

# BVVB

November 2017

Editor Janelle Daum

Volume 15, Issue 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

### **Birthdays:**

#### **November 2017**

- 4 Dan Hanson
- 4 Ginger Nelson
- 7 Garrett James
- 7 Barbara Young
- 11 Ray Olson
- 20 Pat Lacey
- 21 Caitlyn Onnen
- 22 Kay Stubbe
- 23 Alice Haan
- 28 Doyle Young
- 28 Alan Savage
- 29 Maegan Questad
- 30 Lindy Johnson

### **Anniversaries:**

#### **November 2017**

- 17 Ray & Delores Olson

### **Nursery:**

#### **November 2017**

- 5 Ginger & Katrina Nelson
- 12 Dee Olson & Dan Hanson
- 19 Aaron Skogen
- 26 Shawna James

#### **December 2017**

- 3 Justin & Sara Tiffany
- 10 Aaron Skogen
- 17 Pam Osmanson &  
Hailey Skogen
- 24 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 31 Erica Skogen

## **Children's Worship:**

### **November 2017**

- 5 Dee Olson & Garrett James
- 12 Trevor Skogen & Hailey Skogen
- 19 Matt Murphy & Cade Fox
- 26 Barbara Young & Kyle Skogen

### **December 2017**

- 3 Doris Conradson & Hannah Frost
- 10 Lindy Johnson & Maegan Questad
- 17 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 24 Barbara Young & Kyle Skogen
- 31 Scott/Nora Sittig

### **January 2018**

- 7 Trevor Skogen & Andrea Skogen
- 14 Sara Tiffany & Hailey Skogen
- 21 Matt Murphy & Cade Fox
- 28 Barbara Young & Kyle Skogen

## **Scripture Reading:**

### **November 2017**

- 5 Gene Preston
- 12 Kyle Skogen
- 19 Joan Murphy
- 26 Hannah Frost

### **December 2017**

- 3 Pat Lacey
- 10 Kelsey Frost
- 17 Justin Tiffany

- 24 Matthew Questad
- 31 Lindy Johnson

## **Greeters:**

### **November 2017**

- 5 Justin & Sara Tiffany
- 12 Gene & Judy Preston
- 19 Dan & LaDell Hanson
- 26 Lindy Johnson

### **December 2017**

- 3 Dan & Joan Murphy
- 10 Pat Lacey & Scott Sittig
- 17 Ray & Dee Olson
- 24 Paul & Pam Osmanson
- 31 LeeRoy & Ginger Nelson

## **Ushers:**

### **November 2017**

- 5 Scott Sittig
- 12 Paul Osmanson
- 19 Mike Kresak
- 26 Doyle Young

### **December 2017**

- 3 Gene Preston
- 10 Dave James
- 17 Scott Sittig
- 24 Mike Kresak
- 31 Paul Osmanson

## **Events Calendar 2017:**

**Wednesday, November 1, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.,** Journey 24/7 - High School Awana

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** TREK - Middle School Awana

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade

**Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,** Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)

**Saturday, November 4, 7 a.m.,** Men's Bible Study at BVBC

**Sunday, November 5, Daylight Savings Time Ends**

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

**9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service - Love Offering for B.V. Food Pantry

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**5:30 p.m.,** Congregational Prayer Service

**Monday, November 6, 1 - 2 p.m.,** Baptist Women's Day of Prayer: The Day of Prayer will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. There will be a short program and refreshments. They are asking for an idea of how many may be attending, so please contact Deb Kresak or Lindy Johnson to sign up.

**Wednesday, November 8, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.,** Journey 24/7 - High School Awana

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** TREK - Middle School Awana

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade

**Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,** Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)

**Saturday, November 11,** Veterans Day

**Sunday, November 12, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service - Installation Service for Pastor Battey

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**Wednesday, November 15,** Dr. Rick and Debbie Bardin (NAB Cameroon medical missionaries) will be speaking at Awana, everyone is welcome, see Joan for schedule.

**6 p.m. - 7 p.m.,** Journey 24/7 - High School Awana

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** TREK - Middle School Awana

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade

**Thursday, November 16, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,** Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)

**Sunday, November 19,** Last Day to Drop Off Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

**9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**11:30 a.m.,** Potluck Meal and Annual Church Budget Meeting

**5:30 p.m.,** Congregational Prayer Service

**Newsletter Articles are Due**

**Wednesday, November 22,** No Awana

**Thursday, November 23,** Thanksgiving; church office closed

No Women's Evening Bible Study

**Sunday, November 26, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**Wednesday, November 29,** Shan Reed, (NAB Japan missionary) will be speaking at Awana, everyone is welcome, see Joan for schedule.

