



IN THE HARDEST OF PLACES....

Flowers bloom!
The work goes on.
Lives are being saved.

The Chen Kronicles

June 2022

People are seeking the Lord

In the last 2 years of the pandemic, large numbers of people have come to faith in Christ and are being baptized in spite of persecution that starts from the moment of their new birth in Christ.



One young leader and his team baptized 36 people in the month of April. In many villages Christians are being told not to use the village ponds for baptism.



So here's one pastor's solution:
In March he baptized 7 people in his water reservoir!!
This leader is now leading two house fellowships and in June he baptized 6 more people!

Some house churches have been threatened and told to stop holding prayer and worship services.

One house church with normal attendance of 130 on Sundays, dropped down to 30 after these threats.

PRAY FOR GOD'S PROTECTION ON THESE LEADERS AND THEIR HOUSE CHURCHES.

Another pastor innovated with using a kids' splash pool



This leader organized 2 outreach events in June in 2 new villages and out of a total attendance of 120 people, 54 men and women accepted the Lord!

Below is picture of the thousands that showed up for a 2019 Christmas Rally during my last visit.



The greatest needs at this time are for Bibles, leaders to be trained and believers to be disciplined.

Recently a local believer donated 300 Bibles for distribution but that is just a drop in the ocean when thousands are turning to Christ and needing Bibles.

Pray for the training of these village pastors, evangelists and church planters that God will use them to disciple the new believers and in turn train them to disciple others.

I will be travelling on July 12th and trusting the Lord to bring key men and women to the training sessions. God willing I will return in February 2023. Please pray for good health and safety through these next 7 months.

To receive updates, prayer needs, contact me at jackf_chen@hotmail.com

“EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD, ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD” - William Carey

KOLKATA HOPE RISING IN THE SLUMS

God is doing amazing things in KHRIS.

Two of our girls completed their BA graduate degrees and are now in their 2nd year MA programs despite the many disruptions during the last 2 years!

Imagine completing a 500 word project using a mobile phone to type out the essays. So 2021 was a year of trusting the Lord to provide laptops for the 2 young ladies in their MA programs and He did!



Here is Puja, an MA 2nd year student with her very first laptop, thanks to generous gifts from friends in Canada.

Another 2 girls are now in their BA program 2nd year and will be needing laptops as their assignments become too big to type out and print from their mobile phones.

Finally we have 1 young man ready to begin college 1st year! It has been hard to convince kids from the slums to complete their studies as economic conditions in their homes often force the parents to send these kids out to grab any job in order to provide an income, not realizing they consign their kids to a life of low income jobs.

Another huge blessing has been the provision of funds through KHRIS to acquire 5 units of housing for 5 families that are now off the streets and no longer in the slums!



This lady is watching the demolishing of the shack she lived in for many years on the side of the street.

And in its place a new home is being built to house her family of 6 who have never lived in a proper home before.

Their oldest daughter is now in her 3rd year Nurses training. Things are looking up for this family. Praise God!



God willing, when I am in Kolkata next month I will be looking at the possibility of acquiring a 6th unit to get one more family off the streets and out of the slums for good. Pray that this will be possible as Kolkata is facing such a massive shortage of housing that the Toronto practice of “bidding wars” is prevalent there and is driving prices up very rapidly.

Bengal is a land of hurricanes and floods. Villages gets inundated frequently with the heavy monsoon rains and some relief is almost always needed. In the midst of that, believers faithfully attend church services. The picture below is of some villagers heading to their house fellowships by boat!



Our house fellowships also handed out much needed food grains and other necessities during these hard times.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Much has happened recently and I thank God for granting me good health and strength to continue working with a faithful band of men and women leaders who lead over a hundred house churches spread out all over the province. I have “met” with these key leaders every week through zoom and been encouraged by their reports of what the Lord is doing in and through them.

I would appreciate your prayers as I travel back to India that the Lord will grant much fruitful work to result from the time that I will spend with these dear servants of God who live and work in the most difficult of places.

Till the nets are full and in His love,
Jack Chen

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THE CHEN KRONICLES

A Report by Jack Chen



LEADERS FORMATION

5 batches of pastors and leaders graduated in November and December of 2019, just 2 months before the pandemic hit!

124 pastors, evangelists, lay leaders and church planters completed their 5 year First Principles Course and were commissioned to go train their "Timothies". These men and women have committed to train 536 other lay leaders in their villages and churches over the next 5 years with the same materials they were trained with.

