Dear Friend,

Greetings of love and peace from Father Ben Chinnappan, President of Dalit Solidarity. I am sure that you're doing very well. Our tax-exempt charity continues to radically impact the lives of the poor and marginalized, as it has for more than 21 years. Truly, the way concerned friends like you have come forward to care for the poor, hidden peoples of India, is a miracle and a special grace of God for our day. It is a simple fact, that Dalit Solidarity could do nothing without you. And now that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to rage in India, I can truthfully say that only you, by God's grace, are allowing us to reach out and make a difference. The pandemic is too big a crisis for anyone to contain or manage. But nothing is beyond God's power and loving plan. Let's unite in thanking God for the way His plan manifests in friends like you, and through Dalit Solidarity.

The heart-breaking scenes that have been witnessed outside hospitals - people dying without getting treatment - shows the grim reality of India’s healthcare infrastructure. Medical staff are at the forefront of the battle against Covid-19, dealing with death and devastation on a daily basis. Hospitals have been facing an acute shortage of beds, viral drugs and ventilators. Thousands of physicians and front-line workers gave their lives in the line of duty. We have also lost hundreds of priests and sisters who were involved in providing community service. Morgues and crematoriums have struggled to handle the number of dead. They have run out of space and firewood to cremate the bodies. Bodies were thrown into the river Ganges. Even in death, there is no dignity.

No one has ever thought that India would go through this kind of national emergency. Healthcare systems are completely overwhelmed. Too many infections and deaths have sent shock waves throughout the country. For many, it will be a lifelong grief with a deep scar that will stay with them forever. Covid-19 has left many children orphaned and helpless across India. While some have lost their both parents, others are in a situation where a single surviving parent is unable to take care of them financially and psychologically. Sadly, in some areas, Covid-19 patients are stigmatized, ostracized, and even physically attacked. This was an added pain and injury. There is no psychological support for anyone. Dalit Solidarity reached out to affected communities to the most oppressed and marginalised people in all that include children, women, daily wagers, widows, people with disabilities and tribal communities of our target population. We have also made St. Patrick's available for the corona patients under the supervision of the health officials.

We cannot be defeated by this sorrowful time. We are called to do what we can, to uplift other struggling souls in the midst of it. We must look the situation head on. No one thought a second wave of Covid would completely upend every aspect of life in India. Covid impacts have carved a huge crater in many lives, which will stay with people forever. However, there are also rays of hope as caring souls draw together and cooperate in combating this virus. Heroes have emerged, who are laying down their lives in a powerful way. Thanks to thousands of
volunteers and front-line warriors in protecting our people. As prayers multiply world-wide, and vaccines and medical supplies pour into India through the generosity of others, we see a glimmer of hope in this valley of darkness. With strict lock-down imposed to curb the virus, the migrants and the unemployed from poor, rural areas have been hardest hit in India. No one can ever fathom the full magnitude of this pandemic as the destruction was so near and quite visible. We, Dalit Solidarity are desperately trying to address these pressing needs. We have developed a plan to distribute free food kits to those who need them most critically, in order to stem the tide of starvation and malnutrition in the area. The long-term impact of the shutdown will be starvation, deaths and destitution.

Thanks to the world communities especially the US for their timely intervention with life saving drugs, oxygen and equipment. Recourse to the vaccinations is a huge blessing in combating the virus. Perhaps, this could be the disaster of the century where at least one in a family has been affected. In midst of despair, people have been holding on together to find hope and peace. Thanking you all, my dear friends in making a huge difference in the lives of so many during this most difficult and challenging time.

**HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

We, Dalit Solidarity are committed to leave no one orphan, and to uplift the most underprivileged and vulnerable people, disproportionately impacted by this crisis. We started our response activities even a year ago in April, 2020, with the announcement of the lock-down. This is a global fight. For the last two decades, we have been at the forefront in providing urgent relief materials and aid to the needy during natural calamities, crisis situations, extreme weather conditions etc. We are again standing strong during this global healthcare crisis posed due to corona virus. Please help us to provide the following to save human lives:

1) Coronavirus Care Kit that includes Paracetamol 650 mg, Vitamin C IXIS With Zinc; Multivitamin Zincovit; Thermometer; Vitamin D3 60k; ORS and Oximeter.
2) Hygienic & PPE Kits that include Soap, Sanitiser and Mask.
3) Dry rations and food packs that include Rice and Groceries.
4) Educational Support for orphan and destitute children who lost their parents due to Covid.
5) Financial support for daily wage and migrant workers affected by the lock-down.

With your prayerful generosity, we can continue to provide necessary help and services to this vulnerable section of society. Please, support our little brothers and sisters in the distant lands of India. They lack the type of structured support that gives the wealthier nations and citizens of our world a safety net in crisis. Won't you help Dalit Solidarity cast its net, to provide some loving care? Every act of charity helps remote peoples know that even amidst the most severe crisis, they are not alone. Your gift, no matter how small or large, is deeply appreciated. All donations to Dalit Solidarity are tax-deductible. You can also donate online securely at www.dalitsolidarity.org

Please, let us join hands in prayer, and then open our hands, to offer good things to ease the harsh impacts of this difficult time. The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord! Pleading for you, God's healing graces and mercy!

Father Ben Chinnappan

Please forward your enquiry to Dalit Solidarity, P.O.Box 178995, San Diego, CA 92177 or call us at 708-612-4248 or email at dalitsolidarity@gmail.com