

NEWS FROM INDIA

October 2008

'AGAPE VILLAGE'



Bihar Flood Disaster

On August 18th disaster struck Bihar, India's 3rd largest state with more than 90 million in population. A concrete embankment on the Kosi river in Northern Bihar gave away and the massive river cut a new course through the heart of Bihar. As unwary villagers slept in their hamlets, thousands were washed away in the ensuing waters.

Initial estimates say that at least 3.1 million people have been displaced and more than 100,000 have died. **Initially the casualties came from drowning victims.** Others were trapped by flood waters, cut off from safety and food supplies. As the Indian Government and international community scrambled to respond, thousands of Biharis waited for help. Hunger, thirst, even murder prevailed. Criminals murdered the unsuspecting victims for not paying the exorbitant rescue charges demanded.

The second wave of deaths came from hunger and thirst as flood victims waited for rescue that either came too slow or not at all. Today, three weeks later some victims have not yet been rescued, while hundreds of thousands struggle to survive in relief camps across the state. Nearly 300,000 victims are crammed into 313 relief camps.

The third wave of deaths is beginning. Recent reports suggest that many are

beginning to die from cholera and other water born diseases. Medical services are poor and food is scarce. In many relief camps, shelter consists of bamboo slats draped with old clothing and scraps of plastic. Even that is a scarce luxury. Some disgusted victims are trying to return to their villages.

But fierce flood waters stop them on the way. Officials say it may take as long as 3 months more for all of the flood waters to recede. Many will have nothing to return to; their houses and animals all have vanished. Scavengers have stolen any valuables left behind. The future is bleak for these flood victims. Before the flood they were already among the poorest citizens of the global population. Now, their future seems utterly hopeless without immediate and generous global assistance.

NIEA has 3 plans of action at this moment.

- **Mobile Medical Teams are sent to visit the flood relief camps around Purnia.**
- **Agape Food Packs are being distributed to flood victims.**
- **A Relief Camp for 1,000 people has been established on the edge of Purnia.**



Hundreds of patients have been serviced already through Mobile Medical Units



380 victims of the flood receive 3 nutritious meals at Agape Village every day



A typical Agape Package with relief and emergency supplies to last a family for at least a week



For additional information about NIEA's ministry in South Asia, for regular prayer support or donor opportunities please write to the address or visit our website. We value your cooperation, concern and encouragement. Thank you very much!

NIEA USA, P.O.Box 1012, Harbor Springs, MI 49740 Tel: (231)-881-6694 www.nieamission.org

Jehova Jireh

Heart-touching life profile of a child from Deborah Girls' Home

The story of Sathya surely invites our attention and sympathy. See her picture! She is a 13 yr old delightful little girl. Seeing her smiling face we would never know the amount of pain that she had gone through at this tender age. Sathya lost her father, Kumar- an HIV+ man, while she was 8 yrs old. A year after her mother, Rani, also died of the same disease. It was her grandmother who was taking care of Sathya. Grandma is very old and is not able to get coolie work every day. It was about that time when she found it very difficult to feed the child, that grandma heard about Deborah Home in Tamil Nadu from one of the missionaries of New India where she attended prayer fellowship occasionally.

Besides the pain of losing both mother and father, Sathya faced even greater pain because of the social stigma as her parents died of AIDS disease.

At Deborah Home, she says, she gets parental affection and company of many sisters. Above all she gets love and acceptance.

Now she is going to school. She is in class VII; studies well. Originally from a non-Christian background, she loves the Lord because she got



Sathya

love from the prayer fellowship her grandma was attending and now at Deborah Home.

She sings well and loves listening to Bible stories and memorising Bible verses. And now, we love her too!

Sathya is one among the 16 girls cared for in our Deborah Girls' Home. She is an orphan.

Because of the social stigma of HIV+ / AIDS many children lose the chance of education and decent life. New India Evangelistic Association has an exclusive project on the anvil to care for children like Sathya.

If you are interested to help such children please contact us in the address/ email id given in the Newsletter.

India has about 3 million AIDS victims making 0.36% of the population. Of these 32,000 are children. The number is on the increase. For every 100 people living with HIV and AIDS 61 are men and 39 are women.

Prevalence is high in the 15-49 age group thus threatening the cream of the society.

Because of the stigma attached children of HIV+ parents are marginalized and opportunities are denied to them. Such a segregation denies them the chance to study.

NIEA's proposed project is an alternate arrangement for their rehabilitation and education. Please pray and support.

To witness to the community of Christ's love, NIEA has taken up the ministry of rehabilitation, especially of women. In India women suffer most when disasters happen. NIEA has established 8 vocational training centers, 4 in the North and 4 in the South to provide training for women in tailoring and embroidery. Certificates are issued after training.

Ministry of Rehabilitation



NIEA Tailoring Centre in Tamil Nadu

Trained women could get employment or could be self-employed. This provides an opportunity for a financial alternative to the family.

Currently 100 women get training in our 8 Vocational Training Centers. A Computer Training Center is functioning in Tamil Nadu State to rehabilitate women from tsunami-hit families in the coastal line.