

Passion Ministries

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Jesus name. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. It doesn't seem possible that another year is coming to an end. This year has been full of difficulties, challenges and triumphs! What an awesome God we have who loved us enough to leave heaven. May we all continue to spread His light and love until the day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord. We want to thank you all for your prayers. We are in need of them.

In these past few months there has been a big change in India. As in our last update we had mentioned that the situation in India is getting really hard for Christians.

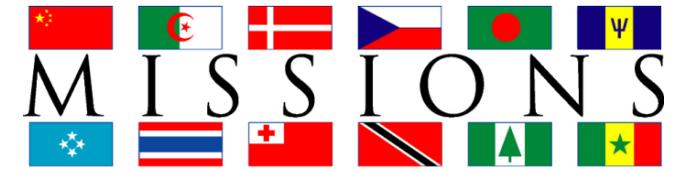
Some of you might have heard that the prime minister of India has made several changes. He has banned the large currency notes of rupees 1000 and 500 which was 86% of the currency.

In India the economists believe that about 90 - 98% of the population uses cash in all transactions; however, according to the news it is soon to be a cashless country. This has caused a big turmoil in India. The banks are filled with people as there is not enough of the new currency printed to exchange the old and there is chaos everywhere. Many have died just standing in line for days waiting for their turn in the bank. Several businesses have shut down and people are suffering. As reported, more than a hundred people have died waiting for their turn.

Also, there is a lot of persecution on the Church. Many missions that were actively working in India, for decades, have been shut down. It is our request that you pray for God's courage for the Christians in India.

The CARE ministry kids are now having devotions related to Christmas. Even though they are scared with everything going on around them; they feel safe as we tell them that God is in control.

It is our request that you would please prayerfully consider donating beyond what you already support the ministry with. These are very hard times for the people in India. May God bless you as you give generously to those who are less fortunate and are in great need. We thank you for your prayers and partnership with Passion Ministries. Please continue to pray for us.



February 2017

Our own Charlie Hobbs has organized a "mission trip" to Burkina Faso, Africa for March 24th through April 2nd of this year. The plan is to help build a Christian Technical School and encourage the brethren there in their ministry. Andy and Joshua DeHoff, David Hobbs, Greg Hawkins, Bret Lewis and Charlie are going to do the work and the ministry.



Pray for their trip, the ministry work to be done, the financial support of this work, their safety, and their impact on the lives of the natives in Burkina Faso.

Our prayer should be for this to glorify Jesus and hold Him up to those they may encounter. Pray for health, communication skills and wisdom also.

Tom & Suja Brane have produced a "wish List" for their ministry:

1. Import taxes on 2 vehicles: \$10,000
2. Modifying a house to make it livable: \$5,000
3. Cataract surgery for a 12 year old boy named Said Yacouba: \$300
4. Cataract surgery for Issa, a 7 year old orphan boy: \$300
5. Offset medical costs for Fadel: \$700
6. Offset medical costs for Rashida, another 1 year old girl with cancer in both of her eyes: \$700
7. School fees for children in need: \$1,000



IDES- International Disaster Emergency Service, Inc

Dear Fellow Servants,

On our last visit to Thailand, my wife and I were taken to the city of Mae Sot to visit an area where more than 600 Burmese refugees are living. These individuals are not residing in an organized refugee camp. They are dwelling inside the local landfill. They are paid pennies per day to sort through bags of refuse searching for any plastic that can be recycled. Among the mountains of discarded trash and garbage, we met 150 beautiful and precious families.

The images of that visit have haunted us since we have returned to our home in Indiana. It is hard to describe what we saw. Their shacks are made of any materials they can salvage to provide a bit of shelter. Children are filthy, lacking both water and motivation to even try to keep clean. It's understandable that people living in these conditions begin to feel like trash themselves. Their eyes no longer have any glimmer of hope. One mother pleaded with us to do whatever we could to improve life for her five young children. She wants them to have better options than their present living conditions.

