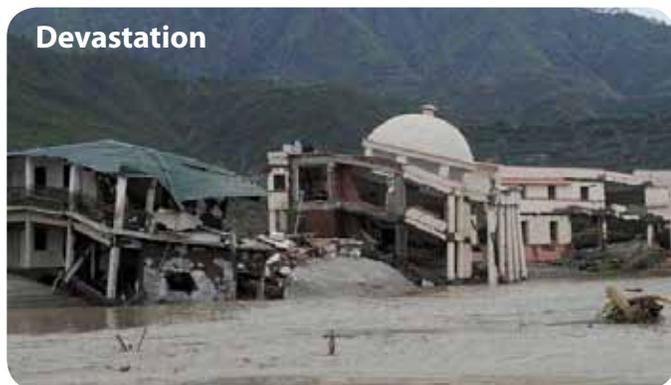


Jay & Romola's U.S. Visit

Jay and Romola were here from late April through mid June. Jay visited several supporting churches and spoke about Mid-India's work. They also had opportunities to visit and share with other leaders and friends. The overwhelming love and encouragement they received from churches, friends and leaders was very uplifting. They are grateful to God for these wonderful co-workers and friends.

Floods

Not long after their return home, a downpour of very heavy rains caused flash flooding in one of the mountainous northern states, Uttarakhand. The floods hit so rapidly, that people did not have time to escape. The force of the flood waters was so great that it caused huge rocks to fall from above, created landslides that uprooted trees and carried houses away, and washed away bridges and roads. Many towns and villages turned into desolate places—houses, cars, shops—everything tumbled down and washed away. People were washed away and many were buried under the rubble and debris.



There are four important pilgrim places in Uttarakhand where hundreds of people visit for religious rituals. No one knows how many lives were lost. Some say a few hundred to a thousand but others estimate it to be over ten thousand. Bodies are still being washed up along the rivers. Many are buried under the rubble and debris and will never be found. Many hundreds are without food and shelter. With roads washed out and bridges gone, there is no way to get food, medicine and other supplies to them.



Although the state government is allowing limited relief work in some areas, they have not allowed outsiders to go in beyond a certain point. We feel badly that so many were lost without any hope.

The monsoon rains have shown their worst face around us this year. Rivers, creeks and roads have flooded. The heavy rains have caused snakes to come out of their holes to find dry places. In the villages, they enter homes at night and people get bitten. One of our worker's younger brother, 8 years old, died three days ago from a snake bite.

Even on our campus, we have recently killed 8 snakes most of which were very poisonous.

People were eagerly awaiting the rains, but now the very heavy rains have spoiled the crops. Prices of everything are sky high. Poor people are suffering so much.

Church Visits

This summer while the Bible college was closed, Jay, Ernest and the college leadership took the opportunity to visit a few churches.

Twice in July, we visited a village (Umaria Khurd) where we have a small congregation. Only 45 miles away, it takes three hours to get there because the road is so rough. This church has been meeting under a big mango tree since it started in 1975. Village homes are very small and there is not enough room for 30-35 people to sit in one and worship. In the summer time and during monsoon season, they have no place to get together and worship. They have donated a piece of land to the mission.



So last week, we had a prayer as a groundbreaking ceremony. We wish you could see the joy and smiling faces of these village Christians. Please pray that the Lord will allow us to construct a place of worship there.

It is amazing to see the faith of these simple village Christians. They not only go through hard times because of their economic condition, but they must also endure pressure from the pagan worshipers around them. However, despite these hardships, these churches seem to be getting along well.

Projects

As we visit the churches, we also visit those centers where the goat and sewing projects are located. The sewing centers are now able to contribute a small amount to the local churches. The goat projects will be able to contribute to the local churches in another two years or so.



We are always looking for new places to start more goat and sewing projects. We have just given goats to two more families and two more sewing machines to the ladies. We are so thankful to our friends and supporting churches for their loving contributions for these projects.



God's Miracle

At one of our centers in the Pendra area, we have a pre-school. Mrs. Jyoti Kiran Walter teaches and helps the young ones in every possible way. About 4 years ago, parents of a little boy named Samrat brought him to the school. The child was a vegetable, lying on his back, immobile except to move his head a little and his eyes from side to side. It would be very difficult to accept such a child in the school. But Mrs. Walter had compassion as she looked at him and asked us if we would allow her to care for him. Ernest immediately said please go ahead; this is what we are here for. She then asked the parents to leave him there.



Samrat Smiles

She started taking care of the boy. She talked to him with love, cared for him, massaged his little body everyday and turned him frequently. Over time, his condition improved. The boy started to move a little and began smiling. Ernest suggested the parents take him to a doctor, so they took him to a larger city hospital.

The medical team there studied Samrat's condition, took some x-rays and made other tests. They performed two surgeries, one under his knee and another on his ankle. The results are amazing.

Now Samrat lifts his head up, tries to sit, tries to speak (which he could not do earlier) and stands up with a little help. Mrs. Walter continues her caring therapy. Samrat's father has a very low paying job and his mother does not earn wages as she is not educated. The family has some medical bills still pending. However, friends from the U.S. are helping financially through the mission, and we can see wonderful progress. Many thanks to those who are praying and to those who are contributing.

The Bible College

God is gracious and He continues to bless us. The heavy rains have made travel to the Bible college very challenging for our students. They are still arriving. Ramit, a student from the northeast, and two of his friends, left their home to come to the college. They faced such a difficult time that twice they decided to turn back. Only prayers helped them to push forward. It took them 14 days to reach the Bible college. Most of their journey was on foot through the dense rain forests, and survival was on rice only, which they boiled and ate. There were no villages or settlements where they could stay along their route.

Tidbits

This year's rains in Uttarakhand were 375% greater than normal! Over 100,000 religious pilgrims (Hindu) were stranded by the flash floods.

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Translation

At the end of 2012, Romola was able to complete translation of the book "Christianity Stands True" by Professor Lynn Gardner. This book is an outstanding source for proving historically and theologically that Christianity Stands True through any kind of test. The content is so rich with solid proofs. It enriches Christian faith and provides an outstanding tool for defending Christianity. Romola worked very hard to complete the translation into Hindi. Her office help did an excellent job in setting up the typing and preparing charts and diagrams. We are very grateful for Brother Phil Casey for his help in printing the book; the funds were provided by LATM (Literature and Teaching Ministry, Joplin, M.O.).



Romola Henry

"Teaching the Gospel through service"