

# NAVIGATING

## Through Tough Times

8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020  
NEWSLETTER

Deserted Avinashi Road  
in Coimbatore

Pic Courtesy: The Hindu

Today is potentially Day 14 of Lockdown in India! And it has been a tremendous task to keep 1.3 billion people in lockdown, but more importantly to make sure that people trying to escape corona, don't die of Hunger.

### LOCKDOWN MEMES

WHEN THE STOMACH  
IS CONSTANTLY BIT-  
TEN BY THE "HUN-  
GER" VIRUS, PEOPLE  
DON'T SEEM TO BE  
AFRAID TO STICK  
OUT THEIR HEADS  
FOR A BITE OF FOOD.

### INDIA COVID-19 TRACKER

LAST UPDATED  
13 MINUTES AGO  
08 APR, 16:10 IST

A CROWDSOURCED INITIATIVE

CONFIRMED   ACTIVE   RECOVERED   DECEASED

[+129]                      [+4]                      [+7]

**5480**    **4841**    **472**    **167**



COMPILED FROM STATE GOVT. NUMBERS KNOW MORE

| STATE/UT      | C           | A   | R  | D        |
|---------------|-------------|-----|----|----------|
| > MAHARASHTRA | ↑60<br>1078 | 933 | 79 | ↑2<br>66 |
| > TAMIL NADU  | 690         | 664 | 19 | 7        |
| > DELHI       | 576         | 547 | 20 | 9        |
| > TELANGANA   | 404         | 348 | 45 | 11       |
| > RAJASTHAN   | ↑20<br>363  | 336 | 25 | 2        |

The Corona situation is definitely taking a toll on the economic situation in the country. The suffering group that are affected the most are the Daily Wagers that includes Agricultural labourers, House Maids, Security staff, Sanitary workers, Garbage collectors, Construction and Road workers. The other sectors that suffer for food are migrant workers from other parts of the country.



# Pastors...Coping during Corona Times...

What do we do for the next meal?

“Just when we are building a church and striving to take the membership from 50 to about 70, this new corona situation has emerged and has prevented us from meeting together as a church. No house visiting, No gospel preachings and No offerings!! It is a terrible situation that we are facing.

Feeding a family with 3 daughters seems like a big task. It always keeps me wondering, What will we do for the next meal??

Shortage of food material, Church Rent, House Rent and financial crunch are some of the little giants that we are facing right now.

The help that has been given is helping us to buy some food and basic necessities. Thanks to everyone who helped. God has been faithful in providing the Next meal through Samaritans like you”.

PASTOR BN JOSHUA, JHARKAND, NORTH INDIA



Miraculously received money  
for food.

This family of 5 did not have food to eat. It has been 3 weeks of lockdown already and no church services and hence no offering. Pastors have no where to look to other than Jesus. An embarrassed father, unable to provide food for his family with 3 children, knelt in God's presence to ask for food. The phone rang and a pastor on the other end, asked if they had food to eat and he confessed that they did not have anything. So he gave a small amount of money, that helped them to satisfy their hunger need. This miracle story has come from Pastor Etwar Masih in the Himachal Pradesh in North India.

PASTOR ETWAR MASIH, HIMACHAL, NORTH INDIA







## How do I run my family?

Since March 22, the lock down has prevented us from going from house to house and praying and receiving an offering, the Sunday service where tithes and offerings are given in a church of 70 people. The terrible financial crisis has seen this family eating just plain rice with onions, even for which they are grateful. "How do I run my family without any finances? How can I buy vegetables without money?" But one thing we do everyday is to gather together and clap hands, and with the tambourine sing and pray. As we worship God, He alone provides for our family.

PASTOR GAYANAND, NORTH INDIA



## LOCKDOWN MEMES

BUT ONE THING WE DO EVERYDAY IS TO GATHER TOGETHER AND CLAP HANDS, AND WITH THE TAMBOURINE SING AND PRAY. AS WE WORSHIP GOD, HE ALONE PROVIDES FOR OUR FAMILY.

## Miracle Bag of Vegetables

During the beginning of lockdown, we did not have any food at home and we were wondering how we were going to make it through. Our house is an loosely stacked structure of bricks and my wife and my daughter and I have been living here and coping with it. But one pastor suddenly called and helped us to buy a bag of vegetables and ration for the family, because of which we are eating and alive today.

PASTOR NIRMAL MASHI, NORTH INDIA





## Inflation slapping them on their face

This Pastor says he is unable to see the prices of the groceries in the market, as they have skyrocketed. This is a pastor from Pandarak in Bihar. Even with 130 believers, this pastor is today with no money to buy anything for himself, and there is no food in the house. He has been evicted from his house as well and he is unable to get any help from the government. This is Pastor Ranjit Tankur, from Patna, the capital city of Bihar in North India.

