

March 2024



harvesters

Spreading the Gospel, Serving Others & Building Community



DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Once again, God has used your prayers and gifts to bring Himself honor and touch the lives of thousands in Africa and Asia. As noted below, in 2023, many people responded to the Gospel with faith, were baptized, and are now being discipled. Many in new churches! Others had their lives completely changed as a result of having access to clean water for the first time ever or were blessed with a good meal, all in the name of Christ and as an extension of your love and caring. A lot of other great things also happened in 2023, and hopefully you've read about them in our past communications or seen our reports on social media. We are happy to share a few of them here.

All of this is very exciting and humbling. Everyone at Harvesters is, first, thankful to God and likewise appreciative of your heart to be part of what He is doing on His earth.

Blessings!

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12 NEW WATER PROJECTS

99 CHURCHES PLANTED

348 PREACHING POINTS

521 NEW FELLOWSHIPS

4,844 WATER BAPTISMS

8,498 NEW BELIEVERS

61,700 RELIEF MEALS

Harvesters Russia

Hope For Life Homes Partnership

The ministry of Hope For Life Homes (HFL) to equip families to care for foster children is only possible with help from our donors. We are grateful for those that support parents like Andrey & Natalya Shipilkiny. They have three biological, adult children and one grandchild. Two of their daughters are missionaries in very hard areas of Abkhazia and Dagestan.

Currently, they care for five foster children ranging in age from preschool to high school. Both Andrey and Natalya love the Lord deeply and are active in their church and in a ministry in Abkhazia. They gather with a group of other believers to distribute food in the poorest places there and share the Gospel.



Through their ministry, they planted a church, and God has been moving among the people there. Many have been baptized and are being discipled. And the church is growing! Natalya and her older daughter teach school and Bible school and have a youth, ladies, and children's ministry.

Andrey and Natalya ask that you pray for their son, Kostya, a 2nd grader who has difficulties learning, and for the two boys who will be graduating high school this year.

Harvesters Kenya

Pokot Outreach Ministries Partnership

POM's leader, Reuben Meriakol, shares about the history of its Chepturu Mission Station and the rejuvenation of the ministry there.

Chepturu Mission Station was established in mid-90s. The initial goal was for it to be a ministry outreach base to the western side of East Pokot. In order to meet the purpose of its existence, a pastor's house, church structure, and medical clinic were built. A hand-pump well, which served the mission center and surrounding community, was also installed.

Chepturu was doing well until the death of the lead pastor and missional leader, Pastor Job Rutto in 2014. Programs came to a halt, and there was state of uncertainty. Pastor Job was the person on the ground implementing POM's vision in East Pokot. The medical clinic was closed, but the church continued to meet but struggled.

In 2016, Leonard Lomada was posted from Chemolingot as a new pastor to Chepturu. The local congregation was comforted by his arrival, and they were, once again, encouraged for Christian growth, service, and ministry. The new beginning brought hope and assurance that Chepturu and East Pokot was yet to see better days.

The church at Chepturu soon witnessed a revival that lead to both qualitative and quantitative growth. The existing infrastructure could not

accommodate the growth that was happening. An upgrade of the facilities was, therefore, deemed critical in order to sustain the increasing needs.

In 2018, the local congregation birthed the vision of a new and bigger church structure in order to accommodate the numeric growth. They made a commitment to raise funds for a new building and each member was asked to give one goat to obtain the funds needed. The contributions went well until 2020, when the pandemic brought everything to a standstill.

In the beginning of 2022, POM did a ministry survey in several places in East Pokot. The survey was meant to ascertain the extent and scope of unfinished tasks. During these visits, the strategic importance of Chepturu with regard to outreaches in East Pokot stood out. We needed to complete the previously planned expansion of the facilities. POM joined in with the rejuvenated spirit of the believers of Chepturu. We came together and prayed for the new church sanctuary needed to serve the growing congregation and to host youth, women's, and men's conferences.

