



Points of Interest:

- 2020 Report from India

Inside this issue:

From Mack	1
From Sam	1
Oswald Chambers	6

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# Staying in Touch



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Dear GHI Partners and Friends:

**From Mack** – Sam’s lengthy 2020 report with lots of pictures will follow, but Dottie and I want to thank you for an amazing “year-end” for us at GHI. As 2020 comes to an end, the generous response from so many has been beyond our expectation.



As you know, we don’t offer books for donations nor do we have those type of donors that give if you will match their gifts. There’s nothing wrong with that, but I believe you give because you realize the seriousness of bringing the Gospel to India, which also includes the mandate to take care of orphans and widows, and the imperative of training up Godly young men and women for ministry. Hence, the ministry of Gospel Harvesters of India; The Father’s Home Orphanage; and Harvesters Theological College and Seminary.

So, thank you for taking ownership of GHI with us! Unlike corporations who return dividends to their shareholders, yours will be delayed a bit until you meet our Saviour face to face and be judged according to the way we lived and gave of ourselves, meaning our personal giftings and giving! God will not judge us on what we gave, no, he will judge us on what we kept. So, again thank you for your generosity!

We have been faced with a lot of unexpected projects this year and God, through you, has met all the costs. Some of the projects however remain unfinished due to the heavy rains in the area. In fact, one of the major bridges in the area almost collapsed to the degree that only two wheeled vehicles can pass on it.

We are definitely having to drill another well very soon at a cost of \$3,000 for going 500’ deep, so pray with us about this. Here in the USA it would cost at least \$20K! Revelation 21:5 tells us that God is always loving to do **new things** - and He has new things for you in 2021. So may He continue to strengthen, bless, and guide you into this new year - and continue to make all things new for you!

Here’s Sam...

*Mack and Dottie*

**Dear Friends,**

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord God! I hope and trust that you are all doing well. By the grace and mercy of God, we are all doing well, COVID free. As we are nearing the end of this year, I would like to share a few highlights. “2020” has been challenging, nevertheless, we have experienced the grace of God and His blessings in many ways.

### **Father's Home Orphanage**

Father's Home Orphanage continues to be a place of love, care and spiritual nurture. The District Child Welfare Committee have been referring children at risk who need love, care, protection and counsel to us. In the past few months, we have accepted 3 girls. One was sexually abused by her own father; another is only 13 and was given in marriage to an older man and the other a full orphan had severe behavioral problems. By the grace of God, we loved on them, counselled them and cared for them.

Many times, the government officers would send the children to our care even without getting prior permission from us. Even last week, they brought us a child and when I questioned them, they replied that they took the liberty to do so because of our reputation as one of the best children's home in the district. Though, I insisted they consult us before sending a child to us, nevertheless, I was thankful to God for the trust the government has in our care.

Even though the government requires us to take care of the children only until they turn 18, by the grace of God, we still keep in touch with the children. In fact, we have helped the children in their higher education, jobs as well as in getting them married. In fact, we were able to enroll. Shalini and Sneha into nursing and computer science degrees respectively.

We also rejoiced in the marriage of Gnanaprakash, who came in 2005. He went through High School, then through Harvesters Theological College and now serves as the boys' caretaker and Pastor. We are thankful for your gracious provisions in being a family to these precious ones. This Christmas, a few of our boys who graduated from the Father's Home Orphanage, came down for Christmas.

### **Harvesters Theological College and Seminary**

By the grace of God, all our students are doing well. We were all sad when the students left the campus due to COVID-19. However, we kept in touch with them and conducted online classes. On Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, we invited the students for a Christmas get together. It was a joy to listen to their testimonies and how God had sustained them through these difficult times. Some of the girls expressed difficulties in their home and how the classes had helped them. This afternoon, Tabitha brought her birthday cake to our campus to celebrate with us. We thank God that the HTC is not just an academic place, but a family.

We were also happy that Ajit, one of our recent graduates, has joined Gospel Harvesters of India as a missionary. His family is not the best with his mom being a Muslim and his father a Hindu. They were not willing to release him for ministry. In fact, his father flung the Bible and cursed Jesus. But, by His grace, he clung to the Lord and his calling and joined us. He is a very talented young man, in fact, recently he shared his testimony at one of our Christmas outreaches in a nearby town.

One of the highlights of the ministry of HTC is our committed faculty. It is a joy to see them getting involved in our local ministry. Prof's John Santharaj and Joseph Durairaj have helped in our Christmas day outreach. They will also preach at our branch churches during the New Year services. Again, HTC is not just an academic place, but a place that promotes evangelism and church planting.

God willing, we will be having our regular classes on campus on Jan 7th. Please remember to pray for all our students.

