



**Witnessing  
Ministries  
of Christ**

in  
association  
with



Exodus  
Presbyterian  
Church - India

## October 2019 Prayer Letter

From Elizabeth Prasad

**“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” Acts 20:28 NIV**

### ***A Child's Moment of Faith in Action***

The Exodus Presbyterian Church - India is maturing into a new space of community and discovery. Dedicated leaders serve the people who, in turn, offer to God the money their church needs. Our encouragement and support for education of the youth is paramount to this healthy and growing church. Those who collaborate in outreach today are excellent in continuing Bible study, in being accountable, and in negotiating the difficult culture of severe oppression within a land of high caste power that wants no other voice.

The photo on this page shows a young girl teaching her little sister to give offerings in the village of Uderi. Her small hand grasps the smaller one with a strong sense of purpose. Seeing her family and her pastors committed to Jesus makes this opportunity of giving important to her, too. We observe, through this photo taken by a pastor, what we could rarely see on our own. In fact, we might get in the way of this beautiful act of commitment. With our unwavering dedication and vision for education secured in faith, this child and many more like her will be the leaders of tomorrow.

The Exodus Church has learned to give. This is a huge accomplishment because its people live in hovels, endure cold winter months, suffer the smothering heat from April through July, have few options, and sometimes even go without food. There is no money to pay up front for the miracles of modern medicine.

One of my husband's favorite hymns was “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”. He knew, beyond a doubt, that Jesus was more important than anything. With Jesus, his people could actually step out of more than 3,500 years of brokenness into the solid truth of faith where their lives are valued and discomforts recede.

In exodus from their dehumanizing culture, they find joy in living, others to walk with in Christian



**Jesus leads me.**

community, and victory over suffering and death because of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

With words of testimony and witness, photos, and Skype, we are able to gain a sense of their exodus struggle and release. Our experiences may differ in circumstances, but we find unity through discovering our oneness in God, connecting at a level far beyond ourselves.

### **PRAYER HIGHLIGHT**

**PRAYERS OF JOY THAT THE CHURCH IS IN  
MOTION THROUGH  
THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
FINANCING ITS OWN OUTREACH  
TO THOSE IN GREAT NEED OF JESUS.**

**PRAYERS FOR CONTINUING STEADY,  
RESPONSIBLE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SACRIFICE

Education Director Rajesh Joseph Dharmi states, “In 1995, we had many children in the brand new residential school in Pavitrasthaan. One lady came to take her son home. She complained that her child did not have a fan, sometimes the electricity was not available, the food was not to her liking, and her son would not be well here. Philip Prasad met her and I

was there as well. He said, ‘Okay, today if you take your child from school, he will have a fan at your house. But remember, without education, your son will not have a fan in the future when you are not there to provide it.’ Sacrifice is necessary for a new future. We have learned the importance of sacrifice as we live it each day.”

### VITAL MINISTRY NEED:

#### **New and Continuing Support for the Exodus Presbyterian Education Ministry.**

The EXODUS ministry properties in eight counties took years to acquire and develop. They are secure havens of faith, located for maximum impact on outreach throughout the western half of Uttar Pradesh State.



**Dugraiya**



**Pavitrasthaan**



**Gigla**



**Bilram**



**Etmadpur**

**July views in 5 of the 9 active ministry center properties.**

Donor support grants this ministry the opportunity to continue to improve, expand and innovate as it has been doing. Through prayer, generosity and invitation, more families will be reached, new believers will be baptized, and Christians will be prepared through education to rise to their significant challenges.

From its inception in 1984, the ministry taught people to give so they would not be dependent upon others for their ability to thrive as a church. Since 2016, the church supports its pastors, pastor trainees, elders, village congregations, seminary training, transportation, and supplies. In 2017, the Education Ministry also began raising its support. Due to the large amount needed, it will take many years to earn this money from within India. Today, it is paying the salaries of five of the highest paid leaders.

Operation of the Exodus Education Division and maintenance of all properties that it relies upon are the

most expensive part of the ministry. The church uses these properties for its seminary, continuing education, and large ministry gatherings. Housing for many pastors, leaders and teachers is in these centers.

Today, many areas in India do not allow the new construction of churches. Thus, these developed properties are a valuable foothold for Christians.

