

Thank you!

We received your check of support for COVID-19 and flood relief on August 28th. By September 20th, all \$20,000 has been put in the hands of our local leaders in South Asia and food distributions fed a total of 672 families in a village in Bihar India, four villages in Bangladesh, and seven areas in Kashmir. That is about 3360 men, women, and children fed for a few weeks, as well as receiving longer lasting hygiene items. Below are updates from our three head pastors who organized the programs. For their safety, we've changed their names and taken out specific locations.

These updates give thanks and a picture of the immediate impact of the food distributions. The long term physical and spiritual impact has of course just begun!

Pastor Suraj in Bihar, India:

“First of all, I whole heartedly THANK you for your gift to Harvest Bridge which is opening doors for the flood victims of North Bihar to be able to provide relief in forms of dry food ration packets, including sanitizing items during this natural calamity of flood + COVID-19.

With the given funds of \$3000, on 10 September 2020 100 big food packets were prepared and transported by a truck to 250 KM [155 miles] far from Patna [capital city] and distributed among the flood victims and the neediest people in a village in North Bihar in the Kosi River Region. The packets were distributed among 100 needy and selected families, averaging each having two adults and 2-3 children and thus benefitting about 450 people. This has been a great relief to the benefitting families.

The beneficiaries were the flood victims, agricultural workers, old people, widows, farmers, unemployed etc. Mostly from Dalit caste [also known as “untouchables”]. I noticed about 10 people handicapped among the beneficiaries and mostly with weak bodies and saddened faces. The food ration distribution, in such a flood and pandemic situation, has brought some relief and smiles to the beneficiaries.

There is actually great need of such relief projects in Bihar as the population of flood victims and the needy people is huge and people are facing financial crisis due to loss of work and income during this dual crisis of flood and COVID.

We had one local church contact there and he with his people volunteered in distributions and it helped in safe and smooth execution. There has been a great spiritual impact too of the program on the benefitting families and communities. Actually, from the beginning of the project we were giving the importance on spiritual impact and also on smooth distributions to the right people and so we selected this village where we already had one Christian believer to help in execution and for spiritual follow up.

A bouquet of THANKS and Heartiest APPRECIATION for this great support and prayers towards Bihar Flood + COVID-19 Relief. This was indeed a great help and relief during this crisis time. Everybody, including local leaders of the village, volunteers and beneficiaries have expressed their immense gratitude towards the donors.”

Pastor Darpan in Bangladesh:

“Greetings in His precious name. As COVID-19 and the worst flooding in 30 years are side by side in Bangladesh, it is the very worst time for people. People think Allah is sending the chaos. Thank you very much that you are taking care of Bangladesh and thinking of how God will be more glorified here by these blessings.

The food distributions went very well. We organized the distribution program in a total of four centers with 355 families [about 1775 people]. The flood victims stood in line to receive their food. We stamped each recipients thumb to make sure everyone got their packets. With their local god’s idol next to them, we prayed and gave thanks to the Lord for the commodities He provided for them. They left happily with their food. They left with joy from getting their relief goods.

Pray for the pandemic to be removed from Bangladesh and from the world. Already Christians I know have died. Now the cold is coming. In north Bangladesh it is very bad. Pray for safety. Pray for the new flooding in many parts of the country.

Pray for the missionaries living in remote areas. They are continuing to go to the field while working to keep themselves and others safe; they keep going out because they feel the Spirit is working.

I am so happy I have Holy Hearted people like you to stand with us. Thank you!”

Pastor Peter and sister Sarah in Kashmir:

*“Let the beauty of Jesus Christ be seen in us,
All His wondrous compassion and purity.
Oh Thou Spirit divine all our nature refine,
till the beauty of Jesus be seen in us.....”*

To the prayer partners in Christ,

I greet you in the name Lord Jesus Christ!!!!

As God carries out His work in Kashmir valley through His redeemed people, individuals and communities who respond to His call become His co-workers in Christ.

We in Kashmir are not to be called by God to cross boundaries to be a witness in a pioneering situation, but we are involved in accelerating God's work in unreached places in our home. Apostle Paul realised the importance of this in his ministry, he knew in God's redemption plan. His task was to take the Gospel to the gentiles. We are following our own task.

We had this big task for about 200 families (approximately) - to reach them. We had this opportunity to open the doors to the places by distributing the food items for the most poor and needy peoples of the community living in Kashmir Valley.

Thanks,
Pastor Peter”

“In the first colony they are Sunni Muslims and this community is suffering from the past August 5th, 2019 when our Jammu and Kashmir state became union territory of India. They are boat drivers and when tourists visit Kashmir they get their livelihood. We have reached these families of this community and distributed rations to around 28 families. The Lord who has promised thus, is sufficient to wipe away the tears of everyone who looks up to Him

with faith in spite of their sorrowful situation and would grant them His divine peace and Joy.

In the next colony, they are Sunni Muslim (Sufi). The people of this community are very poor and needy. They are sweepers and live under below the poverty line. We have touched about 35 families. Their head leader gives thanks.

In the third place, this community is a mixed community. To those who were needy we provided food items to 59 families which were Sunni Muslim, Christians, migrant workers, Hindus, etc.

We are thankful to God for your support for this relief to open doors for the these people to hear the Gospel. Like the transformation of a piece of paper into cash, which is more valuable than its old nature, God has transformed our old nature to be a holy one as He has given His only begotten son as a sacrifice and sent his Holy Spirit to guide everyone who believes in Him.

In the fourth colony we have distributed rations to 12 families (Muslim, Christians, and Sikhs). Here people of different religions stay happily.

In the fifth place, this community are Sunni Sufi Pahari Muslims. They speak languages like Pahari, Punjabi, Kashmiri, and Urdu and have lived here from the 19th century (times of Maharaja, Kings Rule). They are isolated but need the care and love of Christ. We have distributed rations to 23 families.

In the sixth area, this community is Sunni Muslim, speaking Pahari language. Some Christian families were here who spoke Kashmiri, Urdu, Pahari and English language. We distributed rations to 42 families here. The families who received help was very happy. While distributing the COVID-19 relief to the families the head man, Mr. Salim, said thanks to the people who gave us a help in the time of pain and sorrow.

A nomad is a member of a community without fixed habitation which regularly moves to and from the same areas. Here they are called as Gujars. We found them on the way to Baramulla, and decided to distribute some rations to 18 families.

Sister Surah”