

ReSOURCES

MISSION RESOURCE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

BRIDGING THE GAPS

Have you ever run out of tools in your tool belt?

You probably can think of a time when you were pursuing your vital role in God's mission yet felt like you needed things you didn't have. Trying to reach a broken world with the hope of Jesus can be overwhelming, and it's hard to do alone. Mission Resource Network (MRN) can help you bridge some of these gaps. Here's one example:

When the spread of the coronavirus was at its peak, a man in India named Paresh contacted MRN through our website. He leads a disciple making ministry in India called Transform East Alliance (TEA) Network and wanted to talk about partnering in disciple making.

MRN's Mark Hooper scheduled a visit to Kolkata, India, for March 2020, hoping to meet this young leader. But the trip was canceled due to the COVID lockdown. In response, Mark and Paresh began meeting online twice monthly as **Mark provided Paresh coaching and resources in disciple making.**

Many people died, and most were unable to work due to the pandemic. Paresh and his disciple makers wanted to help those around them who were suffering but were under-resourced themselves. **Mark connected Paresh** with Agape Asia, which provided immediate relief funds so the disciple makers could offer help and hope in the name of Jesus.

As the pandemic began to wane, lead disciple makers still struggled to return to work since businesses were slow to recover. Paresh's TEA Network positions its leaders to be self-sustaining and does not desire foreign support. But difficult times demand difficult answers.

MRN and Agape Asia connected TEA with another ministry friend, Flint Global. This organization is staffed by former missionaries with solid business skills. They specialize in helping nationals become self-sustaining in business, which allows them to devote more time to disciple making. With Flint Global's help, TEA leaders were assisted in developing plans for five new businesses that fit their skills.

Continued next page



Note from the President



Dan Bouchelle

A Network to Resource Mission

Our vision at MRN is to transform all people groups with the good news of Jesus. That is an audacious goal we cannot accomplish on our own.

We serve a God-led mission for his glory. We have no MRN stories; we only have God stories where we got to share in something he is leading. In fact, as one of our MedRim workers often says, "Wherever God starts a movement it is unbranded." No one can claim credit for God's work, but we can all serve somewhere alongside others he is using.

One of the biggest obstacles to the expansion of God's kingdom is the desire of each participant to get credit for their contribution. This creates

competition where we should see collaboration. We all want to justify our investment of time and resources. We want to know what difference we made. We want to prove that our contribution is wise and impactful.

While this is understandable to a degree and we need to be accountable, the need to justify everything we do can create a lot of problems and get in the way of the kind of collaboration it takes to advance God's mission together.

Our name really is a backward description of what we do. MRN serves a **network** that **resources** the **mission** of God. We try to be the connective tissue that allows the parts of the body of Christ to work well together. In this newsletter, you will read some stories that demonstrate how we serve in that capacity. But we need to remember that the power and glory for all of God's work goes to God alone and it is an honor to serve in any capacity in his great mission.



BRIDGING THE GAPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A church, an individual, and a mission foundation provided the initial capital for the businesses. These new business owners have hired believers to work with them and now have enough time to focus again on leading disciple making groups. As Flint continues to coach the leaders in business fundamentals, MRN continues to help with disciple making training and leadership coaching.

The relationships and connections that empowered Paresch and his fellow disciple makers brought the Hindus they helped to ask about Jesus, and many are coming to faith in Christ. **In 2021, 200 house groups became churches as new disciples were baptized.**

None of this happens without the network of relationships and resources that God has positioned you and MRN to offer. And the result? Even in places considered hard to reach, God connects us all to write His amazing and beautiful stories of transformed lives.

Collaboration In Action

The brutal war on Ukraine has surely weighed heavily on your heart over the past few months. You have probably been praying, like millions of others, for answers and direction.

In February of this year, the world shifted. Russia began a savage and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine which caused millions of people to be displaced and brought an inestimable amount of damage. But God's people

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



were moved and heard the cries of the hurting.

Many churches in Ukraine began coordinating their efforts to help refugees find safe passage and shelter. Churches in neighboring countries began opening their homes and offering resources, and an outpouring of monetary aid began to flow into the areas trying to help those at risk.

MRN's founding Executive Director, Bob Waldron, understood the need for healthy collaboration and used to say, "We will do nothing alone that we can do together." That principle is fundamental to the way MRN engages ministry.

Thus, when it was evident that there was a need to bring people together

to pray, share, and comfort one another, we held our first **"Prayer for Ukraine"** online gathering. The Zoom event was well attended by people from many different parts of the world. In June, MRN held the second conversation event and invited six featured speakers with various ministries and experiences to share what they are seeing God do as the needs continue to grow. **Several new alliances were formed from that meeting, and many participants discovered more networking opportunities.**



Dr. Dmitry Gretschnik tells everyone about his experience as a refugee and as the leader of the "Volunteer Brothers," an organization initially focused on helping orphans in Ukraine but transitioned to humanitarian aid when the Russian invasion began. Dmitry was one of the original refugees from Donetsk and now is a refugee again, this time from Kyiv. He was also an evangelist and instructor with the Ukrainian Bible Institute.



If you would like to join in on the conversations, please email us (missions@mrnet.org), and we will be happy to put you on our mailing list for future announcements.



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**Check out some of the ways
we can help you fulfill your
vital role in God's mission.**



*God knows what his
harvest workers
need as he invites
them deeper into his
mission. He knows
that we are all better
together, and each
of us has a specific and
important role in his plan. We are
here to connect you with resources
and relationships that can answer your
needs, so we can together engage his call
to disciple the world for Jesus.*