The centers are model villages, an active example of Christian environment. Families feel safe, peaceful, equal and joyous as they enter these clean and orderly places. For many landless outcastes, the properties represent justice for them and a place of spiritual and emotional healing where they do belong. These treasures will deteriorate if the staff is short of what they need to keep schools and properties active.

**Few months are left to bring the monthly income of WMC to the level for sustaining what exists today.**



100 new or returning churches giving \$2,000 per year for 5 years

**How new support makes a difference:**

The ministry began by many pastors and mission leaders in our churches sharing with others what they had learned about the ministry. One could see new properties and the buildings rising on them from 1993 to 2011. Today, we use those buildings to lift the people to faith, education, and Christian communities that are expanding to other villages where people are searching for a place to belong.

We have had as many as 250 churches supporting at the same time while there are only 50 today. Increasing the number of donor churches will bring the prayerful financial base that is urgently needed now.

The ministry exists today through faith that brought the poorest people to sacrifice. How often do we witness a ministry beginning to support itself or even understanding that not being dependent on someone else is a goal?

It is remarkable that a thriving church formed out of terrorized people who had been made to be dependent subhumans for thousands of years. With God's help, a remnant devoted to Christian values surfaced who had learned through education in its own schools how to lead the people faithfully.

The last piece of their progress is possible through our commitment, as their brothers and sisters in Christ, to allow them the space to develop the resources they must have to continue on their own.

**Buses Replacement Plan for Schools of the Exodus Presbyterian Church**

**How a new buses plan makes a difference:**

When a big yellow school bus rolls into an outcaste village to pick up the children that others would shun, it makes a bold statement that Jesus loves everyone and that these children have worth and dignity as much as other children. In this way, a bus is a powerful evangelism tool.

The government has made a recent rule that no bus over 10 years old can carry school children.

**That wipes out half of our current bus fleet!**

Our plan calls for replacing two buses/year for four years at \$23,000/bus (\$46,000/year). Along with that jump-start, the ministry will begin a monthly savings plan of \$500/month rising to \$2000/month for replacing all 10 buses on a revolving 10-year cycle.



1. One old bus that needs replacing. 2. Staff praying for the bus ride. 3. Parents watching their children leave.



## 25 New Child Supporters/Donations for Teachers

### How new education supporters make a difference:

The fine leaders we have today would not be in their positions without a good education.

1. We need to prepare leaders now for the next generation. 2. Pastors must have education to lead their churches well. 3. Teachers must

have college degrees. 4. Alumni with good jobs are necessary for the church's self-support goals. From every conceivable angle, our people must rise with wisdom and knowledge.

**Child Support: \$45/month (\$540/year)**  
**Teacher Support: \$5/day (\$130/mo; \$1,560/yr)**  
**(Photos and Information come with support.)**



Arriving at school for a brand new day and returning safely home, we witness these children on their way to a lifetime of opportunities they would not have without an education.

## Strength In Prayer

1. Pray for the school-age children in the village of Pephiera, Etah District. They are pictured in the last half of this Prayer Letter. Jesus touches their lives as the pastor, pictured walking with the line of children above, guides their families. They are preparing for a time when they will be able to give back.
2. Lord, we ask for your blessings as we support the ministry and reach new churches. I delight in sharing this inspiring journey of transformation that promises to live into the future. Meeting Christians brand new to the ministry and revisiting long-time supporters is my treasure.
3. Pray for the upcoming alumni meeting in November that it may inspire the former students to deepen their commitment to the Exodus Presbyterian Church and Education Ministry that nurtured them.

## Just a Simple Question

Women leaders gathered in Pavitrasthaan for their regular Skype session with Marcie York in Fresno, CA.

A small child (front middle in the photo) clinging to her mother asked loudly, "Why can't she come in here?" Everyone burst into laughter at her sweet curiosity. Oh, that Marcie could make that magical 12,500 mile trip, she definitely would.

Questions. They are how we learn, imagine and discover. These young children in tow are surrounded by books. They see their mothers pouring over their Bibles in curiosity and wonder and watch them stand to speak.

**Just imagine where this is going.**

Marcie understands the enormous value of children participating here. Soon, if all goes well, they will be in school like their brothers and sisters. A new world of opportunity awaits them. Our task is to help them learn with Jesus as their guide and to help them remember those left behind in need of their future attention.