We distributed food and shared with them a message of hope from God's Word. People listened attentively, hungry for encouragement. IDES has worked with trusted mission partners over the past two years to meet some of the basic needs of these people. As a matter of fact, IDES has given nearly \$250,000 in relief of refugees along the Thai/Myanmar border. As we have repeatedly assisted these individuals, we have also continuously prayed for God to show us a more lasting solution to their desperate situation.

After countless hours of discussion, prayer and research, we believe God has led us to a starting point for helping these refugees move from relief to recovery. We believe several elements will be needed:

1. Trusting Relationships. Relief efforts are temporary, but building relationship takes time. We believe we need to have committed Christian workers relocate to Mae Sot to develop relationships with the community of refugees.
2. Transforming Faith. These people need to know God sees, hears, and cares about them. They need to hear about and experience Jesus' life changing love.
3. Increased Options. The refugees need education and vocational training to increase their employment opportunities and to gain citizenship in their new country.

4. Kingdom Partnerships. The scale and urgency of this need demands that Christ's servants work together to find solutions that will work.

Therefore, IDES has reached out to several of our trusted mission partners to invite their assistance in addressing this great need.

The project we are prayerfully developing is greater than any one individual, congregation, or organization could handle alone.

Raphe House, under the direction of Stephanie Freed, recognizes the potential danger of children in desperate conditions becoming victims of human trafficking. So they have offered their services to help establish a kindergarten and Kids' Cub program for the children of Mae Sot. Ongoing operation expenses would come from child sponsorships administrated by Rapha House. We believe this would be a good first step in moving the most vulnerable from relief to recovery.

IDES' part will be to procure property outside the dump to establish a safe haven for the youngest children to come for instruction, medical care, and physical nutrition. There is a tract of land available about 300 meters outside the dump. The purchase price for the property, which is about 4 acres, will be \$170,000. Excavating the ground, drilling a well, erecting a security wall around the property will be another \$50,000. The school/medical building is estimated to cost \$80,000. The total cost of this first phase will be \$300,000.

Our board of directors and staff believe God is calling IDES to take a bold step of faith to help these Burmese people have a chance at a better life now and for eternity. We trust that our God is able to meet all their needs.

I am inviting you to partner with us in taking this step of faith.

Would you please give according to how God has blessed you? I hope and pray you will be able to send a gift of \$25, \$100, or \$1,000 today! Your gift will enable IDES to help meet the challenges facing these refugee families. You could be the answer to a Mae Sot mother's desperate prayer.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work with us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20, 21 NLT)

Prayerfully yours,
Rick Jeff

Here is a great message from The Abrahamic Revolution

by Todd Ahrend. If anyone would like to read this, contact Steve Williams.

Human nature remains consistent across the board. Our cravings are never satisfied, no matter what we attain. Because we always strive for the next level, we deceive ourselves with the words, "I'll give when I have a little more." I know that has been my excuse at times. In the moment it seems logical, except more is elusive and its definition keeps changing. Of those on the list of the four hundred richest people in America, only seventeen made it onto the other list - the most generous. Affluence is deceptive. In *Neither Poverty nor Riches*, Craig Blomberg observes, "It is arguable that materialism is the single biggest competitor with the authentic Christianity for the hearts and souls of millions in our world today, including many in the visible church." Statistics show that for every \$100 of disposable income, a North American evangelical makes, he gives 50 cents to missions. That number drops dramatically to a nickel per \$100 when you're talking about what goes toward unreached people groups."

We have been blessed with so much. The only problem is blessings we hold soon take hold of us. Scripture warns believers about the dangers of affluence:

"Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe His commands... Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build find houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God... You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." (Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17)

Money gets a tight grip, and it can easily become the primary motivation behind our every decision. God invites us to simplify, to give more, and in so doing, to advance His work. Peter Marshall suggests, "Give according to your income lest God make your income according to your giving."

A report from Restoration House Ministries lists 875 new Christians at the 23 congregations of the church they have planted in the New England areas of the US. Praise the Lord.