**6 p.m. - 7 p.m.,** Journey 24/7 - High School Awana

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** TREK - Middle School Awana

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.,** Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade

**Thursday, November 30, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,** Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)

## **NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM**

BV BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONS TEAM SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: JOLENE BENSON, THERESA FRIESEN, DEE OLSON, JOAN MURPHY SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:13-15 ESV

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

PRAYER REQUESTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

BOX FOR MISSIONARY BENSON: ITEMS WERE COLLECTED FOR THREE WEEKS TO SEND TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR AMANDA AND HER CLASS. BENSONS WILL TAKE IT TO MINNEAPOLIS TO SEND IT.

SPECIAL OFFERING WAS TAKEN:

AUGUST: LO NAB PASTOR'S RETIREMENT \$116

WINDSWEPT SCHOOL \$154

SEPTEMBER : LO BRANDON MINISTERIUM \$206

WARRIOR 180: \$1181

HANDS AND FEET BEING DONE? Dee is putting it in the bulletin

KEEP DOING PERSECUTED CHURCH? We will continue to do persecuted church information

NEW BUSINESS:

Will do love offering for Steger's in Oct. Also pass out boxes and show video for Operation Christmas child end of October.

Love offering for Baptist World alliance will be Oct. 1

Feb. 25, 2018, Darwin Stoesz will present missions moments and also do presentation during Sunday School. Potluck following SS.

BUDGET THOUGHTS (CHANGE AMOUNT, DROP, ADD....)

Talked about budget. Will add NAB seminary in June and discontinue St. Francis House.

LEADERSHIP REPORT: REVIEWED AND MADE DECISIONS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF NEW PASTOR (MILEAGE, MOVING)

OTHER:

Randy B. is looking for home and selling theirs.

Church donated cucumbers to the St. Francis House

Oct. 1 - potluck

## AMANDA BENSON

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

October 1, 2017

### TO WHAT END?

Last weekend I visited what is said to be one of the top schools in the world: Singapore American School (SAS). As I sat through the opening session of the conference I was attending there and heard all the ways that they are “successful,” I contemplated their end goal. They pursue excellence so that they can produce the top kids in the world -- kids who will attend ivy-league schools and do things that will change the world.

All good things, right? To an extent, I would say yes.

But it all felt so empty.

I was struck by the contrast between this school and mine. At Faith Academy, we have many similar goals as SAS. We want to produce self-directed learners, creative and critical thinkers, proficient collaborators, skillful communicators, and faithful stewards. However, we have a completely different motivation. Our motivation is not for success and higher position in this world, but rather to glorify the Name of Christ and to spread His good news to the uttermost parts of the Earth. Throughout this conference, I was deeply challenged to change some things in my teaching practices. This is how I am a faithful steward of this task God has given me. But ultimately, I want to show these kids what it means to follow God. I want them to know what success looks like in HIS eyes. I want them to know that they can pursue excellence and be their best and be creative, but they should do that in order to elevate and spread His name and His kingdom on this earth.

This world needs Jesus. I saw that clearly at my conference as I was again surrounded by non-Christians for a while. This is why I am at Faith Academy. I am here to disciple these children so that they can go out into the world to do exactly what God has designed them to do to the absolute best of their ability. I am honored that God would choose me for such a calling. But God didn't just choose me for this calling -- He chose all of His people. The Great Commission isn't just for missionaries serving overseas. He calls ALL of His people to make disciples of ALL nations -- near and far.

I am reminded of a verse God showed me that I often put in my newsletters and

email signatures: “I thank Christ Jesus my Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service” (1 Timothy 1:12). I am so thankful. I have no ability to do this on my own. I can only do this with His strength. I can only do this because of the heart that He has formed in me and the calling He has placed on my life. Over and over in the past week and a half, He has given me just enough energy to do exactly what He has called me to do, even when I had little sleep. His strength has been sufficient for the moments I needed it the most -- not for tomorrow, but for today.

I can do nothing but worship in response.

And I pray earnestly that His Name might be proclaimed across this world, so that all may hear.

Thank you for your part in this incredible ministry. I am blessed beyond words to have you be a part of what God is doing in and through Faith Academy.

