

Greetings from LIGHT Ministries, India!

We are truly delighted to get to know you through Brother Klaas de Jong. We trust you and your loved ones are doing well during this Covid-19 pandemic.

We are truly delighted to hear that you are already doing some great work in India. We sincerely thank you for your love and support for Indian people, particularly Dalits. I have seen your website. You are doing great work in India.

Please allow me to share few words about our important work among the Dalit (Untouchable) children, women and community.

I, Elisha Chowtappli have a great passion and burden for my people – Dalits. I am the Founder & President of LIGHT Ministries. It is a registered organization in India which has been working among the Dalits for the last 14 years. I, myself is a Dalit, born and brought up in a poor family. My dream and passion is to give hope and a better future to my Dalit people.

We have been running Children's Home, School, tailoring programs, feeding elderly and community development activities, gospel crusades, church buildings construction, pastors's and leaders seminars and many more. More details can be found at <https://www.lightkids.org/>

I was born and brought up in a poor Dalit family. I was a child labour, raised in a government run orphanage (hostel) and been through a very tough childhood. I have experienced poverty first-hand and know my people's struggles as I have been through. I was an Atheist, Communist who was saved by His grace. I was later being persecuted for preaching the gospel.

India is the biggest democratic country in the world with more than 1.2 billion people. India gained Independence over 73 years ago. Many things have changed in India since its Independence but not Dalit's lives.

One of the more confusing mysteries of India is her caste system. The caste system has existed for more than 3,000 years.

The Dalits, also called the "Untouchables," "outcastes," and most recently "slumdogs," comprise nearly one quarter of India's society, with population estimates of 300 million.

The term Dalits means those who have been broken and ground down deliberately by those above them in the social hierarchy. There are different types of discrimination against Dalits, including: forced to live in separate settlements, not allowed to draw water from the village wells, prohibited from worshipping in Hindu temples, and often their children are denied education, or made to sit in the back of the classroom.

In some villages there is a two glass system which means one glass for Dalit caste people and another glass for the rest of the castes. Dalits have to drink only with that glass which was meant for them and have to clean it and put it into its original place. Dalits are subjected to

rape, harassment, violence and murder. Caste rules hold that Dalits pollute higher caste people with their presence.

We are dehumanized, THE most discriminated people in India. Our dream is to give hope and a better future to our people.

Due to the sudden lockdown of Coronavirus, our people are suffering a lot. Mostly children, single mothers and elderly people are suffering.

*“Can you help the 178 children at least with one meal?”* This was the distress call I received last week. The other side of the phone’s voice was shaking with desperation.

For a few seconds I couldn’t understand what it was all about. I was in a state of confusion and shock for a few minutes. Later I understood that It was an urgent call to save the lives of 178 children.

Due to the lockdown, the lowest in the society are suffering THE MOST than others. It is evident now more than four weeks ago when lockdown started.

In Vijayawada we have thousands of people, who live on collecting garbage and rubbish from the tip. Sometimes men take their three wheel rickshaw to other towns and cities in search of metal and plastic scraps. Sometimes they go on for a weeklong voyage to find whatever they can to make a few bucks.

As a sudden lockdown imposed strictly, those men have been stuck in different parts of the places and are not able to come back to their families. Children and their mothers are left at homes, with little or nothing.

57 pregnant women are left in their homes. These 178 children and 57 pregnant women are living day by day at the mercy of the kindhearted people’s help.

When I heard it on the phone, I wanted to check whether it was real or not. I was able to send my friend who lives in Vijayawada city to check it out. He verified it was true and these children and pregnant women are in real danger of dying from starvation.

I was led by God's spirit to do something for them. I was very moved by the fact that these children and women haven’t had a proper meal in the last one month. So, I felt that I should cook with my own hands – chicken biryani and yummy butter chicken curry. I was happy with the taste - truly delicious.

With the help of Mary and my family, I have cooked the yummy chicken biryani and packed. I had taken them and distributed them to children and pregnant women with my hands.

I was very moved to see those children whose faces are pale and weak. Some children were not in good shape.

*“This is the proper meal I had for a long time Anna (big brother),”* was the common words pregnant women expressed with a thankful heart. I was moved into tears when I heard those words. I know how starvation feels as I have experienced personally.

Camera was giving trouble. So we take these photos with a mobile phone, clarity is not good. Please find the photos of the food distribution here:



We request you to please pray to provide food supplies to these 178 children and 57 pregnant women who desperately need our helping hand. Each packet costs 15 € Euros. Each packet consists of 15 kgs of rice, 3 kgs of daal, two kgs of oil and vegetables.

We would like to partner with you to give hope and a better future to Dalit children, women and community. We are 100% committed to accountability and transparency.

Thank you so much for your kind and compassionate heart.

Yours in Serving the India Dalits,

*Brother Elisha*



**LIGHT Home**  
(Home for Hope and Promised Future)