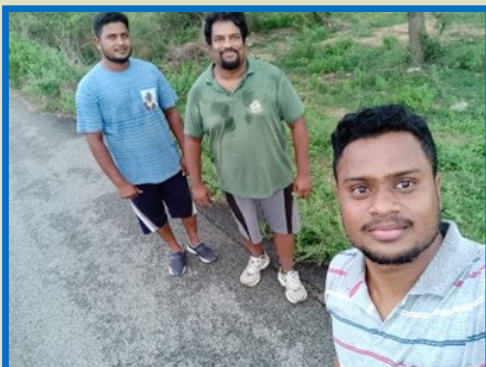
### **Gospel Harvesters of India -Evangelism and Church Ministry**

Despite the lockdown and not being able to go to the villages for evangelism and conduct church services, we were able to keep in touch with the believers through phones and social media. We added another house church. This means worship of the true and living God is now in 184 centers within a thirty mile radius of our campus. In addition to Ajit coming on board full time, we have added two pastor on a part time basis, Joseph and Samuel to assist in the follow up work.

In the meantime, our Pastors volunteered to help around the campus. We as a community helped with harvesting rice, building two bridges, several hundred feet of walls along the pathway to control soil erosion and clean the campus and the sewage canal. Working together truly brought all of us closer to each other. We set apart time for praying and meditating on God's word. We grew much deeper in our love for God and for one another.



We as a community also decided to take our health seriously when Dr. Pam Smith came in 2019. Likewise, (and a year later) I challenged all of us to get fit. We walked, exercised, went into strict diet and lost weight. In fact, I lost 9 kgs in just 6 months. I also told them that if they lost their weight, they would be rewarded with tennis shoes, though I did not have the resources. So, I committed this to the Lord.





When our “weigh-in” date came, I got a call from an Australian friend telling me that someone had given \$Aus1,000 for any need there; so, we were able to buy 35 pairs of shoes. God provided on time!

Once, the lock down was relaxed, we were able to minister and were encouraged that God kept the believers in the faith. We were also able to see the hunger and thirst in the non-believers that we shared with. This gave us encouragement to look ahead and re-start evangelism as if we were starting a new work here!

**More highlights – Gandhi**, a young Hindu man who trusted Christ a couple of years back, was baptized two weeks ago. He was very bold in his witness for Christ.

Last month our daughters, **Amelia and Aradhana**, trusted Christ. It was a great joy to share the Gospel and witness them trust Him. By the grace of God, I baptized them on Christmas day in the presence of 400 people. God willing, I will be baptizing 3 people on New Year’s Day!



By the grace of God, **Gopal**, our watchman, an ardent Hindu trusted Christ on Christmas day. He told me that when he heard the Gospel, something happened in him. He said that he was forsaking all his Hindu gods and trusting Christ. Today, he said that he wants to get baptized.

During the Christmas outreach about **6 people** from K\_\_\_\_\_ village were about to take a pilgrimage to several temples, believing it would take them to heaven. When our Pastor Richard invited them to our Christmas outreach, all of them came, and like Lydia in Acts 16, **God opened their hearts and they trusted Christ**. All of them told Richard that now they have found the true way to heaven, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Richard said that he felt chills over his body as he heard their testimonies. The Gospel is indeed true and powerful.



We are happy to report that in spite of COVID19, we were able to preach the Gospel to nearly **11,400** people and over **8,300** trusted Christ to the glory of God. Please continue to pray for the follow up and nurturing of these new believers.

Here is the list of the 16 Unreached People Groups we have reached since 2002:

1. Vanniyars, 2. Veeravanniyars, 3. Mudhaliars, 4. Agamudia Mudhaliars, 5. Naidus, 6. Reddiars, 7. Chettiars, 8. Yadhavars, 9. Udayars, 10. Mandhris, 11. Irulars, 12. Scheduled Lower Castes, 13. Arundhatis, 14. Muslims, 15. Pandithars and 16. Rajakals.

**Family** - One of the biggest highlights of the year is the birth of our son, Abraham Paul Samuel, on October 20th.

**A little sidebar here** - During the Valentine Day weekend, I encouraged our Pastors to take their wives on a date. So, Fay and I gave them money to treat them and to enjoy the weekend. I was also obligated to practice what I had preached, and God surprised us with a beautiful son.

**On a serious note**, he is an answer to our prayers. Fay and I have committed him to the Lord for ministry and I pray that he will grow to love God and always serve Him. I am really happy for the spiritual growth of Aradhana and Amelia. Please continue to pray for Fay as she cares for our little son and all of us. She is an amazing woman, and I am so blessed to have her in my life.



### PhD Studies

Well, by the grace of God, I was able to complete a Post graduate degree on "Islamic Studies" from SAI-ACS. I am thankful to God I was able to be the top performer in the entire course. This work has enhanced my research work. However, after March, I slowed down with all the campus projects I had to oversee. The day before our son was born, I called my research guide and told him my embarrassing story (Valentine's week). He was very encouraging and told me that the family should be my priority. He advised me to take a 6-month extension. I am thankful to God for this extension. Please pray that I would finish it up quickly. It is quite challenging with the birth of our son.

### Final Note....

Once again, I want to thank Uncle Mack and Auntie Dottie for their godly leadership, fatherly and motherly love, encouragement, wisdom, support and prayers. We were so blessed to hear them through zoom twice this year. The Christmas devotion from him was a huge blessing.

And thanks to all of you who have stood with us in the past year. We would pray that you will continue to stand with us in the work of the Lord. Thank you for being a family to us.

