

April 2017

## Books Arrive on GBC Campus



**India** - Eight weeks after sailing from San Francisco on February 7, the library books have arrived on campus! We praise God for this victory a very special and hard won step forward.

Thank you for your prayers; the in-clearing in India went well, and there were no hiccups at all - amazing!

Once the library room has been painted and furnished, the books will slowly make their way upstairs, but for now they are being carefully stored in a new classroom.

Thank you for celebrating this significant victory of getting this library ready for the students to use soon! Dr. Tantarvale expresses to each of you his deepest appreciation for the donations, and efforts given in order that this library would be brought to the students. We will continue to keep you updated on the library progress.



Above, the same shipping container that our team in California packed (top left) in January passes by the GBC chapel in India. Below, the GBC staff and students unpack the 417 boxes of books on April 8.



### Newest Wave of Refugees From Mosul

**Iraq** - Sitting on a rain-soaked muddy field stands a refugee camp that many now are forced to call home. The tension in the small temporary caravan was hard to miss as we walked inside. It was a family of a mother in her 70's, her two sons, their wives and children and a daughter. When asked for their names, the two men were visibly shaken, demanding *More on page 2*

### Tiger Fencing Project Funds Fully Raised!

**Thank you** to so many of our Indigenous Ministries Friends who responded to this urgent need! Last month we shared of a need for \$6,000 to secure the property against several leopards and a tigress and her cubs seen right next to the campus in India. Five more solar lights are up now and a fence will be going up soon. The lights are already helping to keep the big cats away. You can see video updates on our website.



THE LIAISON

## Newest Wave of Refugees from Mosul Begin to Tell Their Stories



(continued from page 1) that there would be no information given, no names, no photos, nothing. The fear was evident.

This is the essence of the new wave of refugees coming out of Mosul who have been under ISIS control for 2 1/2 years.

We found out that when Qaraqosh fell in 2014, the family tried to escape to Erbil, but the Islamic State captured them, and sent them to prison in Mosul. They were forced to convert to Islam. They were forced to put their foot on and spit and curse on a picture of both Jesus Christ and Mary.

Islamic State required that the men work for them for some time. They were pressured to attend Mosques; a sign that their conversion was genuine. They were reported to the IS intelligence for miscellaneous infractions and followed off and on. For over two years they hid in an abandoned home, only going out to purchase food. To escape, this family, like so many thousands others, ran from their home with their little children and a few hastily gathered personal things to the safety of a troop carrier. All this, as bullets and mortars fell around them.

The oldest son could not take it any longer and stormed out to the front door to light a cigarette. As the discussion went back and forth, I quietly walked out and sat next to him as he tried to make the most of his smoke break. I told him that I cared for all that he had been through, that I would pray for him; that Christ was a friend who would never leave him.

Prior to 2014, he and his family had called themselves Christian yet they and many like them actually know nothing of a personal relationship with the Lord. What a confusing situation, spiritually speaking, but, like many other refugees, they are now open to care and want to hear the Truth. Our visit was followed up by our national team and two pastors who visited he and his family and shared with them a personal relationship with Christ. They also shared food baskets and clothing which were provided through Indigenous Ministries by you, our donors.

- John W. Cook

**RELIEF AID DISTRIBUTIONS:** Thank you! Indigenous Ministries is able to continue helping refugee families like this because of your prayers and support. How exactly are we doing this? By providing food baskets, clothing, heating fuel, and other items once our team determines the needs. In the photo, left, you can see the contents of a typical food basket that John and Dee and team distributed to refugees (photo, right) at the church in Iraq last month. We worked with the pastor to give out 50 baskets that day. Our team continues to visit refugees in camps, sharing the love of Christ and meeting physical needs with relief aid. Thank you for caring; this is a critical time for so many there.



To provide a \$50 food basket like this one that helps feed a family with staples for a month, go to our website in the "donate" button and in the dropdown select 'Iraq Relief Fund.'

## Children's Home Update



**India** - In February we had the privilege of being with these kids in our Children's Home. Our US team we brought with us (see March The Liaison) loved the warm welcome ceremony filled with joyful dances, songs, memory verse recitation and prayers.

A few days later, as the evening breezes gently blew over the campus, we walked into the dining hall where all the children sat quietly waiting for us. Over the next three days we helped them make a colorful memory verse craft for themselves. Then they colored beautiful Easter drawings. We all enjoyed this time very much!

You may have heard that the Indian Government is shutting down Christian NGOs in India. This is keeping many organizations like our Children's Home from receiving outside funding. Many large groups like Compassion International have been barred from further effective work.

We have been working tirelessly to keep this from happening; we should have a final answer from the government by June. Please pray for this urgent need.

The faces of the children who have been helped over almost two decades come to mind, as they have grown up and some have their own children. God has blessed the hard work of both our Indian staff led by Rev. Himmat and Mercy Mohod, and the US staff. The sacrificial gifts of sponsorships from so many here in the US through the years have empowered the ministry and we give the Lord the glory for it all.

If you are a sponsor, Sarah Rieger will continue to keep you updated. Please contact our office if any questions.



Above, brother and sister, Suraj and Payal recently joined our Children's Home. Due to family challenges, they have been out of school for two years. Although they have had to work very hard to catch up, they are doing well in school and with life at the Children's Home.



Above and below, the children working on crafts and coloring Easter pictures.





15455 Gleneagle Dr, Suite 130  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
[www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org)  
 719.302.3028

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**Payatas Children Scholars Graduate With Honors**



**Philippines** - We were delighted to be invited to attend the Graduation and Awards Ceremony at Promise Land Christian School at Payatas, Quezon City. Two of our sponsored kindergarten students graduated with top honors.



In addition, the first top 10 ranking in their individual grades from Kindergarten 1 to Grade IV were our sponsored students. Of the total 50 sponsored students, 21 of them finished strong, meaning that 40% of our students are high scholastic achievers!!

This tells us that parents who scavenge in a dumpsite and their children can't and shouldn't be defined by their circumstances. They just need to be afforded opportunities for better education and mentoring to make wise choices. And definitely there is such gratitude and joy written all over the faces of both students and their parents as they experience God's daily faithfulness and provision to each and every need. **God took all the praise and worship!!!**

- **Resty & Mel Enguerra.** Read their entire newsletter on IM's website under "about us/our team/meet our team/the Enguerras."

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