



Beyond Tears WORLDWIDE

December, 2024

Quarterly Newsletter

022

REFLECTIONS FROM MARY

We had been traveling in the mountains for 8 hours when the road ended; it literally stopped. We could see a few scattered homes in the distance with grass for rooftops, the clear blue sky and mountains beyond mountains...we had arrived in Digger—the end of the world, it seemed. Perched at 14,000 feet in the Himalayas between India and Pakistan, they call this the disputed lands.

This village of about 300 people has a tiny school for kindergarten through 8th grade. They bring teachers from the cities to teach a mandatory rotation for 2 years. Most teachers grit their teeth and put up with the harsh conditions to keep their jobs. Times are tough. Some teachers don't last the full 2 years.

Most of the windows in the school are broken, letting in the frosty air. There is no electricity or running water. There is no cafeteria, no water fountains, basketball courts, or lockers. The children sit on broken desks or on the floor, wearing their knitted hats to ward off the cold air. They smile and cut up, the way all kids do, joking with each other and sharing the meager school supplies and toys.



They gather each morning to recite the national anthem and pledge allegiance to the state, standing at attention and using their loudest voices. Some of them, very few, will travel to the nearest city, Leh, to continue their education through high school. Most will not have learned enough in the primary grades to be accepted in Leh.

We spent time with teachers, gaining insight into the challenges of teaching without supplies or support. We encouraged them and gave tips on teaching methods and values education, hoping to instill a sense of pride and urgency into their lessons. We also repaired windows, roofs and desks. We even built a small bookshelf to house the dozen or so books they had on hand. We played soccer and tag with the kids, handed out knitted hats and gave plenty of high fives.

They taught us too. I learned about tenacity and determination from the teachers willing to leave their homes and make do with very little in order to feed their families and give education a chance at survival in this tiny village. I had the chance to take part in the community carrying wheat from the crops and separating it from the chaff as I worked as a farmer for a day. We ate together in the fields and shared barley mush and Himalayan tea. I learned about extreme hospitality as these villagers

JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD



shared their limited resources and their harvested bounty with us in the village hall. I was humbled by their extravagant celebrations and festive dancing in our honor.

Most of all, I learned that there are people who have been forgotten by the rest of the world. They live on the edges—without a Bible in their own language, without the comfort of prayer, without knowing the security of an all-loving, merciful God. But I know that God has not forgotten them. I hope that they will learn this too.



"But how can they ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?" Romans 10:14

COMMENTS by Jay

In response to the "Reflections by Mary" the themes of hope and the forgotten have been on my heart. However, first let me ask you what do you think about the use of AI searches for research on the internet? I tried something on a whim.

I searched for "What does the Bible say about the poor, the needy and the forgotten? The following popped up..."

"According to the Bible, God deeply cares for the poor and needy considering them especially vulnerable and deserving of support. Also, He actively seeks to reach those lost in sin, offering them redemption and a path back to Him, emphasizing the importance of compassion and helping those in need to reflect His love." (AI generated)

AI would make a great disciple of Jesus. Maybe I should not be so surprised. AI regurgitates exactly what is added by believers and nonbelievers alike. We should be able to respond just as the AI search responded because we are commanded in I Peter 3:15 "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Humans may experience hardship, but they always can have hope. No one is immune from difficulties in life. Believers place their hope in God's redemption that will finally result in our resting in His presence for all eternity.

God's Heart for the Poor

"Throughout the Bible numerous verses highlight God's concern for the poor and marginalized, often depicting Him as a defender of the weak and advocate for justice for the oppressed." (AI generated)

At Beyond Tears Worldwide we care for the weak and the oppressed and partner with other like-minded believers. We believe in God's kind of justice. So we go to share what we have found with those who do not know of God's heart and His concern. We take some gifts to support those who are suffering. We try to do what

we see Jesus speaking to us to do through the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Command to Help the Needy

"The Bible instructs believers to actively assist the poor, providing them with food, shelter and support, viewing such (acts as service to) God directly."

Many times the people we go to help in Ladakh ask us, "Why do you come?" We respond that we are there to share the love of God.

Examples in Scripture

"Psalms often speak about God's commitment to lifting up the poor and needy; while stories like Jesus feeding the multitudes demonstrate His compassion for those lacking basic necessities." (AI generated)

Believers in Jesus Christ cannot be passive about their faith. The Bible has a strong message to care for the lowly among us when we can. At BTW, we do what we can and at times, I feel we can do even more with your help.

Has God forgotten anyone? At times the world suffering seems immense, and it appears as if God is not watching nor caring. Isaiah 59:1 says that God's arm is not too short that He cannot save, nor His ear too dull that He cannot hear...God is aware of all that is going on in and among His creation.

There is happiness in Ladakh among the people. They are not all poor, they suffer like people all over the world, they sacrifice to give back to their own people when it is needed. They are a lot like you and me. Although some people have forgotten those who live in extreme conditions and at extreme altitudes like Ladakhi, BTW has not forgotten them because God reminds us that **HE** has not forgotten them.

In all that we do, we must never forget the most important love message of John 3:16. God has given everything! Gently He is

calling all those who have spiritual ears to hear, to come home and abide in His house.

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We Welcome you who read this, come with us. Will you be a part of what God is doing in Leh?

We have two Projects in 2025
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.BEYONDTEARSWORLDWIDE.COM

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. BTW Board Members
2. Café au Leh success
3. Café au Leh Project recruitment (March 15-29, 2025)
4. Dipling Village Project Team (June, 2025)

GIVING TO THE WORK OF BTW

BTW is a faith-based ministry. This means we depend upon the regular donations of people like you. If you would like to partner with us, checks may be sent to:

Beyond Tears Worldwide
Bob Miles, Treasurer
32 Shute Farms Lane
Clarksboro, NJ 08020 USA

You can also give via Subsplash by going to our website, selecting "donate," and following the simple instructions. Contact Bob Miles at rmiles559@comcast.net if you need help.

We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization so your gifts are tax-deductible

EIN # 56-3762715
Registration # CH4298200