



# NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

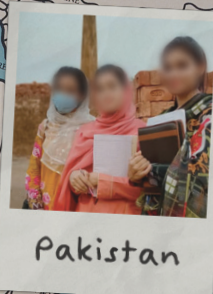
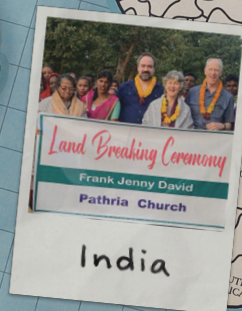
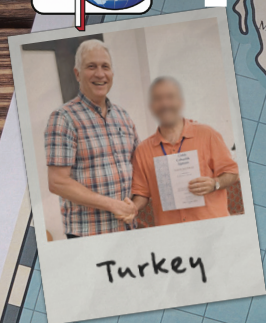


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## A Journey with ER Partners

Lisa Fowler, for the ER Home Office

In this edition of *News from the Fields*, I'd like you to imagine that you're on a cross-cultural journey. You'll travel to Turkey to join pastors for a Portable Bible School Teacher Training seminar, getting an inside look at how preaching is taught. Then, you'll get on a flight for India to meet several of our ministry leaders through the eyes of ER friends Frank and Jenny Zartman. Your journey will continue to Nigeria where you'll hear from Mawo and Janet Abaya, before traveling to the UK and Pakistan. Your final stop will be visiting teachers of the Freedom Child Centers in India, returning to your home with their testimonies fresh on your mind.

Throughout this reading journey, I hope you'll be encouraged about the ways God is moving through the

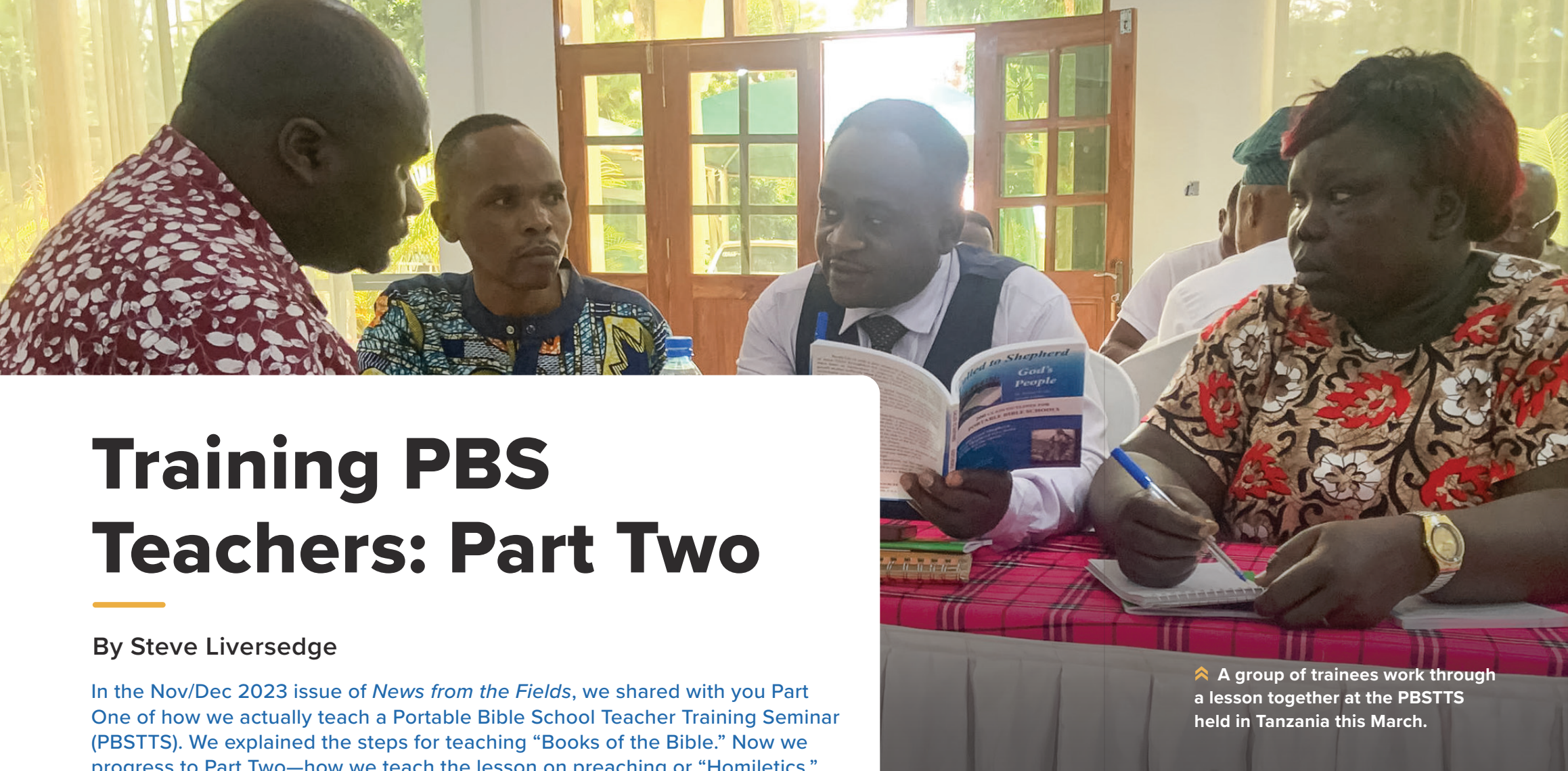
faithfulness of these brothers and sisters in Christ. It's with missionary urgency that our ministry leaders seek to train local pastors and missionaries in programs such as Portable Bible Schools. It's with steadfast hope that our directors such as Sam Francis (India) and the Abayas (Nigeria) encourage those under their care to remain faithful to God amid persecution and growing government pressure. It's with fervent devotion that Sister Salomi (Pakistan) prays through the difficulties and joys that her disciples face as they continue to lead remarkable numbers of people to Jesus. And it's with ongoing compassion that the Freedom Child Center teachers find ways to show and share the love of Jesus from generation to generation.

