

Not Alone – In This Together

The phrase, “We’re not alone. We’re all in this together,” is a reminder of the “Good Samaritan” parable. This parable is a graphic demonstration that the person in need is our neighbor.



A missionary serving also as an ICCM National Coordinator (NC) recently shared the challenges his fellow church members are facing. Homebound because of COVID-19, most are unable to go out to work and earn money to buy food. Knowing of this need, the NC and others have pooled funds to purchase rice for their fellow congregants, their neighbors.

Every Regional and National Coordinator are facing the challenge, “How do I care for the children?” In some instances, it takes creativity and ingenuity. In others it is simply working with others to best help the children – together.

Extend Your Table funds have been and are being used to feed children and their families where needed most in the 33 countries

where ICCM has work. At the end of April more than \$17,000 had been given to address the immediate need of feeding hungry children.

Neddy Nanjowe ICCM RC Central and Eastern Africa

During COVID-19, our ICCM children and workers continue to pray and hope for a better tomorrow. Schools in Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo are closed. Our ICCM children are at home with their parents and caregivers. Contact with the children from the teachers and national coordinators (NC) is minimal because of government restrictions. Partial lockdowns and curfews to prevent infections were being enforced in the five countries. The restriction time was extended since infection rates have increased.

In some countries, teachers continue to prepare materials for the children to study at home. They also identify the neediest and through the school director’s help, they provide some food for the children. There has been an unprecedented increase in food prices and other commodities also.

NCs in countries enforcing more restrictions have expressed hope that they can deliver food to the children by working with the local government for permits and licenses. Even though processing these things may be challenging, they are positive God will make a way for them. Pray for their efforts to be effective and fruitful.



Belle D. Villanueva ICCM RAsia

Mandatory: facial masks and government passes. Self and community quarantines. Surreal. This is our new normal!

The main island of Luzon in the Philippines went into lockdown on March 16, to contain the spread of COVID-19, soon after, the whole country. Classes were suspended, including the weekly HCD (Holistic Child Development) sessions at the ICCM assisted study centers.

The project staff responded quickly: They realigned their monthly budgets; bought staple foods like rice; packed safety kits (facial masks, vitamin C supplements, soap, and alcohol) for the children and their families; and distributed them. They taught children and their parents safety measures like proper hand-washing and prayed for them.

Project staff will distribute food and safety kits monthly. With COVID-19 cases projected to increase the plans may change. The staff is committed to provide for and protect the children and to “stay strong and pray for the coming days.” Sponsors and donors, “Thank you for your never-ending support!”



Bridget Myers ICCM RC Nigeria

In Nigeria, schools were closed suddenly near the end of March. They will remain closed indefinitely. Restrictions vary by state.

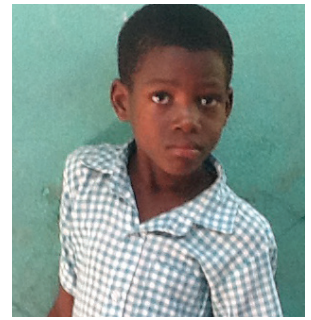
Pastors are visiting children who live nearby, those who are able trek to the pastors for prayers. In some states, no movement is allowed, including no markets open to buy food. In these places, there is a high rate of hunger. In some states, movement is allowed, but often roads are closed.

In other states, the government gave two days to open markets, buy food, and now a quarantine at home "lockdown" is in place. Please continue to pray for creative ways to bless our sponsored children.



Rex Bullock ICCM RC Haiti

Haiti has experienced many months filled with violence, demonstrations, kidnappings, fuel shortages and rising food costs. This has been very hard on the people and especially the children of Haiti. Our national team in Haiti work diligently to ensure the ICCM sponsored children are cared for. Our teachers and administrators have tried to keep connected with the children even if schools are closed.



Things have quickly changed world-wide because of COVID-19. Haiti is no different. Officials fearing that because of unsanitary conditions, poor health-care, and impure water the virus will rage throughout the country. People have been ordered to stay in their houses. Pray for the care and protection of the more than 3,000 ICCM children.

Praise the Lord, ICCM was able to send relief funds to be used for the most urgent needs. Meals through the Haiti Food Fund and water filter distributions have been a blessing. Although schools are closed sponsorship support is getting through. Faithful support is making a difference in the lives of children and their families.

We dream of a world where every child is loved, safe and developing their God-given potential.



In Cambodia rice and other foods are the big priorities at this time. Most families have many members to feed. The cost of food has risen. We have purchased rice, soy sauce, salt, sugar, milk, garlic, and noodles to package and distribute.



Food distribution was carried out Easter Sunday by staff of our Monte Santo school, Bahia, Brazil. They took food and basic hygiene items to the needier families who have children attending the school.

This is only possible because of the generous ICCM sponsors who faithfully support the "Extend Your Table" fund.