



missionary ventures | Involving People to Impact Nations for Christ



Dear Friends,

Jean & I hope that you are managing under the extreme circumstances that we are currently experiencing. My greatest concern for us all is that we don't spend all our waking hours watching the (bad) news. Yes, we need to stay informed, but we mustn't continually feed on the negatives. Our main focus needs to be on our God! As the prophet Isaiah wrote: "You will keep *him* in **perfect peace**, whose mind is stayed on *You*, Because he trusts in *You*." (26:3 NRSV).

General News

Because of the shutdown, there isn't really a lot to report concerning our No Limits ministry. We are still planning (if possible) to travel to France in June and November in order to minister at a number of places to encourage the development of a discipling culture in that nation. The books on that subject are selling well and we are developing a number of relationships with church planters and leaders, which we find very exciting and encouraging.

The Covid-19 Crisis in India

We have a network of Christian leaders and churches in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and we have been communicating recently about how things are 'on the ground' in the communities. The lockdown there came very suddenly on 25 March and most people had little time to prepare. Many of the workers are paid daily or weekly and, with no Government 'safety net' in place, have literally no income to provide for their families. Internal migrants to the cities are desperately trying to reach their hometowns and villages but with little or no public transport they are forced to walk hundreds of miles. Families are already starting to go hungry. Covid-19 cases are on the rise but the healthcare and reporting systems are not very reliable and the actual spread of the disease may well be much greater than the statistics are saying. What is clear is that there is an emerging serious health and economic crisis.



However, in the midst of this dark situation there is some light. In response to an appeal by the Indian Government our contacts have identified 500 of the most vulnerable families and would like to reach out to them with a package of essential food and hygiene items (including the

inevitable large bag of rice!) The picture to the left shows the food parcels being prepared for delivery. This is not just humanitarian aid - we believe it will also open

doors for the Gospel by demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Many of the packages will go directly into Hindu or Muslim homes and we believe that hearts will be opened and that many will turn to Christ as a result.

The packages will be safely delivered personally by the local churches. The cost of each package will be around £20 (\$25) so our target is to raise a daunting £10,000 (\$12,300) as quickly as possible. Our Missionary Ventures (MV) friends in the USA have already generously committed \$2,000 (about £1,600) and a few others have already made pledges, so we have made a start! The picture above shows parcels being distributed - although I'm not sure they've got the hang of social distancing just yet!



The picture below shows a poor, elderly couple getting some much needed relief for the hardships being experienced by the poorest in Indian society.



Please pray for our brothers and sisters in India to remain steadfast, strong and protected in their own situations. Also please consider a donation to feed one or more families in some of the poorest communities. You can do this by visiting the [MVGB website](https://mvgb.org.uk/give/give-project/) at [https://mvgb.org.uk/give/give-](https://mvgb.org.uk/give/give-project/)

[project/](https://mvgb.org.uk/give/give-project/), by an online bank transfer to MV (Sort Code 20-10-03, Account No 10575828) or by sending a cheque payable to Missionary Ventures, PO Box 741, Rochdale OL16 9QD. In each case please make sure you state 'India Appeal' as the reference.

If you wish to give from the USA or Canada please send to MVI in Orlando FL. I can give you bank details upon request - send me an email at viv.penfold@gmail.com and we can make arrangements.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important message and may the LORD protect you and keep you in these challenging times.

With Love,

Viv & Jean

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