ministry programs and how to be involved.

HELP FINANCIALLY | If you prefer your donation is used where most needed, indicate General Fund. If you feel moved to support a specific project, include the name of the project. If donations are greater than the need for any specific project, they will be used in the General Fund where most needed.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

Apostolic Christian HarvestCall
PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:

www.harvestcall.org/donate



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