These four descriptions—missionary urgency, steadfast hope, fervent devotion, and ongoing compassion—mark so many of our ministry leaders. As you read the articles in this newsletter, may the testimony of Christ's love be pressed deeply into your heart, strengthening you wherever you might be in life's journey.

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# Training PBS Teachers: Part Two

By Steve Liversedge

In the Nov/Dec 2023 issue of *News from the Fields*, we shared with you Part One of how we actually teach a Portable Bible School Teacher Training Seminar (PBSTTS). We explained the steps for teaching “Books of the Bible.” Now we progress to Part Two—how we teach the lesson on preaching or “Homiletics.”

📌 A group of trainees work through a lesson together at the PBSTTS held in Tanzania this March.

## TYPES OF SERMONS



### Biographical



### Narrative



### Textual



### Expository



## BIOGRAPHICAL SERMON The Four Surrenders of Abraham

**THEME:** Total Surrender

**TEXT:** Genesis 12:1 - Genesis 22

### INTRODUCTION

I. Going into the unknown demands sacrificing

- a. Marriage, job, children
- b. What did this mean for Abraham?

### OUTLINE (Body)

II. The four surrenders of Abraham

- a. To leave country and kindred (Genesis 12:1 & Luke 14:26)
- b. Separation from Lot (Genesis 13:9 & Luke 5:27-28)
- c. Cast out Hagar & Ishmael (Genesis 21:10 & Luke 22:42)
- d. Offering of Isaac (Genesis 22 & John 14:6)

### CONCLUSION

III. Surrender of all we are and all we possess

- a. Luke 14:33

### INVITATION

To refresh your memory, PBSes came into being in the 1980s to train up lay pastors for pastor-less villages throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today PBSes train lay-pastors for thousands of house churches in urban centers and rural areas in over twenty nations. We have presented the PBSTTS twice in India, four times in China, and once in the Philippines, Peru, Taiwan, DRC, Turkey, Ethiopia and, most recently, Arusha in Tanzania. The next training is set for this April in Eskisehir, Turkey.

So, Homiletics: A 50-minute model homiletics lesson is taught every day in the PBSTTS because there is so much to cover, and each lesson is necessary for what follows. We always open in prayer. The first day we answer the question, “What is Preaching?” We go on to explain the text of the sermon, the topic of the sermon, gathering material, and arranging the sermon. This is followed on Day Two with instruction on how to set up an outline with an introduction, a body and a conclusion, and the all-important invitation.

Following these important building blocks, we introduce several types of messages, including biographical, narrative, textual, topical and expository. Recently we’ve combined the first four to devote extra time to expository. We also teach Inductive Bible Study as a tool for preparing any of these types of sermons.

### Homiletics: PBS Model Lesson

To give you a taste of how we teach these types of sermons I will go through the simplest, the biographical sermon, which is a type of narrative sermon. We emphasize that even in the classroom, where we are just “practicing,” this is God’s Word and it is “*living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart*” (Hebrews 4:12). We also encourage every student sharing the message he has prepared in the classroom to include an invitation to everyone in attendance.

