

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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## Goshen Home



We are caring for 20 children in our new Goshen Home in Manipur, India.

## Coming Soon - VBS



### BCH 2022 VBS Project

We are raising funds to buy a farm truck for the Elim Farm in Myanmar. Plan on joining us as we help children across the globe. More to follow.

Dear Friend,

A new year often brings about a fresh perspective. We reflect on the past and look forward to the future. As I have been planning for the year 2022 at Baptist Children's Home, a moment came to mind. My sister remarked to me that a BCH (Baptist Children's Home) trip she took with me years ago was a "once in a lifetime moment." This began our theme for the upcoming year: "2022 A Year of Once in a Lifetime Moments." I hope you will share our excitement for the paths we will blaze this year.

### Homes of Compassion

We are excited to announce the launch of our new ministry "Homes of Compassion." Homes of Compassion will help us care for families in crisis. Read more about Homes of Compassion on page 2. We hope to expand this ministry much further as we have a network of staff and highly training volunteers. Please pray for us as our goal is to add 25 families into our network in the Northwest Indiana region in early 2022. We all look forward to the day when it expands to other places across the country.

### Trauma Training

In 2022, BCH plans to add an extension to our current biblical counseling program with more counselors and programs with training in trauma care. This will be a unique opportunity for us to provide resources and expertise to those experiencing trauma, or those with a ministry to someone experiencing trauma. Additional updates about this program and how to bring it to your church or group will be coming in 2022.

### Hearts of Compassion

Hearts of Compassion is our plan to care for more children and families around the world. One of the examples of this is Zambia (read more on page 3). By partnering with the local church, we can provide care for more children as well as improve and extend our level of care for their needs. As Lemoyne Baptist Church member Tim M. says, "This project is a home run!"

This ministry will be funded through child sponsorship. This is already happening for seven orphans in Nepal, and we have seen such a change in their lives. My hope is for each child to have 10 partners who support them financially and with prayer. Please consider if you would like to participate in sponsoring a child in need.

Looking forward to 2022 and the work the Lord gives us,

*Linda Brooks*  
Linda Brooks, President

# Homes of Compassion

## Ministry Announcement!

Imagine if you were a single parent who has just lost your job – this could mean that your housing situation could drastically and suddenly change. Food, utilities, and other bills could feel astronomically high. Who could you ask for help if this situation happened to you? For many of us, we might ask our church community, family members, or friends for help. However, this is not the case for many people in our own neighborhoods. They do not have those resources. They are isolated.

Our new ministry, Homes of Compassion (HoC), is an extension of our current BCH family ministries, focused on caring for children whose parent(s) are experiencing isolation and crises. Our goal at HoC is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by loving and welcoming children in need into Christian homes for temporary care. We can fulfill Matthew 25:34-40 by offering support to those who need it and inviting them in.

We will work with the family and compassionately share the love of Christ with them, giving them hope and help during difficult and painful circumstances. We want to function as a supportive family or friend during difficulty and beyond.



This ministry is different than foster care. Homes of Compassion helps prevent child abuse or neglect by placing children in temporary safe volunteer Christian homes before any abuse or neglect has occurred. While a child is in our care, we can also provide support and mentoring for the parent as they manage their crisis. Parents will have the space they need to make changes for better stability for

the whole family without the fear of losing custody of their children.

We ask for your prayers and support as we launch our first site of volunteers and churches. Our first milestone goal is to become a ministry partner with five new churches. Then we will approve twenty-five families and ten coaches. We are confident this ministry is how churches can connect more meaningfully with a population that may not ever enter a church – without an experience of love shown by God's people.

If you would like to support this new ministry, you can mark it on the card enclosed. We ask for your prayers to open ears and move hearts in those willing to help. If you or your church are in Northwest Indiana, we would love to officially invite you to join us on this groundbreaking journey.



## Zambia Homes

We are working with our Zambia partners to provide "Granny Homes". A Granny Home is something new. In Zambia, it is not uncommon for children to lose one or both parents (and even be abandoned when a parent remarries). The responsibility for the children often falls on the grandparents – usually the grandmother, or "Granny."