Through the support of Harvesters' donors, the new church building was completed last fall! It seats 1,000 people and includes a board room, offices, and storage. As part of the Chepturu revitalization, the water well was upgraded from a hand pump to a solar-powered pump with a raised tank to bring running water. Two existing buildings were renovated to create more rooms that are used for accommodations for pastors and ministry leaders' training or visiting teams. Running water also allowed flush toilets to be added.

We are grateful that since 2018, several churches have been planted through the efforts of Chepturu's outreaches. With the upgrading of Chepturu Mission Station, we are confident that there shall be greater and sustained ministry impact in the region. More ministry training, seminars and short term workshops are scheduled to take place. All these are meant to equip the pastors, evangelists and local missional leaders for church planting, discipleship and leadership development. There is continued expression of joy and gratitude by the believers and church leadership in east Pokot for what God has done at Chepturu.



New solar-powered well provides clean water for the community



Beautiful Church Building Is Now Complete!

Harvesters S. Sudan

Pokot Outreach Ministries Partnership

When the ministry in South Sudan was launched, we envisioned establishing the main mission center in Kapoeta, including a church building and a residential house with a few guest rooms. The church structure was completed in 2017. The church community in Kapoeta has a lot of school going children. When we have adult activities or services in the church building, children are sent out to meet under a tree or at the car shed. We have been praying for a more organized approach to the children's ministry in the main hub. A great piece to solving the puzzle is having a classroom facility where Sunday School programs for kids can be run smoothly. Building a facility with two school-sized classrooms will help us address the kids program very well.

When these classrooms are finished, they will provide an additional advantage to the church as well as the surrounding community. With the issues facing the country, most government schools are facing immeasurable challenges, and several have been closed. The reliable schools are run by churches, NGOs, or are privately owned. There has been increasing concern for the church in Kapoeta to have its own early childhood education center (Nursery/Kindergarten) and, perhaps, a primary school in the future. Having the classrooms will not only serve the spiritual needs of the kids but also the intellectual development of the believers' children through formal education.

Here, you see the proposed location of the classrooms with the church building in the background. We thank God for Harvesters' donors as we now have funding in hand! We are beginning preparations for construction, including architectural reviews and documentation for government approvals. We hope the work will be launched in May and end by August.



Harvesters India

Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra Partnership

Our partner, Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra, provides education to lower caste children in Ujjain, India. A vital part of their ministry is also attending to the physical needs of the children and their families. They shared the story below of one of their school families and how your donations are impacting their community.



The challenges that our villagers face are many. Since COVID, many people lost their regular jobs. To feed a family even one meal a day has become a tremendous problem. When both husband and wife are out working, the younger children are often left to fend for themselves during the day. In order to help, our school allows these young siblings to attend the nursery class so that the older children may continue with their studies rather than be tasked with watching them. Our food distribution program provides grocery packets once a month to school families and villagers in need.

In school every morning, we have Lord's prayer. The children know it by heart and repeat it at home very often in rayman (native language). Parents have also learned it. They recall the line - "give us this day our daily bread." They say those words and feel deep in their hearts that God is providing them the bread each day.

Bhavana and Vinod Kevat are siblings that have studied in our school since Nursery. Bhavna is 12 years old studying in 4th grade, and her brother, Vinod, is 10 years old in 3rd grade. They live with their parents and grandparents. Their father, Inder, works from morning until night doing odd jobs for other people to make daily wages. Their mother, Sunita, goes to the fields to collect onion and potato crops, also making daily wages. The Kevats receive regular grocery packets through our food program. We are very thankful to God and to Harvesters through whom provision is made for many poor families to have good and healthy food.

Harvesters

Gifts That Matter Update

Our Christmas campaign - Gifts That Matter - was such a success! Thank you for your generous contributions which have allowed us to meet the needs of people around the world. Over the next few pages, you will read stories of lives that will be forever changed by donors' gifts.

Micro-Finance

Salama dropped out of school after sixth grade. She became involved in a relationship and found herself pregnant. The young man abandoned her, and she knew that she needed to create a life for herself and her child. She learned of the Kerith Skills Training Centre, led by Kerith Ministry, our partner in Uganda, from a former student.