Amanda

Praises

- We are finished with the first quarter! It has been neat to see growth in my students, especially as I have taught them in 6th

Prayer Requests

- Pray that I would have wisdom as I try to change some things in my teaching practices. I need direction and understanding as to how to do that.

- Pray that I would get rest over the break this week and enjoy my time with my friends.

- Pray for balance of time as I seek to improve my teaching, spend time with my d-group leaders, and also build a curriculum for a Filipino summer school.

## **DARWIN & KAREN STOESZ**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

September 25, 2017

Home Service Update

The Lord has been faithful to us while we are on home service for the year. We have been blessed by some great times with supporters and friends and family. Darwin spent a week in Detroit, MI to represent Japan at the SEND International Treasurer meeting. We are discussing new ways of looking at salaries and many

other things. Darwin appreciates the unity at which SEND Treasurers can discuss things that can be at times a bit confusing and controversial.

Darwin also attended the Missio Nexus Foundations Seminar in Dallas last week. This was a time where he could hear what God is doing all over the world. Missio Nexus is an organization that has connected the Great Commission community for 100 years. “The Great Commission is too big for anyone to accomplish alone and too important not to try to do together.” We have seen this first hand in SEND as we are striving to work together with other Great Commission communities.

The girls are pretty much enjoying going to Trinity Academy, but they miss their friends at Christian Academy in Japan. We appreciate the Christian education that they are getting at Trinity Academy. They do enjoy the lunches at Trinity, but they do miss their Asian friendly lunches at CAJ.

Karen has joined a great ladies Bible study at one of our supporting churches every Tuesday at First Evangelical Free church with other like-minded ladies. She also attends various prayer meetings at Trinity Academy and at our home supporting church at Whitewater Community Church.

Darwin tries to attend when possible a men’s breakfast that meets at Mom’s Café in Whitewater, Kansas at 6 a.m. This is one of the most unique restaurants that he’s been to. The men are a quality group of Godly men eating some very good small-town café food.

Darwin has decided to do something that is counter cultural in America and that is when the line of cars line up to pick up their kids at Trinity Academy. He gets out of his car and forces the car behind him to cautiously roll down their window and introduces himself and does “Kansas Small Talk”. It has been a good way to meet fellow parents of children at Trinity Academy.

Anna has decided to be a part of the youth group in Whitewater which meets every Wednesday. This has been a time of encouragement for Anna to have fun with other kids her age at the same time grow in her faith.

Pray for peace in Asia as threats from North Korea have created a lot of unrest in Japan and all of Asia.

We are now contacting individuals and churches and setting up our schedule for this next year. Please contact us and we will try to fit you into our schedule. We may not be able to visit all of you, but we would like to visit you all as much as



possible.

### Financial Support Request

We often do not mention about our financial support, but your partnership is essential. We have been blessed by many gifts that exceed our expectations. However, we need additional financial support. We need additional monthly and one-time partners in our ministry. Some of our faithful supporters have passed away, others have had to stop due to financial reasons. Would you pray about joining our financial team by joining our monthly financial team? If you are already on our partnership team we want to say “thank you”, but would you pray about increasing your amount?

### Schedule

Our tentative schedule so far is as follows. Of course, all dates are subject to change.

September 26 Karen Ladies Bible Study – First E Free, Wichita, Kansas

September 27 Anna Youth Group – Whitewater Community Church

September 28 Darwin attend a funeral of his cousin in Kansas City

September 30 Attending a training session in Whitewater with Missionary Training International

October 1 Halstead, KS Crossroads Community Church Presentation

October 6-11 Lustre, Montana presentation at Lustre EMB Church

October 15 Henderson, NE Faith Evangelical Bible Church

October 20-22 Omaha, NE Grace University Reunion

October 27-29 Hutchinson, KS Union Valley Bible Church

There are other dates already in 2018 that are on the schedule, but we are still creating our schedule. Pray that we would have safety and energy for these important visits and others.

Please pray:

Pray for continued good health and energy as we adjust to life here in USA.

Pray that we would be able to meet all of the requirements needed for our return to Japan by June, 2018

Pray that the needed financial partners to get to 100% support.

