



Fwd: The Chen Kronicles 2024 Christmas

From Elaine Wong <elaine.wong@mcbc.com>

Date Sat 2024-12-21 10:13 PM

To Karen Tsang <ktsanglum@hotmail.com>

 1 attachment (62 KB)

The Chen Kronicles 2024 Christmas.pdf;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **jack chen** <jackf_chen@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 16, 2024 at 7:16 PM

Subject: The Chen Kronicles 2024 Christmas

To: jack chen <jackf_chen@hotmail.com>

Dear Praying friends,

It is with great joy I bring you glad tidings from afar!

If it sounded like a Christmas carol, it is meant to because there's no other way to describe the incredible things happening in India today. Souls are being saved! The Gospel is spreading with alarming speed.

From the south of India we hear news of a growing church with 300,000 members! Yes, 300,000 and the government is taking note of the happenings!

In the east we see a growing movement of little little house fellowships (village churches) with 10 to 15 attending but faithfully spreading the Gospel so that they are attracting the attention of persecutors who are doing their utmost to shut down these house fellowships. Recently, a pastor who was forbidden from baptizing new believers in the village pond, built a concrete baptismal pool on the roof of his new church building! Last month 7 were baptized literally on the rooftop for all to see!

As you read the attached newsletter, I pray that the Lord will encourage you to regularly pray for your brothers and sisters in the Lord who minister under great duress and danger. One day we shall meet them all in the great gathering before the Great Throne when Christ calls us all home to glory.

May your hearts be gladdened as you read of the work of the Holy Spirit in dark places.

Wishing you every Christmas cheer and blessing,

In Him,

Jack Chen

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.
Isaiah 9:2

Dear Praying friends,

As we celebrate yet another Christmas, our troubled world reminds us that it was into such a chaotic scene that Jesus came bringing with Him the peace of God that passes all understanding, even today! May you and your family enjoy the warmth and joy of this special season & may the New Year be crowned with God's choice blessings on you, your family and all that you do.

Leaders In Training

December is the busiest month for our Indian pastors and leaders of village house fellowships (translated "small churches"). Names have been changed to protect these men and women.

- Ron and his team are holding special meetings EVERY evening till Christmas day and are trusting the Lord to help the team reach 6000 people this month with the Good News of Christ's Advent!
- Chris and his 71 leaders have led 2040 people to first time decisions for Christ and baptized 127 of the new believers. They also started 153 new house fellowships.
- Tom, a new Bible College graduate leads 2 house fellowships.
- Sheldon disciples 7 village pastors of 7 house fellowships and they have baptized 45 people this year.

The people walking in darkness have indeed seen the Great Light!

And in the midst of all this, persecution is increasing. One of Sheldon's pastors has been forbidden to hold church meetings in his own village. Much prayer is needed for this pastor as they reach out to the authorities to help resolve this crisis.

KHRIS – Kolkata Hope Rising In the Slums Project

- 7 of our girls are now in paying jobs, including 2 holding jobs in the Marriott, a 5 star hotel!
- 6 of the slum families are now off the streets living in 3 rented apartments and 3 ownership homes.
- And just in time! In the month of May, the State Government brought bulldozers and razed the make shift huts of the slum dwellers from the main street in the center of the city. 4 of those huts belonged to 4 families we helped with housing. God is so good.
- Continue to pray for the boys and girls still working hard to complete their education through KHRIS.

Back to the field.

Pray for me as I head back to India on December 27th. Much is happening and lots of good things are being planned. Among them is an opportunity in February for some of my key leaders to meet potential supporters from Canada and the US who are praying for the Lord to open the way for them to be involved in the spiritual harvest.

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support. We could not have done any of the things mentioned above without your help.

Till the nets are full,
Jack Chen

To support this ministry in India contact: (1) <https://www.fellowship.ca/fellowshipinternational>
OR (2) email me at jackf_chen@hotmail.com



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

To support this ministry, contact:
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
www.fellowship.ca

"EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD, ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD" - William Carey

THE CHEN KRONICLES

A Report by Jack Chen



PHOTOS FROM TOP

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

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.



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!

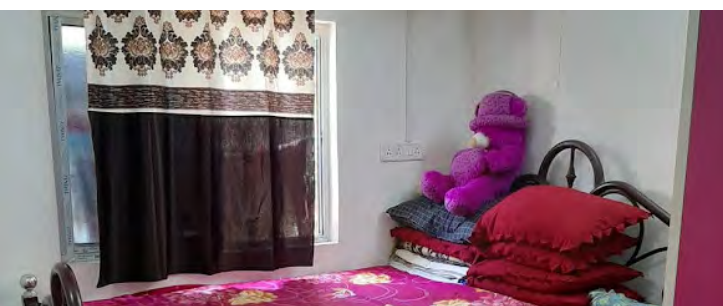
Starting in January of 2020, we were able to move 4 families off the streets into homes. 2 are on ownership basis and 2 are rentals.

