

# Helping Widows in India

August 2017

For several years Global Outreach has supported the Feed My People Widow Ministry in India. Can you imagine the difficult way of life many widows face in India? If they are left without children or other family members to provide for their needs, day in and day out they must resort to begging for food and a place to sleep at night. When a widow is a Christian it often makes her living situation even more difficult as family members who do not approve of her faith in Jesus reject her and refuse to provide any assistance.

Such is the story of Satyavathamma. She was born and raised in an orthodox Hindu family. She married and lived in Tenali where she worked selling fabric in a business owned by her husband. After her husband died, her children did not provide for her. She became sick and suffered with blood clots, swelling and muscle pain. Eventually she was unable to continue working due to her illness. She went to several doctors, exhausting all her money in an attempt to get well. They were unable to help her, so she turned to the Hindu practices of appealing to the gods and goddesses and offering gifts to them. Of course, her futile efforts yielded nothing and she grew worse.



Satyavathamma is very thankful to be able to work and provide for herself.

One of her relatives, a member of a church we support through Feed My People, finally convinced her to attend church to seek healing. Reverend Thomas said "they prayed for her and she stayed at church for several days so the prayers could continue. After several days she was totally healed!" She continued to stay at the church and they took care of her needs. Now that she is alone with no home and no income, Reverend Thomas was able to help set her up in business again. They provided a cart and a small stock of items so she can once again have a small business to meet her needs. During the day she sells from her cart and at night she sleeps in the church with the other widows.

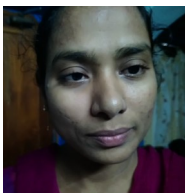
We made further inquiries and learned that for only \$300 we can set a widow up in business. For some this will provide a cart, a sewing machine and a supply of fabric. For others, it will provide start up costs for a small store. This relatively small investment will bring a much improved quality of life and restore dignity to the lives of these precious widows who have suffered so much loss and rejection. If you would like to help with this need, please designate your gift for widows in India.

*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress" James 1:27*

**Dhana:** She was born and raised as a Hindu member of an upper caste. After her husband died due to HIV, her two sons left her on her own. She accepted Christ as Savior while her husband was ill. We would like to help her set up a small shop to sell groceries.



**Jyothy:** Born into a Hindu family, she accepted Jesus before she was married. After five years of marriage, her husband left her and she no longer knows if he is alive. She has one daughter to support. She has been trained as a tailor and needs a sewing machine.



## Orphans Baptized in Congo



Pastor Jeremiah baptizing Jigo, May 20, 2017

Pastor Jeremiah recently shared the following great news about many of the children at Congo for Christ Orphanage: *"Spiritually we thank God because the kids are growing and this is seen through how they are giving all their time to think about God's work and using their energy to serve others. We now have a team of 14 kids from CCC who are playing different*

*instruments in church. This is really encouraging to see the different talents these kids have and how they are using them to glorify the name of the Lord. We also thank God because 27 of our kids requested to be baptized, and so the CCC board requested the church to carry on the baptism service for them."*



Twenty seven of the orphans at Congo for Christ were baptized on May 20, 2017.

We asked Pastor Jeremiah to share some of the testimonies of the children who were baptized. Here are two of the stories in their own words:



**Hasha:** *I was born with parents who were Christians. I remember though I was still very young that my Father was a soldier, he went for war and died there. We started staying with our Mum but a time came when she also died and we were left to live with our Auntie. Life was very hard for us because my*

*Auntie was living a very poor lifestyle and so because of this, her husband started dealing with witchcraft. So having an Uncle dealing with it, we got used to it and it became part of us. When Pastor Jeremiah came and had a vision of starting the ministry we were chosen to go and stay in CCC. We were really grateful because our life was changed. They always took time to teach us the word of God and so the Christian values in us were revived. So I decided to accept Christ and then joined the CCC choir. While ministering in the choir, the Holy spirit spoke to me to be baptized, I thank God because my life has really been transformed and I feel renewed.*



**Washikala:** *I give praise and honor to God Almighty for all that He has done and is still doing in my life. Surely, God has brought me this far. I am really thankful because I now have great hope for my future through the blood of Jesus Christ and I am ready to become a great vessel to spread God's work. I was born in an Islamic family and my entire relatives are Muslims. When I started staying at CCC it*

*was not easy for me to accept Christ because Islamic values were still very much in me. I really thank our leaders who stood with me in prayer and taught us the Word of God and finally I was able to accept Christ. When my relatives heard about this, they rejected me and this was very hard for me but I was happy because I believed that I chose the best portion and I pray that one day they will all be able to follow Christ. I thank God because I am still growing physically, mentally and spiritually. I felt the Holy Spirit pushing me to be baptized in order to be a complete Christian and be free to serve the Lord. I love singing and play some instruments in the CCC choir. Since the day I got baptized, I feel so encouraged and have an inner push to work for the Lord the rest of my life. I feel so much spiritual freedom in my life and see the light of the Lord shining in my heart and now I am very ready to be used by the Holy Spirit. I really thank God for CCC, its' leadership and all the people who are supporting this ministry for bringing positive change in my life.*

Your ongoing prayers and financial support are invaluable to the success of this ministry. Your gifts are changing lives and impacting the future of Congo and other developing nations. God bless you and thank you for all you do!