



God has called us to be transformational people and live a life worthy of the teachings of Jesus Christ. In a humble way, we formed **Hope for Youth International** focused on nurturing a purposeful life for youth in poor countries and in the inner cities of USA. Hope for Youth is a 501 c (3) tax exempt organization registered in the state of Kansas, USA. During 2019-2020 we initiated or funded programs in India, Africa and USA and we believe that we have accomplished our objectives even during the pandemic that gripped the world.

We sincerely thank our donors for their kindness and generosity through their support of our mission. Please visit our website www.hopeforyouthinternational.org for more information about our mission and program areas. It is our pleasure to update you the highlights of our activities from October 2019 to November 2020 as follows:

1. Over 10 educational and spiritual bootcamps for orphanage children in different parts of India. Majority of our programs were done at Christeen Retreat Center where there are facilities for dormitories for boys and girls. This flagship program was so successful that we have sponsored these programs in other parts of India. Since 2010 over 10,000 orphanage children have attended these programs and the testimonials prove that this has impacted the lives of many youth.
2. Supported National Youth Convention of **Youth United 4 Christ** program in New Delhi, India attended by over 3,000 youth from different parts of India.
3. Scholarships for job-oriented diploma program such as kindergarten teacher training and commercial driver's licensing program in Ethiopia, Africa, through Bethany Mission partnership. Hope for Youth also sponsored nursing school scholarships for poor students in Kerala, India.
4. Provided assistance to build a sanctuary at student's chapel at **Taita Taveta University in Kenya**
5. Monthly financial support for **"Rosary Patrol"** and other student activities through **Rosary Mission** in Washington DC.
6. Support for multiple projects at Christeen (Teenagers for Christ) center to facilitate youth programs including facility upgrade and donation of an elevator.
7. Presentations at Gulf Catholic Unity Conference in Kuwait City in October 2019
8. Support for youth community service initiative at the Catholic Diocese of Adilabad, Telangana, India
9. Providing financial assistance for youth with a special focus on publications of various media programs by Shalom World News Media, USA.
10. Financial support for charitable organizations like Poor of Jesus congregation of Kansas City KS (for feeding homeless), Veronica's Voice in Kansas City (Counseling and support for addictions and providing shelters for victims of sex trafficking), Queen Mary Ministry USA, Queen Mary Ministry in India focused on teenage pregnancy and adoption, Youth United 4 Christ, India, New Delhi Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services for Youth Programs, Advice and Aid, Shawnee KS (Pregnancy Counseling and adoption support), Children's

Mercy Hospital through Asian Chamber, Zacharia Memorial Foundation (Golf Sponsorship - Cancer Society fund raising event) and Continuing financial assistance to Mariapalana Society Chalakudy, India providing education and shelter for orphans and abandoned children

Pandemic and Flood at Christeen (Teenagers for Christ), India – our major service collaboration partner

Hope for youth support many programs for youth through Christeen (Teenagers for Christ), at Kottayam, India. At the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020, youth programs and orphanage boot camps were conducted periodically. Then, all on a sudden, the pandemic struck, and most of the world was brought to its knees. Chaos and panic ensued, and economies of most nations were resorting to lockdown. Christeen had to scale back its programs and find new ways to connect with youth through Zoom or YouTube programs. The dislocation, immobility and financial challenges mounted. Hope for youth funding helped Christeen in a partial way to mitigate these challenges.



Youth attending programs at Christeen right before pandemic hit

In addition to the pandemic, Christeen was also struck with a serious damage to the facility built with the support of Hope for Youth. Literally, they needed to bring a small boat (*see below*) to move from one building to the other. By God's grace, the damage was not tragic. It refined our resolve and sharpened our faith.



Christeen Retreat Center got flooded during monsoon!

Voi, Kenya

Hope for youth helped to build a Chapel sanctuary near the Taita Taveta University, Voi, Kenya, to enhance and promote faith among university students.



Chaplin Fr. Augustine Lape Okoth along with local Archbishop who came to break the ground for the sanctuary. The sanctuary will be commissioned in coming months.

Community service and youth engagement – Diocese of Adilabad

Adilabad is a geographical area in Telangana east central India where majority of the people are very poor. Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan has been doing an exemplary work to uplift the poor in this largely non-Christian community. He and his team walking the footsteps of Jesus through service of the poor and prayers.



Gimbi Mission Ethiopia

Hope for youth is collaborating with Bethany Sisters, a Catholic congregation, who just established a mission post in Gimbi area of Ethiopia. They just started to run a school and a basic clinic. They have a need to help local youth to find jobs also. Gimbi, a town in the western region of Ethiopia, is a poor and underdeveloped area with low literacy rate. Hope for Youth has agreed to find sponsors for scholarships for vocational education. In 2020 we have funded three candidates for 2 years certification and Commercial Vehicle licensing program.



Scholarship Recipients



Kindergarten school



New project - treat Podoconiosis – a unique disease devastating young and old in Gimbi area



Delhi Charismatic Renewal Services and Youth United 4 Christ program Support

At the end of 2019 *Youth United 4 Christ* conducted a national convention for youth focused on spiritual renewal. This event was attended by over 3,000 youth from all over India. Hope for Youth President Joseph Melookaran addressed the convention on “*Walking with God in the Digital Age*”.



Cyril John, Member of the Committee appointed by Pope Francis on World Charismatic Renewal and Hope for Youth President, **Joseph Melookaran** with participants from Northeastern states of India in their traditional dress



Hope for Youth President speaking at the National Catholic Youth Convention in Delhi

New Project for 2021 - Gimbi Mission Ethiopia – Mobile Clinic Van

Hope for youth is collaborating with Bethany Sisters, a Catholic congregation, who just established a mission post in Gimbi area of Ethiopia. They just started to run a school and a basic clinic. The clinic, among other routine medical assistance, also supports treating people with Podoconiosis, is a type of tropical lymphoedema very common in the Gimbi areas of Ethiopia due to walking in the irritant soil without shoes or sandals. Podoconiosis patients face significant stigma from their communities Podoconiosis is a poorly understood disease and this has led to widespread misconceptions. People with podoconiosis were also found to have higher mental distress and prone to depression.

Apart from prevention through awareness of wearing sandals, the treatment includes daily foot-washing with soap, water and antiseptic, use of a simple emollient, bandaging in selected patients, elevation of the leg, controlled exercises, and use of socks and shoes. As these people are stranded at home as they do not have mobility or due to social stigma as it is considered as a curse. Bethany Mission is trying to buy a clinic equipped van so that they can go to the homes of these patients give treatment and support.

Our Board of Directors:

Janis Clarke (Rosary Mission), Jenny Melookaran, Tessy Antony and Joseph Melookaran

**Thank you for your support and God Bless!!
Happy New Year!**