BCH's first two homes in Zambia are Granny Homes! Our first two grannies are members of their local Baptist Church.

**"This project is a home run!"**

**Tim M.**  
MEMBER OF LEMOYNE BAPTIST CHURCH

Jeni, one of our grannies, is a widow who lost her son several years ago. Her six grandchildren lived with her daughter-in-law, but they were not cared for well. Mary, our second granny, is raising seven grandchildren from a combination of two widowed daughters and two additional daughters that have left their children in her care. Mary is described as hard-working, humble, and honest. Both grannies are living testimonies of sacrificing without complaint.

Recently, two churches provided the funds needed to build and furnish the Granny homes. Their gifts will even pay the school fees of the children for the entire year!

One of these supporting churches is Lemoyne Baptist Church. Pastor Scott Kigar says, "We wanted to help, but could not complete the project alone. God led our churches to partner together to provide all the items." Lemoyne Baptist Church is joined by Pastor Larry and Open Bible Church.

You may remember that Scott Kigar, and his wife Maggie, are former BCH employees. We are excited to continue the ministry journey with them and their heart for children.

Pastor Larry and Pastor Scott added, "We strongly encourage any church or family to help start a Zambia Home or take on another BCH project. In addition to helping orphaned and vulnerable children, it will be a great blessing to you!"

If you would like to give to the next Granny Home, please mark it on the giving card enclosed. Our Zambia homes are another example of our ministry opportunity – Hearts of Compassion.



Jeni and 4 of her grandchildren



Jeni, one of our Grannies



Mary outside her old house

**"Our church family loves BCH, and we were so excited to be part of making these Granny Homes possible!"**

**Pastor Larry Starett**  
OPEN BIBLE CHURCH



Mary's house in progress

# Myanmar

## God's Timing

Joseph, our partner at the Elim Farm in Myanmar, described how their family and the children at the Elim farm celebrated Christmas this year. It was a different Christmas than ever before due to the military coup that is extremely dangerous and restricts their freedom. But they found a way to make this year's Christmas unlike any they've had before. Below, we share some of his encouraging words during a challenging time:

"Most churches in Myanmar will not celebrate Christmas. We will not be able to do so because of Covid and the coup. But we have some new ideas and plans for this 'Blue/Silent Christmas.'

We will not do any decorations in our house, but we explained and trained our children to clean and build decorations in our minds and hearts, taking personal intimacy with Jesus!

We cannot invite people to our house as we did before, but we will go to our neighbors' homes and share the Gospel (the meaning of Christmas) and give them a Christmas gift as the Lord provides. Even though we cannot celebrate Christmas openly, God has given us this wonderful opportunity for our children to become as "angels who bring Good News" to Buddhist people, just as angels appeared to shepherds in the Bible.

We are praying for rice, cooking oil, beans, onions and toys, and some clothes for Christmas gifts to our Buddhist neighbors. We have a golden opportunity with two mission fields: Children's Home and Elim Farm.

This Christmas season is the best chance to share the Gospel message in Myanmar. To God be the glory!"



## Christmas Celebration

Children opening Christmas gifts and enjoying a Christmas meal together.

# CHRISTMAS *miracles*



Your financial gifts for this Christmas season helped us provide clothing, gifts, meals and other necessities for our children in 6 countries. The amount of envelopes containing your monetary gifts in our mailbox was heartwarming and encouraging. Below are some pictures of the children celebrating Christmas in Liberia. All the children gather at the Hope Student Center for a feast, presents, and fellowship.



# HONOR, MEMORIAL AND ESTATE GIFTS

Thank you to many friends for providing a special gift "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one or friends. Gifts are from August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

## *In Honor Of*

**Marie Blevins**  
Jodi Jennings

**Brayden and Bryson**  
Denny and Roberta Wilburn

**Mike Byers**  
Mike and Jan Byers

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Arlene Schildroth

**The Work in Liberia**  
Thelma Fur

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**Estate of Ardith Best**

**Bruce B. Taylor Living Trust**

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