



Planting Hope International

“Improving agriculture, education, and health in developing countries”



The COVID pandemic is having a significant impact in many of the communities where we work, not only because of the illness but also because the meager incomes of many struggling people have been further reduced due to collapsing economies worldwide. Since the pandemic started, we have helped provide food and medical supplies to families in India, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Thailand, and Pakistan. The picture above is of food distribution we funded in India.



Seed being distributed in Thailand

Thailand and Tanzania. We had been funding interns with the agricultural group ECHO in Tanzania, but since that program has been suspended due to COVID, we are now sending funds to ECHO for their “Seed of Hope” initiative so they can purchase and distribute seeds to local farmers. Our preferred way of helping with food relief is helping people grow their own food. A representative from ECHO sent us this note: “Cancelled flights, transportation restrictions, etc. are making it hard to transport seeds across borders. Thus our local seed banks in East Africa and Thailand can meet the unique local needs of those in their areas, helping supply schools/malnutrition centers/partner organizations/farming families with quality seeds as well as training in seed saving and seed banking.” We also sent funds to a school in Tanzania that is reaching out to families of the students since the school is not in session.

Zambia and Zimbabwe. We fund many kids in southern and eastern Africa through Children in the Wilderness. Since schools and businesses are now closed, they asked us to help families that now have no income. Here is the note we got after sending a donation: "On behalf of Children in the Wilderness, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your generous donation for the feeding program. Due to Covid-19 and the impact that it is having on livelihoods through the inability of people to work and provide basic needs for their families, we are facing an impending food crisis across the country. Thus, these funds are gratefully received, and will make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most. Most families live hand to mouth and we ask child sponsors to donate funds for food for these families."



Planting gardens using seeds we purchased.

India and Pakistan. We stayed with a friend in the foothills of the Himalayas many years ago and he contacted us to help people around his village that are suffering due to the economic impact caused by the COVID crisis. We have been able to provide food to almost 100 families and 20 orphan children. Many of the families had wage earners that lived far away in large cities, but they suddenly lost their jobs. We know of a single mother with five kids who earns a meager living sorting garbage from hotels and restaurants to find items to resell. However, with all businesses closed she cannot even collect garbage to resell. We have been able to get food aid to her through our contact in India. Our Indian friend states: "Church is light and salt to the society, without us society has no hope today. People needed comfort and direction and also counselling. Many faced emotional and mental pressure at this stage but they were all met, from food to prayer to encouragement. Many have now opened the door for us to visit and pray with them. Thank you so much for coming together to reach out to these lost souls." Similarly, we sent funds to a ministry in Pakistan to help with the economic impact caused by this pandemic.

Medical support. We have also provided funds to buy masks, sanitizer, and general medical supplies in Uganda and Zimbabwe.

What are our current and future plans? Schools are beginning to open and we hope that we are resuming our tuition support program. However, we can't overlook the devastating impact this pandemic is having on fragile economies in the villages where we work. We will continue to provide education, medical, and agricultural support whenever possible, but we will devote some of our efforts to help our brothers and sisters acquire necessary items for their basic existence.

In Memory of Luella Martin. One of the things I love about our charity work is the relationships we build along the way. Luella Martin was probably my biggest "encourager" and she always had Godly words of wisdom for me. She always had a smile on her face when I would drop by to pick up her husband and my friend, Rev. Gerald Martin, so we could haul a tractor somewhere. Sadly, Luella passed away in early June. Even as her health was failing, she was quick to share her Christian faith. I hope I can be that bold in my faith.



Luella Martin with friends and family

We welcome your contributions as we continue Planting Hope in lives around the world. We continue to operate on less than 1% overhead cost so that all your donations go directly to projects we support. You can contribute through our website or send a check to Planting Hope International at the address below.

For more information contact:

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James 1:27, 2:18 "care for the orphans and widows . . . show your faith through your works"

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