She faithfully attended classes throughout her pregnancy. Salama graduated and received her sewing machine through a micro-finance loan made possible through our donors' giving. She expresses how difficult her life was before she acquired tailoring skills and is proud to count herself as part of the working class. Salama wants to thank all of the donors for providing training and sewing machines so that she is able to work and be independent.



Fuel For Pastors

Pastor Ashiq Masih spends most of his day going from place to place to share the Gospel with the Muslim people in Pakistan. With no church building to gather in, he relies on his motorcycle to travel between communities. Pastor Masih said, "I must say thanks to the donors for showing Christian love toward the Pakistani people. God bless them!" Pakistan ranks in the top 10 countries in the world for the persecution of Christians. We are thankful for the commitment of pastors to spread the Gospel there. Thanks for being part of his work with your gift of fuel for his motorcycle.



School Fees

These happy students attend our Free Life Academy located in Goma, D.R. Congo, led by our partner, Union of Baptist Churches. Some of these children are orphans who live in our home there. This is a troubled region with ongoing war and violence. This school, and many other schools supported through Harvesters' partners, provide quality education to many children who would otherwise have very poor educational opportunities.



Livestock

The goats provided through the Gifts That Matter catalog are now blessing hundreds of people! Below are the stories of two widows who received goats a few weeks ago.

Agnes Nyirabarijyira is part of Seira Community Church in Nyamugari, Rwanda, which was opened in 2023. She is a believer who shared, “I didn’t have place of worship and my life was miserable, but when my church came, it helped me because now I have a place to pray, and it helped me to improve in all areas. And now I have been given a goat that will make me improve and will give me fertilizer.” Life is challenging for her since her husband’s disappearance, leaving her to raise four children alone. She said, “The goat that was given to me will help me in the development of my family, and I will help others who live as I lived before.”



Jenny Umutahiza lives in Kabungeri village, Rwanda. Her husband died several years ago due to sickness. Jenny is an active member of a newly constructed church that was funded in late 2023 by Harvesters’ supporters. She shared, “Before the Church came here to Kabungeri village, I was struggling to pray. I was in sin, but since it arrived here, I pray and I still love to pray a lot. I thank those who thought of us and gave us a place to pray. And now they gave me goat that will help me to get out of poverty and develop myself and my family.

They thought of me when I was suffering, that is why I will help others who don’t have a goat.”

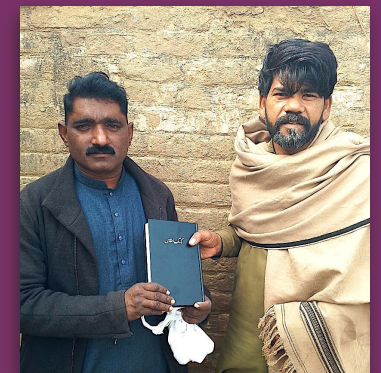
Your gifts also provided chickens for the Prasanna family in Vijayawda, India. Since her husband died from COVID, Mrs. Prasanna and her seven-year-old son, Rithvik, have struggled financially. She said, “Our hungry family can now eat and sell the nutritious eggs. We are so thankful to Harvesters for all the help!”



Bibles

Your gifts for Bibles are being used in Pakistan where being a believer in Christ often results in great challenges and threats. On the left below, Pastors Christopher and Shakeel, who lead our partner, Omega Ministry, unpack Bibles with Pastor Raffaqt.

Pastor Raffaqt serves near the Indian border. He takes a bus from his home village two hours away every week to preach and teach in four different locations. On the right, he is giving a Bible to a new believer. Distributing God’s Word to help new believers grow in their faith is a vital work.



Distributing Bibles to help new believers grow in their faith is vital work.

Home For A Widow

Harriet Ajalo, a struggling widow caring for her seven children, will soon be getting a desperately needed home. Her family lives in Akwamor, Uganda, on land acquired by her late husband. After his death, her in-laws abandoned her and took the two cows she owned that would have been a tremendous resource for her family.

