



Legacy partners with Mission Resource Network in the work of Mark and Debbie Hooper in Asia. Mark is co-director of the Bengal Initiative at MRN. This initiative focuses on the Hindu and Buddhist unreached people groups in India and SE Asia around the Bay of Bengal. These areas are less than 3% Christian and have been resistant to the Gospel for centuries. Yet, God is moving in this region.

Mark mentors and coaches leaders in the Bengal Initiative to make disciple making teams that will multiply in the unreached areas. He specifically works toward this by partnering with four leaders in the area: Prashanth (Bangalore), Joel (Kakinada), Paresh (Calcutta), and Kyle (Phnom Penh). These

men are developing prayer networks and disciple making teams for their regions. Join them in prayer for the unreached people in Hindu and Buddhist religions. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will make disciples that make other disciples, and that churches will be planted among people who are yet to know of the Lordship of Jesus, so that they will honor the God of Creation and Redemption.

### **Hope Stories**

This story came to me from Paresh, whom I am mentoring to do disciple making in Calcutta, India.

Mark Hooper

#### **“I Will Not Go Back Into Prostitution”**

My name is Jharna and I was born and brought up in a Hindu family in a small village in the South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal, India. I got married at a very young age and I have two kids. My husband didn't have a job, so I had to find a job to support my family. My family situation was so bad that I got involved in prostitution and my husband, too, encouraged me with it. But deep down inside, I always felt dirty.

Beginning of this year before the virus lockdown, brother Paresh and his wife Arnika came to me and spoke about Jesus and shared with me about the prostitute woman in the Bible who Jesus saved, and how he loves me and cares for me. I had been praying and worshiping to the family idols from my childhood, but I never heard that any one of these gods would die for me.

When I learned that Jesus died for my sins, I repented and gave my life to the Lord and from then on God has taken care of my family. God provided me with another job, and I have made a commitment that no matter what happens to me I will not go back into prostitution.

I thank God for giving me this new life and I am sharing Jesus with other ladies that they would also turn to Him and give up worshipping those deaf and dumb idols. I praise God also that my husband has become a POP (person of peace) as in Luke 10:6; please pray for his spiritual growth.

We've lived in this area for five years. Three years ago, opposite to us a building was constructed. We saw a lot of people going in and out of the building and later realized it was a brothel. We were afraid and alarmed and didn't know what to do.

In our group, we discussed this and prayed and were reminded to love our neighbors as ourselves. We committed to praying for our neighbors and specifically for the situation next door. All of a sudden, two weeks ago, I saw the police in the building and asked the owner, "What happened here? Everything going on here stopped. It was simply the grace of God."

Now everything is normal, and we are regularly learning Scripture and Bible stories. I am also going to take the Holy Dip (water baptism) with my husband and 3 other families. Please keep us in your prayers for our new journey with Jesus Christ. We are going to run a coal supplier business for the sustainability of the family.

Praise God for His grace!  
Jharna

From Paresh, whom I am mentoring and coaching in Calcutta, India... (Mark)

One of our house church leaders, named Manik Sarkar, was doing his daily prayer walk and distributing food among jobless people. As he gave food out that day, along with an explanation of the Gospel and God's love, 17 families knelt down at once and prayed to thank God for the food and to receive the message of Christ. And that was 1 story about 1 house church leader Manik Sarkar on 1 day. Imagine what God is doing through the many, many others that were equipped and empowered to serve in this time of need. God is shining brightly through your current and future support of Transform East Alliance mission network.

But the really exciting part is what God has in store for us on 2020 - 2021. God willing, we will be training and equipping more than 1500 ordinary and house church leaders AND we will do module of disciple making movement with income generation, sustainability strategy and focus on community transformation, living out the Gospel every day and in all aspects of our life in UPGs. Each of the 1500 ordinary and house church leaders will also be developing detailed ministry plans that will help them develop a BIG vision for what God has for their lives. Each leader typically ministers to 30 - 50 people on a regular basis in different UPGs groups, and the math is staggering regarding lives touched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through 2020 - 2021's ministry work — 5000 lives touched with God's love and hope.

I'm happy to inform you that, we TEA members are continuing praying and give out emergency food packages aid to suffering people. God has heard our prayers and released some assistance through you and kept them safe! Thank you!!!

A story....

Brother Rabindra Besra is our regional Leader in state of West Bengal, recently led a relief campaign. The lock down in all over state and country including his district Medinipur and has taken a horrendous toll on many lives. On this particular day, Brother Rabindra went to a group of people who work together in a coal factory to assist 45 families with food rations.

As he delivered the food to a group of coal factory workers struggling to buy food, in part due to spiking food prices, the owner of the coal factory took notice. His heart was moved so much that as he heard brother Rabindra share the Gospel, he gave his life to Christ. Not only did the coal factory owner become a believer but his wife and son did as well. Additionally, three of his employees also gave their lives to Christ. The owner told brother Rabindra that he credits his heart change to the act of charity Rabindra displayed to people he had no responsibility to help.

Serving others, providing food, giving a cup of water, or meeting whatever need someone has that you have the ability to meet is powerful.