For this lesson we provide the students with a title, “The Four Surrenders of Abraham,” and a text, Genesis 12:1 – Genesis 22. We provide the main points of the body: **A) To leave country and kindred**, Genesis 12:1; **B) Separation from Lot**, Genesis 13:9; **C) Casting out Hagar and Ishmael**, Genesis 21:10; and **D) The offering of Isaac**, Genesis 22. Then we ask the students to note what is missing. As you can see from the chart above, those missing parts are the Theme, the Introduction, any Cross References, the Conclusion, and the Invitation.

Together with the class, we fill in the blanks, listening to their suggestions and guiding them toward something like the following: **Theme** – Total Surrender; **Introduction** – Going into the unknown demands sacrifices; **Cross References** – Luke 14:26 coupled with Genesis 12:1, Luke 5: 27-28 coupled with Genesis 13:9, Luke 22:42 coupled with Genesis 21:10, and John 14:6 coupled with Genesis 22; **Finally, we arrive at a conclusion** such as “Surrender of all we are and all we possess” (Luke 14:33).

The students are reminded of the importance of concluding their sermons with an invitation. We provide an example based on the account of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46–52. Bartimaeus was a blind man who was called by Jesus to come to Him. As he did so, Mark tells us he threw off his cloak. That cloak might have been worn and dirty, but it was important to Bartimaeus because it kept him warm at night. However, it hindered him from coming to Jesus, so he threw it off.

Is anything hindering you from going to Jesus? Whatever it is, if God is speaking to you, now is the time to throw off all hindrances, come to Him, and surrender totally to the love of God. As the sermon comes to a close, time is given for silent prayer and for listeners to indicate if God has spoken to them.

If the Holy Spirit has spoken to you today through this little window into the PBS curriculum, why don’t you come to Him, right now, and totally surrender to Him?



## Witnessing God's Work

By Frank & Jenny Zartman

Frank and Jenny are long-time friends of ER who were originally introduced to the ministry through co-founders Willys and Thelma Braun. Frank got more deeply involved with ER in 2020 when we began our Monday-Saturday Zoom prayer meetings. After more than 1,225 days of prayer, Frank still joins almost every time, faithfully praying for the home office and our many international partners—some of whom he and his family had the chance to meet last December.

My wife, our younger son, and I had the privilege of attending a wedding in Bhopal, India in December as representatives of ER. We scheduled our trip from Dec 15 through Jan 3 so we could visit ER friends in Madhupur and Dhanbad as well. We visited schools, villages, churches, and the Sycamore Tree Café, and we saw firsthand some of the amazing work that God is doing in India. We forged deep friendships, gave and received blessings, visited with an official, experienced the adrenalin rush of driving through India's traffic, and marveled at the mighty love of our savior.

Students from ER's Bible schools are planting churches all over India and even in neighboring countries. India's government does not provide an education for all of its children, so graduates from ER's training programs run schools for underprivileged children, teaching them basic life skills. Many students

come from Muslim or Hindu families, and though they often are not able to tell you about their family's religion, they all know the good news about Jesus Christ! ER associates have also started schools for very poor women to learn sewing, business, and computer skills that help them earn money for their families.

*"We saw firsthand some of the amazing work that God is doing in India."*

They also reach out to the least and the lost in practical ways. We broke ground for a village church that meets in the small courtyard of a home. They pray that the building will be completed by Easter, for they have no roof to protect them from the heat of summer or the monsoon rains. This is a problem for other

churches we visited as well. On Christmas Eve we participated in giving sturdy blankets to homeless widows from a nearby Muslim village, and then we worshipped in an open air service on the partially built campus of a Bible school. We warmed ourselves by bonfires as we enjoyed the singing, dancing and celebration of our Lord's birth. (A number of rabbits also joined the service, as well as a dog that chased a chicken through the grounds.)

The wedding in Bhopal opened our eyes to new ways to glorify God and draw families together. The day before the wedding there was a long worship and prayer service for the new family as well as a formal introduction of the extended families on both sides. Marriage unites clans as well as individuals! There was time afterwards for women to get henna decorations on their hands, and the fellowship time lasted until 2:00 am. The wedding itself began at 4:00 p.m. (India time) and lasted four hours, and the reception celebration went late into the night.

We are so thankful for the opportunity that we had to visit India and to spend time with dear friends. The long and exhausting flight was worth it! ■

## A Snapshot into Pakistan

By David White

Based out of the UK, David White oversees evangelism and discipleship efforts—including PBSes—that are spearheaded by local believers in Pakistan. The following is a brief report on those ministries.