Harriet faces numerous challenges made worse by the living conditions in her small, papyrus roofed house. To make ends meet, she works in others' gardens along with her children. Beyond addressing her housing needs, we firmly believe that assisting Harriet will not only elevate her standard of living but also enhance the safety and well-being of her family. Providing her with a secure and well-built dwelling will alleviate the financial burden of periodic roof repairs. Pastor Sam shares, "While we aim to address her housing needs, we also want to demonstrate love and compassion. Reaching out to uplift a member of our community in need is our desire. We thank you for the gifts that make this possible!"



Plant A Church



Our donors' gifts were used to purchase property for a new church building and a school in Nyabimata, Rwanda. The people there, who do not have a church in their area, are thrilled! The land was purchased a few weeks ago, and we are now praying for the resources to begin construction. Pictured here, the people are celebrating on the site that will one day be their church.

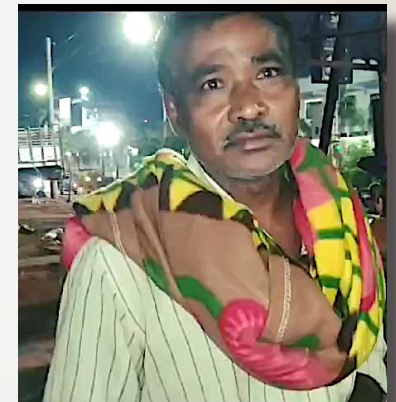
Emergency Feeding Programs

We are grateful for your willingness to provide food to people in desperate need. In India, there remains a large group of men and families on the streets who struggle to eat. The impacts of the COVID pandemic are still resulting in economic hardships for many. Here are just two of their stories:

"I am from the city of Vijayanagaram. Since there is no work over there, I came to Vijayawada which is nearly 550 kilometers away. Here, I stay on the roadside. I am now working as a Rickshaw Puller but things are very hard for me. I sleep in my rickshaw some days. I am thankful that I am receiving hot, cooked food with delicious curries. The rice is also very tasty. You are giving very good quality cooked rice. Thank you for sharing your love".



"My name is Poornayya. I lost my wife. She died with sickness. I have one son and he loved a girl and got married, and after few years, they both kicked me out. I was all alone and lonely. At that time, one man offered me a job of ironing clothes so I started working there. I have no place to stay. I stay and sleep at night on sidewalks. Sometime there will be no work. I used to go hungry many times. I am thankful for your ministry for providing hot and nutritious food with good drinking water and good curry. I am so thankful for all your help."



The emergency feeding programs in India and other locations have proven to be effective Gospel outreaches!

Other Blessings

Dressing Up And New Supplies

Union of Baptist Churches, our partner in D. R. Congo, operates two children's homes. Through your gifts, all of the children received a new set of clothes. Don't they look great? They were also delighted to have new mattresses and blankets. Special donations allowed the dispensaries to be restocked with medical supplies.



A New Ride For The Children In India

Sion Assembly Children's Home in India was in desperate need of a vehicle to transport children back and forth to school as well as activities. Harvesters' donors came together to provide the funds needed to purchase this van. The children are thrilled!



Harvesters China

China Sees Partnership

Our partner, China Sees, recently sent this update.

The China ministry is still going strong and very well. The men who have been trained for expository preaching have grown a lot. We are thankful that the Lord is so merciful to us by allowing us to see a lot of fruit from this ministry.

The ministry in Taiwan is different. Taiwan has the highest density of temples in the world. You can see them on main streets as well as on small streets and in people's homes!! True Christianity is very weak here. Prosperity churches and teachings are flourishing and embraced. The casual attitude of Christians towards the Lord and His church is very apparent.

We would love for you to join us in praying:

1. For God's will for our small church
2. For wisdom, courage, and determination in dealing with someone who is currently impacting the unity and purity of the church
3. Our perseverance in service

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