PASTOR RANJIT TAKUR, BIHAR, NORTH INDIA

## Totally unprepared for Lockdown

The Lockdown came as a shocker to this Pastor Ravi Kumar in Himachal, as they had no clue to what was happening in the country. All they knew was that if the shops had to be closed and if they were not allowed to come out of the house, the worry about what would happen for the food for their children? They were all little, young and tender – 3 of them! They were not prepared!! What would they do?

Then he and his wife started to pray. One Pastor Samuel Masih called and asked him what he would do for food and rent. Then he explained the situation to him and he sent him some money. So he immediately went to the nearby shop and bought some ration for the family. They praise God for the food and also pray for the pastor.

PASTOR RAVI KUMAR, HIMACHAL, NORTH INDIA



## Lock down has started a Prayer Revival

“This lockdown has helped us to gather as a family and pray full time. Though we have 100 believers in our church, this has been one of the toughest moments during our ministry where we do not have any money for our financial needs”, shares Pastor Ritesh Kumar from Patna in Bihar. “Because of the support, I was able to buy food for my family. Thanks very much”.

PASTOR RITESH KUMAR, BIHAR, NORTH INDIA



## Hunger, Church Rent, House Rent are staring him at his face...

In addition to the basic need for food, church rent and house rent are staring him at his face. Pastor Ravit Kumar, from Gaya in Bihar had no food in this house. With the lockdown, he feels all doors have been shut. But he believes in God to help him through the situation. All he knows is to pray a prayer for His country of India, and the whole world to be rid of this evil corona virus in the name of Jesus.

PASTOR RAVIT KUMAR, BIHAR , NORTH INDIA



## Being Pushed for Room rent

As the lock down was announced, the same day, the owner of the house, started pushing this young couple – Pastor Shanty and his wife for the room rent. Living in a single roomed house with a little son, and being new in the ministry, this has been one of the biggest challenges they are facing. “But still God is faithful and is helping us in times of need. We received the room rent from one pastor who helped us, and now we are able to sustain during the times of lockdown. Pastor Samuel Masih called and gave us money to pay the room rent. Thanks for the support that we received during the urgent crisis. It is helping us to sustain during this time”.

PASTOR SHANTY, HIMACHAL, NORTH INDIA







## The Lockdown Hunger scenarios

### *Eating Water and Bananas*

HUNGER RESCUE: BUT FOR HOW LONG?

Hunger is the invisible enemy that people in India are fighting today. Many Rag pickers and sanitary workers because of lock down are starving for food and are living on bananas and water.

*"I used to work from 7 am to 2 pm earlier and earn a side income by cleaning septic tanks in my neighbourhood. Now I work full time from 7 am to 6 pm. Even in my dreams, I am spraying disinfectant," says Manav (name changed), 26-year-old a sanitation worker with the Chennai Corporation.*

Some of these people, do not have ration cards. The government gives them food only if they have ration cards. These are the vulnerable section of the society who have hunger crisis.

### *Hunger: The invisible enemy of the Blind : the Handicapped*

The blind and the Handicapped people used to beg in the trains by singing and displaying their damaged body parts, and out of the money earned through begging, used to buy food and beat the enemy called Hunger. This was their lifestyle. Today there is no one to listen to their songs. They can't hear the sound of coins dropping into their collection vessels. Someone is telling them, "Get back into wherever you live. There is a new enemy who is ready to kill you, called the corona". Hunger is the arch enemy that they have always known and wants to kill them. They don't care about the new enemy right now.

### *The final Walk - Hunger strikes dead the 22 year old man*

Little did he know that it was going to be the last walk of his life. As the 22-year-old was returning home to Tamil Nadu from another state far away, he died mid way in Hyderabad after walking for around 450 km. He was using available mode of transport, hitchhiking in trucks carrying essential goods. He was walking for nearly ten days and wanted to desperately return home due to national lockdown. They didn't have much money. He and his friends lived on limited resources of food and water. Finally his body could take it no longer and he fell unconscious and died.



# *How we operate & Help...*

## LAYERED HELP...

Since we are unable to go outside during lockdown, we simplify this process as much as possible. We transfer the money to the nearest central pastor or leader who then distributes it to the people in his area, one at a time. Since we are not allowed to gather and expected to maintain social distancing. We co-ordinate Action teams in different states across the country who sometimes buy groceries like Rice, Dhal, Flour, Oil, Soaps and Vegetables in bulk and distribute them but if it is a remote part we do bank transfer.

# *The difference it makes...*