### Children's Ministry

(1) Meet the three-year-old person of peace in her family! She asked her mother to start home church in their home. She and her brother are intercessors, praying for each member of the family as they go out, and praying for safety as they travel on the roads as a family.

(2) When Danish was a toddler, no one could "make him do" other than Sister Salomi. He was the epitome of "bad attitude!" She took him under her wing.

(3) He loves to make Wordless Books (an evangelism method) for his friends. Last year he shared the Good News with his school friends and brought a number of Muslims to repent, believe and receive the LORD. Now nine years old, he is concerned prayerfully for his friend; she did not know the LORD, and he did not want her to go to Hell. He has prayed for her family and shared the Good News with them. He has brought them and another friend's family to repent and believe in the LORD Jesus and started home church in their homes. His ambition in 2024 is to graduate from a Portable Bible School!

### Young Evangelists School

(4) Daniyal has been attending and



learning discipleship for four years. He is now 14. Last year he and his six disciples brought 250 of their school fellows in three different schools to faith (100 from a nominal Christian background and 150 from the "majority"). In PBS '23 he was top of the class! In January, he and his 15-year-old sister brought 300 of their new school students to faith.

### PBS Graduates

(5) We have seen more than 2,500 lay people trained to become lay pastors. PBS '22 and '23 graduates formed 12 "Triplets" in January and have brought 108 unsaved families to faith in the LORD, prepared them for believers' baptism and started home churches in their homes. They plan to triple to make 36 Triplets and target over 300 homes in March and April.

Karishma was a teenager when her pastor father died. She continued to lead the church. She became a PBS '22 graduate and now leads downlines of disciples and Triplets, has used T4T (Training for Trainers), and plans to hold a PBS in her town.

Kinza, another PBS graduate, got a house cleaning job so she could support her Triplets and pay their fares to make evangelist home visits.

PBS '23 graduate Asif lost his job. He had to sell his possessions to make ends meet. But he is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. The LORD has led him to a totally different occupation. He now stays in a hostel, where there are eleven others in his room. Three are nominal Christian, the rest are from the "majority." He has brought six to faith and holds home church in their room daily.

### Adult Literacy Programs

(6) Praise the LORD the Bible Society is providing support and training for teachers for ten centres, all of whom are disciple makers and home church planters.

### Prayer Requests

Join us in prayer for PAK-istan ("Land of the Pure"), the largest fundamentalist Muslim population in the world, with 400 language groups and 500 UPGs. Pray for:

- The people to have "Pak dil" ("Pure hearts"), Psalm 119: 9, 11.
- More committed men!
- On-going multiplication of disciples and home churches.
- Future PBSes in multiple areas.
- Training men for effective evangelism at the annual Ijthima (a large gathering of fundamentalist Muslims) in November.



# Hope for the Desperate, Helpless & Hopeless

Youth pray for UPGs and Great Commission work around the world during a GC3.



## By Drs. Mawo & Janet Abaya

The Abayas live near Jos, Nigeria, where they have directed the International Center of Evangelism since 1999. In addition to leading 26 classes through ER's School of Evangelism, they have ministered through humanitarian aid during times of distress and are increasingly impacting youth through Great Commission Challenge Camps.

Alliance for Africa reported in their research for the 2022 International Youth Day, that Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, is home to “the largest population of young people in the world, with a median age of 18.1 years.” The article continued:

*About 70% of the population are under 30, and 42% are under the age of 15. With the natural increase in the number of young people, there is no corresponding increase in their access to employment opportunities which has dwindled over the*

*years. Rather, statistics show a concerning increase in the rate of unemployment.*

This unemployment crisis, when combined with grossly inadequate physical infrastructure, rising inflation, and a repressive political system incapable of ensuring justice and inclusion, portends a bleak future. Many Nigerian youth are seeking any and every means to escape the pains of living in Nigeria. Those who cannot escape the situation are forced into lives of crime, drugs, immorality and sometimes contemplating suicide.

This is, indeed, a bleak picture. However, many others are working hard to make life worth living in the country. Christian youth in particular, in spite of their challenges, seek to make God relevant for their fellow youth. This is the significance of our ministry to young people through the Tentmaker Institute, a new initiative at the International Center of Evangelism in Jos. We are equipping Christian young men and women who have found hope in Jesus to spread that hope to their friends.

The Great Commission Challenge Camps (GC3s) run by the center have been our vehicle for making this happen. We mobilize Christian youth to engage in the Great Commission mandate among their peers. To God's glory, this work is blossoming into a larger mission.

