

LONGKUMER UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear Friends,

We pray this finds you all experiencing the grace and goodness of God as you settle into the routines that return with fall. This newsletter has taken varied forms with many restarts as world events develop and change so rapidly. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have suffered flooding and damage from Hurricane Harvey. Globally we see similar suffering as China has been hit by consecutive tropical storms and typhoons. Here in India many are still reeling from the monsoon floods that have crossed the nation. Last week Mumbai and Bihar made international news reports with widespread flooding that closed down the financial capitol. Since July North East India has been experiencing the worst floods in 30 years. In our town of Dimapur many homes (not ours) were briefly under



4-5 feet of water and the state of Manipur has had extensive damage with 39 villages underwater affecting over 19,000 people with 19 lives lost. International Ministries has now directed relief aid through the Manipur Baptist Convention to assist in the recovery. The NEI state of Assam has suffered the most with 3186 villages damaged, impacting nearly 450,000 people in 25 districts. At one point there were nearly 200,000 people in 439 relief camps. As of today, Sept 5, there are only 6,580 people in 19 relief camps, but 158 people

"Aug. 18, 2017 photo, the carcass of a tiger lies in floodwaters at the Bagori range inside Kaziranga National Park"



have perished. Not only humans have suffered. The Kaziranga National Park, home to the endangered one-horned rhino is reported to have been 85% covered by flood waters that have claimed a death toll of 327 including a Bengal tiger, 15 rhinos, 7 rhino calves, 4 elephants and 200 deer. The waters are beginning to recede in many areas but the deluge third wave of floods in the region. These half, as well as closing roads. This of course Dimapur were running out of stock of some only resort for most. Sadly, the airlines were God's grace and comfort for those on both and reestablishment. Here, many are literally left with nothing as their humble bamboo and mud homes were destroyed.

"For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

Romans 8:22

continues, now bringing the floods have brought the lifeline of India, the railways, to a disrupts the flow of essential goods. Many pharmacies in medications. Travel is disrupted with air travel being the hiking fares in many of those localities. Please pray for sides of the globe facing the daunting task of recovery

Thank You for PARTNERING in PRAYER

We now serve as Country Co-coordinators for India so we cover a much broader area including our partners in 5 states of North East India as well as an additional 5 states in mainland India, requiring much more time on the road and in the air! We're now on our third multi-state, two week journey this year. It is a privilege to be involved in the amazing work God is doing among incredibly diverse groups of people. We are working to bring these partners together again in 2019 for an India Baptist Summit in continuation of the initial 2014 India Mission Summit. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS for God's grace, strength and health enabling us to keep up the pace of travel and ministry.



BRIDGE BUILDING in HONG KONG

In June we were honored to participate as lecturers in the very first CPBC International Missions Conference held in Hong Kong We gathered with 130 church and lay leaders from the Philippines to explore the challenge and call to global mission. We spoke on "The Need for, Challenges and Rewards of Partnership in Mission". The papers by all the presenters dove-tailed into a message honed by the Holy Spirit to mobilize the CPBC further in their response to international mission ventures. We are excited at the prospects discussed regarding partnership in mission between the CPBC and our India Church Partners on many fronts. We have been requested to present our teaching in the 2018 CPBC Biennial Gathering to impart the mission vision to more of the Church leaders.

Ministry with BANJARA in Telegana

OXEN CART PARADES

PREACHING

PRAYERS for the Sick



The Banjara is a tribal group in South India, also called gypsies. They are an unreached people group as the majority of their 60 million population have never heard the Gospel of Christ Jesus. The area in which our partners are working have 6000 Banjara villages, with just over 200 churches and many house fellowships. We were privileged to dedicate a new church building for one of these congregations. After several hours journey to the remote village, we suddenly halted and coaxed our creaking joints, stiff from the cramped long ride, to climb upon a very rustic oxen cart (in a wrap-around long tribal skirt that was a challenge to do decently). We were paraded into and through the village to the church site, where we prayed, cut the ribbon and celebrated in worship, song, dance and proclamation of the Word. The service was followed by a time of prayer for individuals and a feast of freshly slaughtered goat. The church had invited the entire village to celebrate with them in a community feast. What a witness, to invite those who had worked for years disrupting the church's efforts to construct the building. We trust God will continue to multiply that work.

PRAISE & PRAYER

We were so blessed to spend two weeks in the US this summer visiting Katie's family, spending time with all our children and being amazed and amused by our darlin 2 year old grandson!

PLEASE DO UPHOLD OUR FAMILY, MINISTRY AND INDIAN PARTNERS IN PRAYER FOR

- Grace & Protection for Christians in India as opposition in many areas is on the rise.
 - Pray for safe journey and blessed time for several friends coming to India this fall.
- Our Family:** for our children, grandchild & Katie's parents in the U.S.

UPCOMING MINISTRY

- Sep 18-22: Bhutanese Believers Discipleship Training
- Oct. 27- Nov 7: Visit of friends from Dakotas & MPT Conv. Joseph Huse
- Oct 30-Nov 1: Ministerial Leadership Training in Guwahati, Assam
- Nov 1-3 All India Baptist Leaders Training, Guwahati, Assam
- Nov. 4 India Mission 2019 Summit meeting
- Nov. 19-24: Sompeta Silver Jubilee, Andhra Pradesh
- Nov 27- Dec. 7 Utah Pastor visit

THANK YOU!!

We are so very grateful for your partnership in ministry! You are an integral part in the amazing work God is doing in the lives of people in this part of the world. We are so encouraged by your commitment, prayers, giving and communication.

GOD BLESS YOU ABOVE AND BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS!