



CENTRAL
INDIA
CHRISTIAN
MISSION

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NEWSLETTER

MINISTERING IN THE MARGINS

Have you ever looked closely at an ancient map? Throughout medieval times, cartographers would often draw images of dragons and wild beasts in the map's margin to illustrate distant lands not yet explored. As you might guess, pictures of dragons and wild beasts don't express the assurance of safe passage. However, despite these obvious warnings of danger, some have continued to march off the map and explore the margins.

In his book, *Jesus in the Margins*, Rick McKinley writes, "Our world, our culture has margins. They're places occupied by people who go unnoticed." Throughout the Bible, God's concern for the marginalized is evident. One such place is found in Matthew 25. Within this passage, Jesus shows the Father's heart for the least of these, and challenges each of us to demonstrate the same concern.

As you might imagine, India is a place where millions go unnoticed due to stigmas, whether culturally or

religiously motivated. These stigmas make an already difficult life for many, seem inescapable, leading to despair and hopelessness. However, Jesus gives hope!

For over three decades, you've allowed Central India Christian Mission to minister in the margins as we strive to serve neglected people and places, even in the face of great hardship and persecution. Our goal is showing compassion to lepers, widows, and orphans,

bringing help and hope to the least of these, and proclaiming the Good News to those who have never heard of the love of Jesus. Without your love and support, this would not be possible.

Therefore, as you read the following pages, we at CICM hope you know that your harvest of righteousness and generosity is a testament to the continued work taking place throughout India and the surrounding regions.



INSIDE: *Inspiring stories you are making possible.*

TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Real stigma is a difficult thing to overcome, regardless of your location. In India, the caste system places children and adults with physical abnormalities as the lowest of the low. These individuals, rejected by family, are often left to fend for themselves. CICM, along with IDES and LEAP Global Mission, is dedicated to enhancing and enriching the lives of people in India by providing free specialized medical and surgical services inspired by the love of Christ. As children of God, we strive to provide patients and their families with a fresh start and new opportunities to live a healthy life. Through our partnership, we offer encouragement as we extend the healing hands of Christ via our medical volunteers.

One such instance of transformation is in the life of Nainsi. This young girl was born with an abnormal growth of the brain. Her parents had previously sought medical care, but the cost was impossible. During a routine visit to the village, a CICM team member met Nainsi and her family and suggested they seek treatment at the Mission



Hospital in Damoh. Upon arrival, they determined that she needed extensive surgery, or she would not survive. Her situation was so complicated and critical; the team advised Dr. Lall to send her to America for the operation. LEAP Global Mission offered to cover the expenses for the trip. Nainsi and her mother arrived in Dallas, where the incredible

surgical team worked to correct her abnormality. We are happy to report that Nainsi is doing well and has a bright future ahead.

We are blessed to have dedicated ministry partners in IDES and LEAP Global Mission. IDES gave partial funding so that specialized surgeries were performed, and LEAP recently sent a team of over 20 gifted surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and technicians to minister in India. During their week at the Mission Hospital, 76 cleft lip and palate surgeries were completed – and lives were transformed.

Partnerships with organizations and you allow CICM the opportunity to provide quality medical care to the least of these. **If you are interested in furthering our work to bring transformation to these communities, please consider a gift today.**



LOVING THE UNLOVED

At Central India Christian Mission, we are creating a legacy of education and empowerment for children and young adults through our Children's Homes. Did you know, CICM has six of these Homes throughout India, each caring for India's most vulnerable and at-risk children? These Homes are a refuge where basic needs like nutrition, education, and medical care are provided. More importantly, though, they're places that let children experience the love of Christ within a community of faith.

In 2016, CICM opened Raigarh Children's Home with the faithful and generous support of partners like you. Unlike other Children's Homes, Raigarh is unique in that it cares for children with special needs. The term special needs can frequently create confusion and feelings of fear. Quite simply, special needs refer to the educational requirements stemming from learning difficulties, be it physical, emotional, or behavioral. Many times, these can overlap depending on the condition. In India, the term also carries stigmas that make life difficult and challenging.

Within Hinduism and many other Eastern religions, a disability is viewed through the lens of "karma" or the results of sinful actions that occurred in someone's life. These views often push the most vulnerable to the margins of society. However, at CICM, we're committed to following the way of Jesus. Instead of turning away, we walk towards those that live in the margins because we know the value God has given to each person. We're providing each of these children with hope, faith, and love igniting the transformative light of the Gospel amid the darkness. One example is our friend Chotu.

Born blind, Chotu faced challenges related to his disability as well as the stigma that came with it. Besides that, he and his family faced the daily struggles of poverty, which limited their ability to



provide him with quality education. As parents, they felt hopeless to change their situation. However, after learning about CICM and their Children's Homes from a pastor, Chotu's parent decided to bring him to Raigarh. From that moment, Chotu, like many other children, is thriving and given hope for a brighter future.

Because of the financial support of partners like you, we're able to help children like Chotu receive education and other necessities that would otherwise be impossible. Currently, we're serving 125 children within Raigarh but can serve at least 75 more.

If you're interested in helping more children like Chotu, please consider a gift to support our Children's Homes.

GIFTS TO HONOR & REMEMBER

IN MEMORY OF James Kunz | DONATED BY Norma Brown
IN MEMORY OF Alta Case | DONATED BY Gary Ulrich
IN MEMORY OF Evelyn Rubeck | DONATED BY Nancy Horton
IN MEMORY OF Evelyn Rubeck | DONATED BY David Duncan
IN MEMORY OF Evelyn Rubeck | DONATED BY Mark & Evelyn Taylor
IN MEMORY OF Gladys D. Winstead | DONATED BY Dirck Spencer
IN MEMORY OF Weston Marsh | DONATED BY Rhoda Marsh
IN MEMORY OF Ray Lyne | DONATED BY David Duncan
IN MEMORY OF Charles and Juanita Brison | DONATED BY Joe Mack
IN MEMORY OF Shirley Beauchamp | DONATED BY Anonymous
IN HONOR OF Josh & Jennifer McCarty | DONATED BY Anthony Comella

BRINGING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

In times of uncertainty, fear is a natural response. These emotions can become paralyzing. Isn't it ironic that Scripture reminds us on 365 separate occasions, "Do not fear." Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) tells us, "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you." What beautiful words of comfort in times such as these!

One thing that causes great fear in India is leprosy. Did you know that leprosy is one of the oldest diseases known to man? Even though there have been tremendous advances in medicine, leprosy continues to present challenges within India. Each year nearly 180,000 cases are detected, and of those, 120,000 are within India.

An individual that has leprosy is considered an outcast of society.



Can you imagine being forced to live in a community on the outskirts of town all because someone in your family has that disease? Sadly, this is the reality for some in India. If one person in your family - a child, parent, or grandparent had leprosy, you are forced to live with others in the same situation as you. Undoubtedly this leads many to believe they are forgotten, unworthy, and unloved. It's heartbreaking.

At Central India Christian Mission, we're bringing hope to those who are being shunned by the fear of others. Each week our evangelists go into these colonies to preach the Good News of Jesus and remind them that they are known, valued, and loved. When you give, we're able to supply food packages that provide enough nourishment to sustain the family for a month. **If you are interested in providing for "the least of these," please consider a gift.**