The camps open up opportunities for introducing the unsaved to Christ and restore those who are discouraged in their faith due to the socio-economic conditions. Young believers are equipped with tools to witness and to disciple their friends. We help open up potential opportunities for tentmaking (income earning for self-support). This year we are introducing Inductive Bible Seminars (IBS), training them in effective Bible study skills. Also included are Purity Retreats, where they are challenged in Biblical purity of heart and life. Young people are encouraged to pursue spiritual and sexual purity. These issues regularly come up at the GC3 camps and deserve more focused attention. Our goal is to train young people to live for Christ and share that hope with others.

When these youth leave camp, they become fiery Great Commission Christians with shoes of readiness to declare the gospel of peace. Please pray and, if God moves in your heart, give so that our work of advancing the gospel in Nigeria can progress. ■

# Testimonies



## Lauson John Su'Pusarri

The fire that had burned in me was almost, if not completely, dead. At this [GC3], that fire was rekindled, and now I go out to spread the fire. My slogan now is “CATCH FIRE, BURN FIRE, SPREAD FIRE!” I commit, with the help of God, to share the gospel of Christ with 15 people in the coming 90 days.

Chad, Cameroon and other countries in Africa. I have now set up my own organization for reaching youth called Africa vision Academy [...] I have taught many in our group how to use tools from GC3 to share the gospel with their friends [...]

My plan this year is to run the first GC3 in Chad. We are looking to partner with the team in Nigeria to run this camp sometime in August.



## Abigail Asantu

I am a GC3 alumna and also a volunteer at GC3s. My participation in the camp a few years ago left me with an amazing transformation on how to reach out to young people.

I have been a believer of Jesus for quite a while, but I did not have a true understanding of how I could reach out to others. GC3 taught me this [...] I have succeeded in sharing the gospel with many of the young ones in the ministry I am involved with.

As a volunteer with GC3, I consider GC3 to be a lasting well where I draw my strength for the service, refresh, and am reminded of who I am in Christ and as a tentmaker already in the field. The impact of GC3 on my life, and on the lives of others, is speaking loudly!



## Origene Koumnbeye

Four years ago I was privileged to attend the GC3 camp while undergoing theological training in Nigeria. My experience at GC3 was mind blowing. I gained a lot of insight, especially into different ways of presenting the gospel. I learned to present the gospel in a simple but clear way to young people [...] I was so pumped up that I shared the gospel with the driver of the vehicle taking me back from camp on my way home.

I thank God that this training has helped me to reach out to many young people in Nigeria,

# Giving Tuesday 2023: Report on Children's Christmas Parties

By Caleb Pfeifer



Last year's Nov/Dec issue of *News from the Fields* marked the launch of ER's second Giving Tuesday project: Sponsoring Christmas parties for children from unreached people groups (UPGs) in Bihar and Jharkhand, India. In response, the ER family generously donated more than \$2,500.

Although we fell short of our goal, these contributions helped us send a total of \$5,000 to aid our partners in providing joyful and meaningful celebrations for **more than 3,850 children from 120 UPG villages**. For most, this was their first time celebrating Christmas. And because the parents were invited too, **around 1,200 adults from UPGs heard the gospel!**

Here are testimonies about the programs from several Freedom Child Center leaders:

*We celebrated the Christmas program with great pomp [...] All the children participated by singing and dancing, and we prayed for them. Most of the children's parents were non-believers, but they also attended the program with great delight. We hope that their lives will also be changed.*

– Ranjit Kumar, FCC teacher

*I give thanks to the Lord because we had a grand Christmas celebration [...] We sang hymns of Jesus Christ and action songs were performed by the children. The story of Jesus' birth was shared by our pastor. The children along with their families attended the celebration and were all blessed. The children shared what they learned with their parents, siblings, and friends.*

– Soni Kumari, FCC teacher

*I thank the Lord for the wonderful Christmas program that we had. All the children were excitedly waiting for this day, and they all participated in all the activities. All their parents attended because of them, and we hope God will intervene in their hearts. About 1,000 children and parents were blessed through this Christmas program in our area.*

– Sidhi Kumar, FCC facilitator

Thank you for praying and giving so that unreached families could experience the joy of Christmas! Pray that the seeds of the gospel—planted in their hearts through the story of Jesus and demonstrations of neighborly love—will take root, be watered, and bear fruit unto eternal life.



## Memorial Gifts

Contributions were received...

*In memory of Elizabeth (Brewer) Ward of Etowah, TN from her mother, Claire Brewer, of Crossville, TN;*

*In memory of Richard Cook of Monticello, KY from his daughter, Elizabeth Cook, of Harrogate, TN;*

*In memory of Dr. Rex A. McConnell of Nicholasville, KY from Hopewell Gospel Ministries in Burgin, KY.*