Yours in Him,

*Sam and Fay*





A thought from Oswald Chambers (My Utmost for His Highest) to end the old year and begin the new!

### Yesterday

“The God of Israel will be your rereward.” Isaiah 52:12 (KJV)

**Security from Yesterday.** “God requireth that which is past.”

At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise from remembering the yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God’s grace is apt to be checked by the memory of yesterday’s sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them in order to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual culture for the future. God reminds us of the past lest we get into a shallow security in the present.

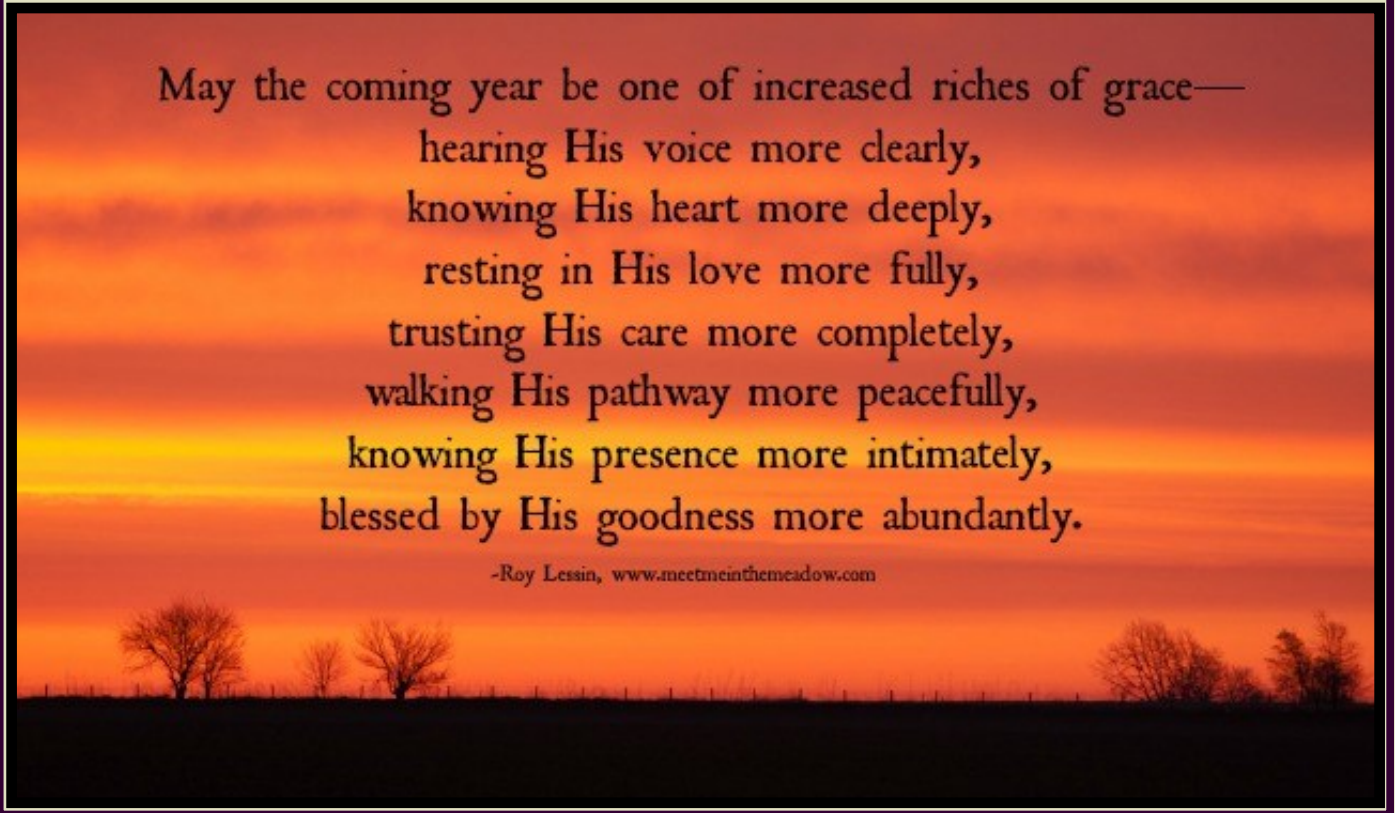
**Security for Tomorrow.** “For the Lord will go before you.”

This is a gracious revelation, that God will garrison where we have failed to. He will watch lest things trip us up again into like failure, as they assuredly would do if He were not our rereward. God’s hand reaches back to the past and makes a clearing-house for conscience.

**Security for Today.** “For ye shall not go out with haste.”

As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, unremembering delight, nor with the flight of impulsive thoughtlessness, but with the patient power of knowing the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us; it is true that we have lost opportunities which will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ.

Leave the Irreparable Past in His hands, and step out into the Irresistible Future with Him.



May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace—  
hearing His voice more clearly,  
knowing His heart more deeply,  
resting in His love more fully,  
trusting His care more completely,  
walking His pathway more peacefully,  
knowing His presence more intimately,  
blessed by His goodness more abundantly.

-Roy Lessin, [www.meetmeinthemeadow.com](http://www.meetmeinthemeadow.com)