Hit by what I call the triple whammy of a long brutal lockdown in India due to the virus and 2 cyclones that wreaked havoc with devastating floods, we have continued to "meet via zoom" every week and the next page tells a little about the heroism of these dear servants of Christ.

PHOTOS FROM TOP

1. Showing the Jesus film in villages
2. Baptisms in the river
3. Church Planting



When pandemic restrictions and local persecutions made it impossible to baptize new believers in the village ponds and rivers, one of our leaders innovated with an inflatable baptistry that is at once safe and portable to other locations as well!

Below is one of scores of house fellowships that continue to meet in village homes.



MEETING PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS

My colleagues on the ground responded magnificently by reaching out to several flooded villages using wooden boats to deliver dry foods to those thus stranded.



We also sent out 350 bibles to house fellowships that reported hundreds of new believers who are hungering for the Word of God.

The picture shows a shipment of bibles that were received while I was still there in India. God's Providence is amazing!



KHRIS

Kolkata Hope Rising In the Slums

God has blessed our girls from the slums in their studies and in their lives.

Two of the girls, Nisha, on the far right and Puja, second from the left have completed their BA and are now enrolled in the MA program.

Kanchan, third from the left is now looking to do her B.Ed while Lalita with the V sign and Sneha, second from the right are doing their BA! The rest are completing their Grade 10.

Each of these girls is to be commended for their perseverance



ENJOYING A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH GIFTS SPONSORED BY CANADIAN FRIENDS



PROUDLY SHOWING THEIR SCHOOL REPORTS.



WHILE NOT ALL THE GIRLS ARE CHRISTIANS, MOST OF THEM ATTEND THE HISTORIC CAREY BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE THEY CAN HEAR THE GOSPEL PREACHED IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, HINDI.



KHRIS HAS NOW MOVED 4 FAMILIES OFF THE STREETS!

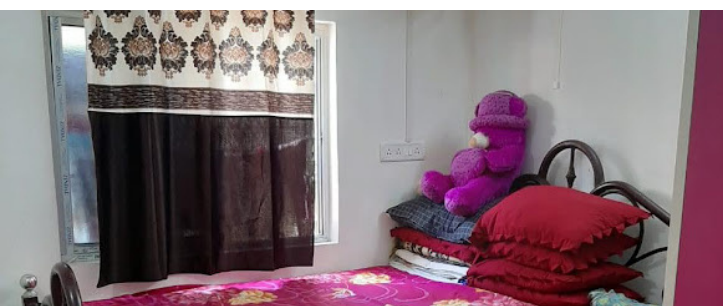
Starting in January of 2020, we were able to move 4 families off the streets into homes. 2 are on ownership basis and 2 are rentals.

The Paswan sisters were ecstatic when we found a one roomed apartment on rental.

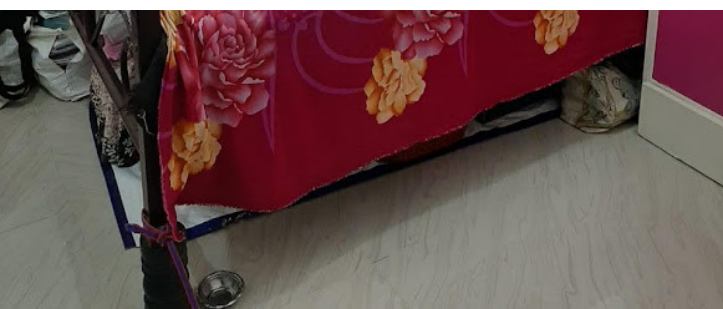
With a little bit of help from the painters & renovators, the dingy room (top panel) was transformed into a beautiful room with a self contained bathroom, electricity and running water which they never had in their old slum shack!



In August 2020, in the midst of a raging pandemic and just after the most horrific cyclone in 100 years, The Singh family were able to move into a beautiful new condo on ownership basis thanks to funds from KHRIS' Rising Hope Project started in memory of Lorraine Chen who started KHRIS.



On a personal note, THANK YOU for your prayers and support. The Lord has been truly gracious to me. In January of this year, after a 26 years association with Morningstar Christian Fellowship, my employment with them ended. I am now able to focus fully on Training Leaders in Bengal and overseeing KHRIS.



If you would like to receive this newsletter regularly please write to me at jackf_chen@hotmail.com

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