

(7) Changing The Way You Think “Global Perspective”

Global Perspective. How we in the Church of the Chimes are contributing to humanitarian aid, education, and missions work in India. Love our neighbors and serve people in need - here in the United States and globally.

My journey during the pandemic:

- Books on Racial Reconciliation: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo, Just Mercy by Brian Stevenson, Strength to Love by Martin Luther King Jr.
- My favorite books have all been centered around servant leadership, charity and giving:
 - Ships of Mercy by Don Stephenson - an inspiring book about Mercy Ships
 - The Go-Giver by Bob Burg and John David Mann - Glow
 - Where there's love, there's God by Mother Teresa. Documentaries by J. Petrie.

My talk today is about a friend of mine, Pastor Nurla, his wife Jasanta and their family. They live at the foothills of the Himalayas in the West Bengal state of India.

Elim Holding Hands

India is a democracy of almost 1.4 billion people, the 5th largest global economy.... Over 100 US Dollar billionaires... However, the country ranks 139th in the world in nominal GDP per capita. There is still significant poverty throughout the country with about 10% of the population - 130 million people - living below the international poverty threshold of \$1.90 per day.

Psalm 82:3-4 “Defend the weak and the fatherless;³ uphold the cause of the poor⁴ and the oppressed.⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God”

COVID-19 Relief Project

People who barely got by on the minimal salaries paid at the Tea Gardens, picking tea leaves, now had no income at all. Pastor Nurla and Jasanta saw all these hungry people around them. They acted. They decided to serve. They bought food and delivered it to the needy.

The Church of the Chimes became active. Throughout the spring and summer of 2020 we were able to raise money to support four food distribution events, distributing food to more than 1,175 people who were in desperate need of nourishment. These people were predominantly from Hindi families, but also from Muslim and Christian families.

Mark 8:1-2

“During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ²“I have compassion for these people;¹ they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.”

Children’s Program

About 180 children gather every day from Sunday to Friday in two locations in different villages. The children receive teaching and help with homework, and are provided with school supplies. The children are also given regular health education to improve their living conditions.

Proverbs 22:6

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

International Support and Future Vision

Miss Johansson was a Swedish missionary to northern India for more than 50 years. She adopted Nurla when he was 19 years old. Pastor Nurla and Jasanta, with support from the church in Sweden, have a clear vision on how they wish to evolve the Elim Holding Hands organization, including construction of a school. I’m so grateful that COTC has accepted to take on Elim Holding Hands as one of our missions projects this year.

Matthew 25:35-40

... ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

People are often unreasonable, and self-centered - forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives - be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true friends - succeed anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you - be honest and frank anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight - build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous - be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow - do good anyway.
Give the world your best anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God - it was never between you and them anyway.
Mother Teresa

Give: COTC is currently supporting the Elim Holding Hands ministry with \$200 per month. Additional donations can be directed to Church Of The Chimes. Mark the donation “India”.