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

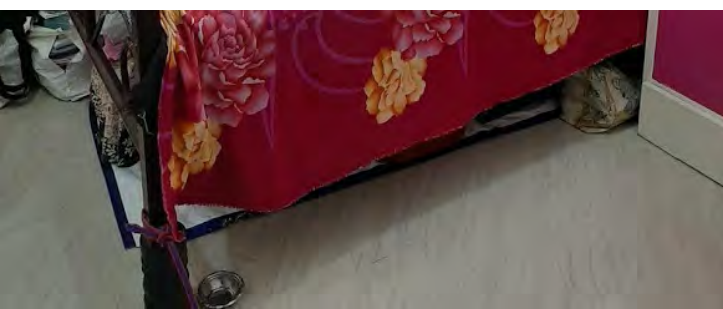
With a little bit of help from the painters & renovators, the dingy room (top panel) was transformed into a beautiful room with a self contained bathroom, electricity and running water which they never had in their old slum shack!



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

To support this ministry, connect with FEB INTERNATIONAL at www.fellowship.ca/FellowshipInternational

From: Jack and Lorraine Chen
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Mission.MissionaryCare@mcbs.com
Subject: Update from India

Dear praying friends at Markham Chinese Baptist Church.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Much praise and thanks to our God for growing and nurturing the training of pastors and church planters in the villages of Bengal.

Attached is my latest newsletter that highlights some of the events happening in the Leadership Training Project AND the slum Project, KHRIS (Kolkata Hope Rising In the Slums). 7 of the 12 sponsored slum kids have now found employment for which we praise God.

Future Plans: God willing I will be returning to India at the end of December to continue the next phase of training the village pastors and church planters. Please pray as with the current diplomatic row between India and Canada, there is much uncertainty and I am praying that it will not pose any problems for the ministry or even for my entry into the country.

I remain your Fellowship International missionary to India

Blessings,

Jack Chen

THE CHEN KRONICLES 2024

As I write this edition of the Chen Kronicles from Kolkata I am singing (again!), **the words of an old hymn, "Count your many blessings See what God has done!"** in spite of the hot summer that saw temperatures of 39C that sometimes felt like 50C with the humidex.

In spite of growing persecution in many of the places where we carried out our training sessions, we have seen incredible growth and excitement as new believers continue to join the many house fellowships (aka as **"churches"**) pastored by largely untrained though very enthusiastic lay pastors and leaders.

The Persecution: a Christian policeman on the leadership team of one of our village churches confirmed that the Federal Government has given orders that foreigners should be asked to show their passports and if the **Visa is a "Tourist Visa" and they are "seen to be doing missionary work"** then they should be arrested, fined, imprisoned, deported and visas cancelled for 2 years. Last year 28 such foreigners were arrested and deported from Assam, a state next to Bengal where we operate.

The Growth: Given the present restrictive atmosphere in India, I worked closely with and through my 2 National colleagues, Swapan and Asutosh, who covered 56 Locations in a span of 5 months from November 2023 to March 2024. During that period, we trained 1506 men and women who showed keen interest in learning the Discovery Bible Study method and in becoming a part of the Disciple Making Movement. The future is bright for Bengal as these believers fan out into their villages and form house churches consisting of 10 to 15 people in each location.

Pray as we draw up plans for following up with those that were trained and I am trusting the Lord to protect these believers and their leaders in remote villages that are far from the big city.

Another National Colleague: Praise God for providing a third National Colleague, Tapas, who completed his M.Div course and is now serving the Lord in one of the villages close to his home town. Whilst still a student at Bible College, Tapas planted a house church with about 12 people. That church has grown to 30 in just a couple of years. Pray for this young man as he has a vision for reaching an entire District that encompasses hundreds of villages.



Pictured above and below are typical house fellowships in Bengal. These **village "churches"** usually meet in the compound of the **lay pastor's home** and is a simple tarpaulin strung over some bamboo poles. My colleague Swapan personally discipless the lay pastors leading these churches.



KHRIS (Kolkata Hope Rising In the Slums) is doing well. When we began working among the slum kids in 2013, we had a general idea of what we wanted to accomplish but never did we imagine the great success we would **achieve by God's grace and providence**. 6 of the girls and 1 boy finished their education and are now gainfully employed (including 2 girls now

working in a 5 star hotel "The Mariott"). 2 of the girls got married. The biggest bonus of all is that we have been able to move 6 families off the streets into 3 rented apartments and 3 ownership homes!

KHRIS is making a difference!



On a personal note, I thank God for my family. My son Jim is in his 24th year as a youth pastor and I have enjoyed his preaching during my time back in Canada. We began our summer with a week away at a cottage and my daughters Karen and Kathryn whipped up some incredible menus to keep son in law Richard, daughter in law Bea and my 3 grandkids Liam, Ethan and Bethany happy and wanting to return to the cottage for more!

I thank God for giving me good health during all my travels and stay of 6 months in India. I am also grateful to God for the privilege of serving **Christ's Church** as your Ambassador to India. Thank you for your prayers and sacrificial support.

Till the nets are full,
Jack Chen

"breaking nets and sinking boats" Luke 5:6 & 7



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