Pray that our family would find the needed time together among a busy travelling schedule.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry.  
Darwin & Karen & Anna (14) & Clara (10) Stoesz

October 18, 2017

Home Service Update

October is our busy month for travelling to churches. Some trips we make as a family, others Darwin goes by himself. We are thankful for many miles of safety. We receive joy when we can reconnect with those who are partnering with us in our ministry in Japan. We are thankful for all our prayer and financial partners. In the last thirty days we have visited:

Crossroads Community Church, Halstead Kansas

Lustre EMB Church, Lustre Montana

Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Nebraska

The Lord continues to meet our needs here in Wichita. We are trying to get physically and spiritually restored. We find great joy in good English worship and preaching in churches we attend.

The girls are adjusting to life at Trinity Academy. They have enjoyed new friendships, new experiences, and very American lunches every day. Anna is looking forward to basketball season starting next month. Clara has started to go to gymnastics at the local YMCA. Clara enjoys practicing at home her new routines. Karen's excitement is the birds that she feeds, however she is battling a fight with the local squirrels. Karen is known to even throw things from the house at them. Her latest attempt is to put a toy slinky on the pole to keep the squirrels from climbing, but instead they jump from the rooftop.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, e-mails, messages etc. to Karen to celebrate her birthday. She wants to thank you for all of the words of encouragement.

Financial Support Request

We have been blessed by many gifts that exceed our expectations. However, we need additional financial support. We need additional monthly and one-time partners in our ministry. Some of our faithful supporters have passed away, others have had to stop due to financial reasons. Would you pray about joining our financial team by joining our monthly financial team? If you are already on our partnership team we want to say, "thank you", but would you pray about increasing your amount?

## Prayer / Travel Schedule

Our tentative schedule so far is as follows. Of course, all dates are subject to change.

October 20-22 Omaha, NE Crosspoint Church

October 27-29 Hutchinson, KS Union Valley Bible Church

November 19 Wichita, KS First Evangelical Free Church

February 11 Meade, KS Emmanuel Mennonite Church

February 18 Lincoln, NE Heartland Bible Church

February 25 Brandon, SD Brandon Valley Bible Church

March 4 Mountain Lake, MN Cornerstone Bible Church

March 16-18 Omaha, NE Crosspoint Church

Pray that we would have safety and energy for these important visits and others.

Please pray:

Pray for continued good health and energy as we adjust to life here in USA.

Pray that we would be able to meet all of the requirements needed for our return to Japan by June, 2018

Pray that the needed financial partners to get to 100% support.

Pray that our family would find the needed time together among a busy travelling schedule.

Pray that Tsuneizumi-san and Yuko-san to put their faith in Christ.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry.

Darwin & Karen & Anna (14) & Clara (10) Stoesz

## MISSION NETWORK NEWS

### **Back to Jerusalem brings Gospel to world's least reached**

By Reagan Hoezee October 3, 2017

China (MNN) – Seventeen years ago, 36 missionaries set out from China to reach a neighboring Buddhist country for Christ. They were the first contemporary missionaries with Back to Jerusalem, an organization that trains and equips underground Chinese believers to bring the Gospel to the world's least-reached countries.

“We are an agency that provides resourcing for them, enabling them to fulfill the task that God has given them with the Great Commission of taking the Gospel message from Eastern China, all the way through Western China, through the Middle East, and back to Jerusalem where the Gospel started over 2,000 years ago,” Back to Jerusalem's Al Young

says.

Back to Jerusalem's influence covers a large part of the "10/40" window, the parts of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. According to the Joshua Project, this area is home to 8,474 distinct people groups, 5,854 of which are considered unreached.

According to Back to Jerusalem, there are hundreds of Chinese missionaries working in this region, with thousands more in training. Back to Jerusalem provides these missionaries with resources such as Bibles and Sunday School materials, as well as vocational training.

The problem, however, is that many of these Chinese believers are a part of the Underground Church. They operate outside of the law, so they constantly face the threat of persecution. Young asks that you keep them in your prayers as they face numerous challenges.

"They do not have a regular place to meet as we would think about a church building," Young says. "They would have to meet in some remote place, maybe some farm housing or something in the woods or something in a way that they'd be least distracted or detected by the authorities. So we need divine protection of the Father and [the] relief of those who are even now suffering persecution. Some are in prison and others are experiencing various forms of challenges from the government leadership."

### **World Mission sees Gospel touch hostile hearts**

By Reagan Hoezee October 11, 2017

Int'l (MNN) – Around the world, God is penetrating even the most hostile hearts with the truth of the Gospel.

That's what organizations like World Mission are seeing happening. By supporting indigenous Gospel workers throughout Africa and Asia, World Mission is using humanitarian aid to open doors the Gospel.

