

Covid Lockdown – Emergency aid report from Chennai, India

Rani and Jeyaka live in Chennai and have a ministry to the poor, focusing on bible teaching & evangelism, ladies sewing classes and children's education.

In April AMEN sent Rani and Jeyakar £300, for emergency aid for people in Chennai, India, affected by the COVID 19. They were able to help the poorest people with food, medicine and other basic needs. Here are just a few of the stories of people who received aid

- A man who lives in a hut, his children did not take care of him, he did not have food and wanted to commit suicide, we counselled him and gave money to buy the food. He thanked the people who gave this.
- A widow who is sick, had no money to buy medicine and became very sick, so we gave some money to buy medicine and food. She said that I thought that my life is finished but now God revived me through kind hearted people.
- A slum lady, 9 years back I lead her to Christ. Her husband left her and married another woman. Two of her children married with children left by their husbands, because they demanded dowry. In a small hut 9 of them are living. They didn't have food or needed things like soap and paste. We gave some money to buy the needed things.
- one of our missionaries was pushed out of his house by his parents, because he came to full time ministry. He did not have a place to stay or food to eat. We rented a small room and we paid for the rent and gave some money to buy food items. With tears and gratitude, he said, if they did not help me, today where I would be.
- One of our missionaries who lives in a slum, have two young boys, did not have any money and was starving. We gave some money to buy food. His wife and children were fighting with him to give food. When we gave the money to him, with tears he said, we did not even have onions and tomatoes in our house, now we have food for 15 days.

They spent 11000 rupees (£111) towards food, 4000 rupees (£40) towards buying toiletries and cooking vessels for the slum people, 10000 rupees (£101) towards medicine, 2000 rupees (£20) towards the house rent. Thank you so much for your sacrificial love gift which you sent it.

In May AMEN was able to send £500 to Rani and Jeyakar

Again they were able to buy food for families, especially widows, with children living in poverty in the slums. These are families that have no income and no one to help them – some reported that had not eaten for days. Also they gave some food to some missionaries, who had no food. The people gratefully received these gifts, some broke down in tears of gratitude of thanks to you. Here are a few of the stories of people they helped:

- A widow with her daughter and two grandchildren were starving without food. Her son-in-law took everything, the little which they had. We heard that the daughter attempted suicide and the mother called me and said "*we four of us are planning to commit suicide, will God accept us in heaven? God didn't give food, house and the clothes*". We counselled her, sent some used clothes through someone, sent some money as well arranged a place to stay with a friend.

- A girl (11 years) was coming to our tuition centre and we helping her studies. Her father is addicted to alcohol, beating the wife and children. He lives on the street. The wife is very sick and the girl phoned us and told that the father is planning to sell her into the bond labour (slavery). I informed one of our tuition teachers to go immediately to rescue her and help the mother. Now the girl is with the tuition teacher. She is very young, left by her husband. So we sent some money to the tuition teacher to take care of the girl and to buy food items for her as well for the girl's mother and brother.
- Another poor family in my village: the husband and wife are both blind. The son is partially blind. We are helping this boy's education (through our ministry). His father used to do a small job but now no job. They have no food, now the whole family is going to different houses and begging, but they are not able to have even one meal. We bought groceries and asked them not to beg. His wife has swollen legs and has some skin problems. We also arranged to buy shoes for them.
- An evangelist (handicapped) doing powerful ministry here. He did not receive any offering. He was suffering without food. He has an eye problem and went to the hospital. But he is unable to buy the glasses. Without glasses he is unable to see properly. We helped him to buy the glasses.

Again, later in May AMEN were able to send more money to Rani and Jeyaker. The situation in Chennai continues to get worse.

They were able to give food to many families living in the slums, that had no food and aren't able to work because of lockdown. They have helped to buy medicine for those who are sick and couldn't afford medicine. Some families are being made homeless as they can't pay the rent for their little hut in the slums. Here are just a few of the stories:

- One of the slum in far from Chennai, we helped six families in that slum. These all the families have no food or any basic things to live. They previously rented small huts but now they could not pay the rents and were forced to get out of their huts. These six families live on the street. We sent the money (through a missionary) to buy groceries and basic needs for the children, biscuits, and toiletries.
- One of our missionaries had surgery for kidney stone. He was chased out of home by his parents because he came for the ministry. We helped him to buy medicine.
- A young lady abandoned by her husband, came to her parents. Both of her parents are very sick and unable to do any work. We heard that this family did eat any food for the past six days. We asked my sister to visit this family and provided some money for medicine and bought groceries.
- A Christian family have two young boys and did not have job for three months. They could not pay their house rent for two months, so the owner came and threatened that if you do not give the house rent, he will take their children. So they sent the children to grandmother's house, where they had no food and the children with the grandmother started begging on the streets. We gave one-month house rent, groceries and food items. Now they brought back the children and mother with them. We believe that he will get some job.

The need is so great around us. But your big gift helped us to reach out to so many.

Thank you AMEN for blessing all of us. Pass on our love and thanks to all of your friends who made it possible. We appreciate your loving heart to help us. We pray that the Lord reward you and return to you in hundredfold. GOD BLESS you all.