



**Witnessing
Ministries
of Christ**

in
association
with



Exodus
Presbyterian
Church - India

November/December 2019 Prayer Letter

From Elizabeth Prasad

⁶How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! ⁷People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. ⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Psalm 36:6-9 (NIV)

Praying In Gratitude

Gratitude abounds as we seek to press forward in the effort of educating leaders and bringing children out of desperate conditions that have been their legacy for more than 3,500 years. Rejoicing in all that has unfolded though our collective prayers, we are deeply grateful for your part. The expanding, devoted worldwide circle includes the Christians of the Exodus Presbyterian Church - India. ***Every step forward and donation received is an answer to prayer.***

I recall WMC founder Philip Prasad, spending hours in deep thought about what he was called to do, knowing he was offering his acquired knowledge and obvious faith to an enormous vision planted in his heart and soul from the time he was very young. "Elizabeth," he once told me, "if I do not get any support, I still must do this ministry."

I believe God honors bold steps. Once Philip planted his feet back in India, he never left the understanding of his full commitment. Thousands of people have new, meaningful lives of faith because he sought the will of God through his own personal longing for a savior who would welcome an outcaste like him.

As we teach self-sacrifice and envision the future of the ministry, we see bold new vision taking root. People with barely enough to eat give to their church and send their children to school, the children they could send to labor for the immediate and distinct needs of their families. It is worth pausing for a moment and giving this some thought.

Day-to-day patience and planning for tomorrow are not normal resources in the *Dalit* (outcaste) survivor tool kit. Due to the fact that they live in darkness without faith and education, they remain stuck. Nothing seems to alter their reality until they meet Jesus and begin to follow His Truth. We ourselves can relate to this as we experience enormous peace and clarity through our faith journeys.



Nattho gives in gratitude. "Now my family is in peace." (See Nattho's story next.)

Through exodus out of their own *Dalit* past, today's ministry leaders now stand with the new believers in their struggles.

Leaders demonstrate:

**HOPE
TRUTH
GENEROSITY
FORGIVENESS
EDUCATION
DIRECTION
PEACE**

**in
place
of**

**DESPAIR
LIES
SCARCITY
BLAME
IGNORANCE
CONFUSION
FEAR**

PRAYER HIGHLIGHT

**PRAY FOR
THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Nattho's Witness Story

Efforts to gather the witness stories of changing lives due to Christian faith, prayer and action inspire us all.

Recently, Etmadpur Vice Principal and Etmadpur Residential School Director Arvind Gyan gave the following account:

I want to share a witnessing of a member of our Exodus Family in the Etmadpur Congregation. Her name is Nattho, the mother of Gopal David Paswan and she is 70 years old. Her village is Chaavli, which is about 10 kilometers from Etmadpur. She had two sons but now she has only the younger one. Gopal has three girls, two of whom study in our Exodus Presbyterian School.

I talked with her and Gopal about the old life in her village. She told me her family was in very bad condition before 2009. In following the ancestors, they worshipped all kinds of goddesses. When the problems came, they called a man who was a goddess follower. When he came, he instructed the head of the family to bring items for worship, like a small pig, cock, bottle of wine, incense, etc. Then, the follower would go into a trance, rapidly rotating his head and saying some mantras.

She said, "I believed every single thing of the follower, but there was no peace. Me and my family were drowning in poverty and struggling in sickness. My husband and older son were killed in a road accident. Then two of my daughters died of illnesses. We were broken from inside and could not understand anything. Our home was going to ruin. Then, I fell and broke my hip bone.

"One day the word of God arrived among us when a pastor of the Exodus Church came to my home. He explained to us that what we were doing is not good to believe. He said, 'You are going toward the darkness and you are getting lost in the darkness.'

"We kept going on our old way, but the word of God did work like a seed that grew in me and my remaining family members.

"Pastors kept coming to our village and holding worship in my neighbor's house. Then, my son Gopal and I started to come to the prayers. Sometimes a pastor would be transferred to another area, but another pastor would always come to take his place. Through the years I have known four different pastors.

"One day Pastor Michael Senapati asked Gopal,



Nattho's life does not have the luxuries we enjoy, but what is in her heart is pure joy. As the pastor said, "It doesn't matter how your house is. The thing that is important is what is in your heart."