"The way we seek to influence is to help them whenever there are particularly humanitarian needs, even in some of the Hindu areas as well as some of the Buddhist areas that are aggressive against evangelization," World Mission's International Training Director Jerry Smith says. "We are finding that some of our partners are having a lot of favor primarily through water well drilling.

"On top of that, they're going in with the Treasure, with this audio Bible. If they just went in evangelizing, they have no inroads, even as nationals, they wouldn't have any credibility, but when they come and bring the village aid, and they're not asking anything in return, generally speaking, the elders will not only permit the Treasures to be

distributed, and even Jesus films, but they'll actually welcome it."

World Mission is seeing a similar phenomenon in the Middle East. Smith says the trauma refugees have faced has opened their hearts to new beliefs.

"When anybody's situation is radically upturned, we psychologically become open to different things. We become open to change," Smith says. "So what they're seeing in some of these refugee camps is these Treasures are having a dramatic impact. [They're] beginning to see people that are realizing the religion they've been following doesn't have the answers. In fact, in some of the situations they're in, it's sort of the source of their problems."

This openness doesn't mean the work is easy, though. Over the coming years, World Mission is looking to develop partnerships with indigenous Gospel workers throughout Southeast Asia. Many of these countries, however, are creative-access countries—countries where open evangelism is unlawful, so missionaries must find creative ways to spread the Gospel.

One such country is Nepal. In August, Parliament passed a bill criminalizing attempts to convert people to other religions and "hurting religious sentiment," which has led to an increase in persecution of Christians. Similar laws exist in neighboring Myanmar, while the "hurting religious sentiment" clause is similar to Pakistan's anti-blasphemy laws.

"In some of the countries that we're working in, because it is national workers, most of our people do not have a high profile," Smith says. "One of the things that they've been having to do, especially in Nepal, is they've had to be very low key, very careful, and they work in very remote areas."

Despite the dangers they face, World Mission's Gospel workers continue to find success planting Gospel seeds. Smith asks that you keep them in your prayers as they often face difficult decisions.

"The thing that we're praying the most, of course we know who to pray for specifically, is really for our national partners, that they continue to have favor, that God watches over and protects them, that he guides and directs them, that they have the resources necessary, because these are men and women that are in the thick of things that we can't even imagine. And yet they're going boldly and walking straight into them, and they have a passion for the Gospel and for the people."

## **The faces and stories behind World Food Day**

By Lyndsey Koh October 16, 2017

International (MNN) - Today is World Food Day and Gary Edmonds with Food for the Hungry says it needs to serve not just as a call to awareness, but also to action.

“When we talk about World Food Day, we need to realize that many times we’re not aware of just the reality of people — literally around two-thirds of the planet — who often are food insecure. They don’t know when the next meal is going to come,” Edmonds explains.

“We are facing the worst humanitarian crisis since the end of the second World War. In parts ... of East Africa and the Middle East, they are literally at risk. The numbers are astounding — 20 million people who are at risk of starvation right now.”

In addition to the global statistics on food insecurity, The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that one out of nine people in the world were suffering from chronic undernourishment between 2014-2016.

### A Story of Hunger

Talking about the reality of hunger and food insecurity is one thing. But witnessing it will change your life.

For example, Edmonds was traveling in an African country and agreed to visit a community’s school. “They said, ‘You’re going to go into a school today where several children have been killed by classmates simply for the sake of obtaining the plate of food that their classmates possessed.’ And I thought, how horrific. That is just unconscionable.”

“They went on to say that...all of these children, they’re in families, they’re in home environments where many of them have not eaten for the past three or four days and so because of their desperation, they did something very desperate.”

It’s time for the Church to step up. Christians in the United States are only tithing 2.5 percent per capita.

But if each professed believer in the American Church began giving 10 percent of their income, there would be another \$165 billion for churches to put into missions and outreach initiatives. An estimated \$25 billion of that could eradicate global hunger, starvation, and deaths from preventable diseases in just five years.

“We can do something about it. We can be God’s agents of compassion. We can be his agents of mercy and of justice for these kinds of people. We can bring the truth of the Gospel that God is a good God. God is a caring God. So I would say to us as a people right now...let’s respond. Let’s not be silent.”

### Long-Term Solutions

Food for the Hungry works to foster food stability for 2,800 communities in over 20 different countries. Their ministry includes livelihood and agricultural training, nutrition and wellness education, clean water projects, and more!

