

## Tragedy Into Triumph: How God Brought Moravians Together



Villager in a barley field of Ladakh

**H**ow Did God bring Moravians together to help turn tragedy into triumph?

The Ladakh region of northern India, cut off from the monsoon plains of the Indian sub-continent, and being on the lee-side of the Himalayan Mountains, is a cold, dry desert with small glacial streams feeding the irrigation needs of Ladakh's villages. But last summer this description of Ladakh was altered with incessant rains and cloudbursts throughout the region, stretching four hundred kilometres. While some villages lying in the path of the cloudburst were completely washed off, other places had severe damage to houses, fields, trees, roads and power lines. Over 230 bridges were washed away. Most of these are still not rebuilt.

Thousands of miles away, members of Christ the King Moravian Church, already in contact with Moravians in Leh, became aware of this situation. They

gathered a "love offering" to help their Ladakhi brothers and sisters in this time of need. The offering was hand-delivered by a group of Christ the King members who, amazingly, already had a trip planned to that area.

The Moravians in Leh, led by their pastor Rev. Elijah Gergan, tried to use this gift wisely, in a manner that would go a long way in re-establishing families and communities. They used a portion of the gift on the fortification of one of the walls of the Mission School. But then they decided to do the following:

Considering that the Moravian Church in Leh has been in the education ministry since 1887, having introduced secular education in Ladakh with a quality still unmatched; and considering that many of the affected families have their children studying in the Moravian Mission School in Leh; and considering that since the income levels of the families have dropped and the expenditures on reconstruction increased, the paying of even small monthly school tuition fees of fifteen to twenty dollars became a burden for them; the church decided to give some immediate relief to families in

various villages and then take care of their school fee obligations for the current year so that the studies of the children would not be hampered.

Most school children from such families will continue to get the benefit of this flood relief money till the completion of their school education, ranging from three to seven years. Isn't it amazing how God can turn mourning into dancing and tragedy into triumph?

### Threshers for Ladakh

*Continued from Page 1*

runs on its own and they do not have to beat their animals (a sin in Buddhism) to get them to cooperate in the threshing process. The thresher thus eliminates a religious obstacle that is a problem associated with traditional threshing methods.

For more information, visit [www.ldfoundation.org](http://www.ldfoundation.org) or write to:

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**Link to Operation World for fascinating facts about the peoples of Ladakh**

<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/indi/owtext.html>