'Where is your house? Will you show me your house?' Gopal avoided inviting him because in his mind his house, made of mud, was not as fine and beautiful as other village homes. So he said, 'You can come some other time because my house is not worthy that I can make you sit there.' Pastorji (respected pastor) said, 'That doesn't matter how your house is. The thing that is important is what is in your heart.' Then, Gopal and I took the pastor home and organized the prayer meetings there. Since then, there has been a change in our family."

Sometimes, I also used to go to the Gopal house with Pastor Michaelji to worship.

When Michael was transferred, Pastor Jaswant Khristrahi came, and after that, Pastor Benjamin Senapati came. Today, Gopal's family mostly comes to Etmadpur to worship and the pastor also goes to their village for prayer meetings.

One day Nattho said to Pastor Benjaminji, "Will I die without baptism? Please do my baptism because I have no idea of how long my life is!" So, Pastor Benjaminji baptized her.

I met Nattho last Sunday at church in Etmadpur and talked to her a lot about her life. She told me, "Now, my family is in peace."



Neelam Martha Paswan is Nattho's granddaughter who is in ninth grade in Etmadpur. She is full of joy living in the light of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

Neelam Martha Paswan rides the bus to school. She is one of our supported children. This photo is among more than 300 that are soon to be delivered to supporters.

There are 800 children in school this year. I am searching for the first tier of 25 ***new child supporters***. Your congregation can take a packet of five children for a church, groups or individual families that would be interested in support. These children come to school within the cradle of evangelism that lovingly holds them. Education added to their faith launches Christian children toward the ability to support themselves, their families, and others.

In reading her grandmother's witness, one realizes how amazing it is that she is in school. Only the persistence of pastors coming regularly to Chaawli all those years has given her this opportunity.

Supporting a child in school can be a powerful catalyst for the child, the family, and the village congregation to fully experience their Christian faith.

It is the intention of our pastors and leaders to stay connected with students in Christian community wherever they go.

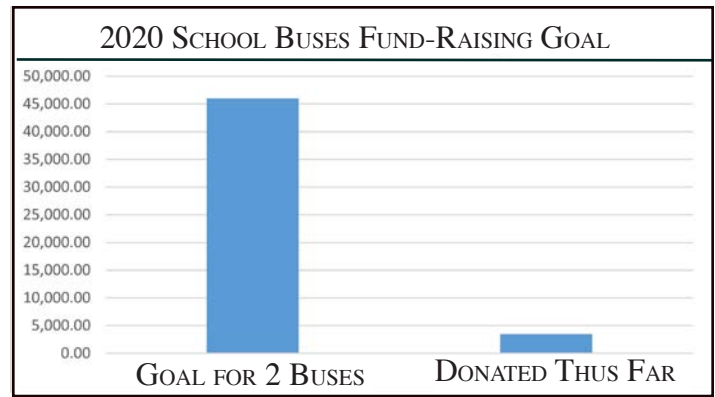


Little children join Nattho at Sunday morning service in Etmadpur as they sing with all their might what is in their hearts. *How can they keep from singing?*

**Churches, Groups, Individuals:
Request a packet of 5 children for
support (\$540/year /child).
Your effort saves lives, forms Christian
community, puts families on their path
to supporting themselves and others,
and brings joy and respect.**

Bus Replacement Goal

I am grateful to report that we are off to a good start with \$3,500 raised in October to provide two new buses for the ministry. When we reach the \$23,000 halfway mark, the first of the two buses for this year can be purchased. If you are deciding to give extra to this goal, please write on the check or send an e-mail to let me know how much you would like to donate to the bus fund-raising goal. When we all give a little, this goal can be realized.



Clean and ready to go is one of the newer buses in the ministry fleet that serves six ministry centers. The driver is well trained and takes his job seriously.



(Above) This old bus in Pavitrasthan will be replaced in 2020 as the fund-raising effort materializes.

The big yellow bus is a significant evangelism tool. Daily, it shows up on time just like the pastors continue to come to Chaawli, the village of Nattho. She had lost her husband, one son, and daughters in tragedies over which she had no control. Through the pastors' faithfulness, she was able to release her life to Jesus and come to understand that her family was not forgotten.

Our desire is to provide the ministry with buses that are in good condition and within new government requirements. It will take several years of raising bus support and initiating the savings plan to provide bus replacements on schedule. The first goal is to be able to purchase two buses in 2020. With your help, we keep the children safe and school bus service operating among many village Christian congregations.

The reality that a good bus arrives for the outcaste village children because of Jesus Christ in their lives is a powerful witness to Christian faith.