Edmonds shares, “We want to help people learn how to cultivate food. We want them to be food secure in the sense that throughout the course of the entire year they actually

have access to food and foodstuffs to feed themselves, to feed their children at least a minimum of twice a day.

“We’re trying to restore them to a place of dignity, of health, and well-being for all that allows them to have the appropriate nutrition, that they can grow up to their full status and well-being, that they can get themselves educated, and that they can have a hope and a future in line with what would be God’s intent and God’s desire for them.”

FH also provides disaster response and emergency aid. “When people are on the edge of starvation, we are transporting food, we’re transporting water into literally feeding hundreds of thousands if not millions of people in certain situations. So you can be a help to stem the tide of those who are in desperate starvation states.”

Another major part of FH’s initiative is child-focused community transformation. Edmonds explains, “We have learned that the health, the well-being, the nurture, the educational opportunities of a child, it’s the quickest way to determine the health and relative well-being of a community, of a society. So we focus on children, not exclusively but with the understanding that children, if they’re cared for, if they’re loved in this kind of a way, then likely the community is going to be moving in a positive direction.”

When a person or child is missing meals, it’s harder for them to go to school. It’s harder for them to get a job. It’s harder for them to take care of their loved ones.

When you give to food initiatives that emphasize long-term sustainability and community growth, you are literally uplifting the lives of people who don’t know where their next meal will come from. You are showing them God’s compassion. And in Food for the Hungry’s case, this ministry is opening Gospel conversations.

### **Mission India spotlighting Karnataka state for ministry this month**

By Lyndsey Koh October 24, 2017

India (MNN/MNI) – The state of Karnataka in India is comprised of about 61 million people, roughly three times the population of Florida. Yet, nearly 95 percent of the people in Karnataka are unreached with the Gospel — over 57 million people. Less than two percent have accepted Christ.

Erik Morsehead with Mission India says, “Every state is different, just in the United States every state is different. The demographics are different. But Karnataka is up there in terms of the unreached and the small number of Christians in that state.”

Mission India has been serving in the country since 1984. Their ministry focuses on three different outreach programs: Church Planter Training, Adult Literacy Classes, and Children’s Bible Clubs.

This month, Mission India partnered with all their teams to focus on fundraising efforts



that will spur the spread of the Gospel in the state of Karnataka.

“We are looking at how do we raise the money and the funds quickly to start training church planters so that they can go on their own to start planting churches in their local communities in Karnataka. At the same time, we’re looking to raise resources for our Adult Literacy Classes, and that means training leaders to go into their local communities in Karnataka and reach those who are illiterate and call them out of illiteracy and poverty. Thirdly, with the Children’s Bible Clubs, you’re training up young leaders to go in and help educate the boys and girls in Karnataka and share the good news with them.”

Morsehead explains, “Between those three programs, our hope and our goal and our prayer is that those numbers will be higher than two percent Christian and the unreached number would go down as a result of our fundraising efforts.”

#### A Karnataka Story of Spiritual Transformation

God is definitely moving in the state of Karnataka, and Mission India has witnessed it. For example, they shared this story about a young girl and her family, and how Mission India’s Children’s Bible Club in Karnataka changed their lives for eternity.

Nanda’s parents struggled to feed their four children in the state of Karnataka, even though they both worked hard. But, when Nanda’s uncle approached them asking for money during an emergency, they couldn’t say no. They borrowed the money he needed, adding to their financial burdens.

As an 11-year-old, Nanda was concerned about her family, and meanwhile, she herself was struggling in her studies.

Then, Nanda joined a Year-Long Children’s Bible Club that had started in her village and found much-needed hope. She was used to worshipping oxen and other gods, so Nanda felt like her world was turning upside down when she learned about Jesus. She loved the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, and began to expect Jesus’ miracles in her own life!

Nanda received Jesus as her Savior and continued attending her Bible Club enthusiastically. Her studies improved, too—she did so well on her exams in school that she received a scholarship!

Her transformation was so evident that her mother noticed the difference. Recognizing that it was all thanks to God’s mercy, Nanda’s mother received salvation, too! The family became happier, and even their financial burden was eased: although Nanda’s uncle wasn’t able to repay the money he had borrowed, the Lord blessed the family with new streams of income.

Now, the family asks for prayers that their entire village would experience the everlasting joy of Jesus by receiving salvation.