

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016: GLOBAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

MARCH 2017



LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

In November 2016 Elim Missions launched a Christmas appeal asking all of our churches to raise £10,000 to help our missionaries and partners hold Christmas parties across 10 countries. Thank you to the 28 Elim churches who took up the challenge, raising money through parties of their own, craft sales, offerings and sponsored events.

Together these 28 churches raised £10,726.96 giving us the opportunity to hold 28 parties in 9 countries and seeing 1000s of children hear the Christmas story, receive a gift and many find faith in Jesus.

THESE PARTIES WERE AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS: THAT JESUS WAS BORN FOR THEM, THAT HE LOVES THEM, AND THAT HE DIED FOR THEM BUT HE IS ALIVE TODAY!

ONE OF THE FIRST PARTIES HELD WAS IN GUATAMALA ON 1ST DECEMBER WITH ELIM MISSIONARIES RACHEL AND OSCAR MENDOZA.

Given the size of the building, Rachel and Oscar had decided to hope for 50 kids and plan for 70... they got 80! Plus mums!! There was already a line outside the gate when they opened and the families just kept arriving, it was wonderful! They all fitted in, and it made for a great party atmosphere.

They started with crafts and party games - pass the parcel doesn't exist in Guatemala so that was a hit. The party included food bought from a local lady, and every child was given a gift, all bought through the funds raised by Elim UK churches.

Rachel Mendoza writes: *I cannot express the joy it was to see these kids receive their gifts. We know that you cannot all be here to see it, but know that through your giving you have brought such happiness to these children here in Guatemala. For some of them, it will be the only present they receive this Christmas and we felt so privileged to experience this. I have to make a special mention of one little girl, when she opened her gift of a little stuffed elephant her eyes lit up like she couldn't quite believe it was for her. She looked around at us all, at her Mum, and then gave the elephant a huge hug! There was not a dry eye in the room! THANK YOU SO MUCH ELIM!*

28 PARTIES WERE HELD IN:

Guatemala = 1
Myanmar = 5
Pakistan = 2
Honduras = 1
Estonia = 14
Indonesia = 1
Rwanda = 1
Kenya = 1
Romania = 1
South Africa = 1





3 of Estonia's 14 parties held across the country

As well as Guatemala, 14 parties were held all over Estonia with up to 40 children at each party. Many of the children from the churches were able to bring their friends and one of the parties was held in a children's hospital for disabled children.



Some of the 400 children attending our party in Kenya

While these parties were times of celebration, they also highlighted the desperate need in many of the countries in which Elim works. One party was hosted in Kenya, with Elim Missionary Janine Stellatos seeing more than 400 children attend. They sang, and had competitions with kids winning shopping vouchers and the main winner going home with a bike.

Unfortunately some young people gate crashed into the school grounds and got violent. At that point the police had to be called. Sadly they stole some of the music equipment and one of the kids vouchers. Janine says, "We did not allow this to spoil the day and the artist's performances went ahead and the day was good."

Other difficulties were faced in Myanmar where 5 parties were held and at one of the locations the Buddhist monks threatened many of the children and teachers and said that they would fail their exams if they attended the party. However the other parties held in Myanmar had more than 400 children in attendance and had a great time celebrating this special time of year.

Hosting the parties also led to outreach in locations we have not worked in before, including a remote island in Indonesia where the young people that Elim Missionaries Novi and Sheryl Maatitawaer work with organised the whole event. Sheryl writes: *6 teenagers organised our first event with games, gifts and the Word. At the appeal many raised their hands and followed the prayer of salvation. Great start to our mission trip.*



Children enjoying crafts in Myanmar



James and Joanna Martin, Elim Missionaries in Rwanda write: *We had an amazing time at the Elim Global Christmas Party with over 300 kids in attendance! The party lasted all day from 10-6! We told the nativity story through drama, played games, sang and danced, watched the Mr. Bean Christmas special, ate lunch and gave each child a gift! They were so grateful and full of joy. Only half of the kids that came usually attend the Sunday school in the church so it was great outreach as well. Thank you Elim!*

TO THOSE 28 CHURCHES THAT SUPPORTED THE ELIM MISSIONS GLOBAL CHRISTMAS PARTY APPEAL IN 2016, THANK YOU. BECAUSE OF YOUR GIVING CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND HEAR THE STORY OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS.



ELIM INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR, PAUL HUDSON, WRITES: *It is always a privilege to write to faithful and generous donors who have given to one of our appeals and this was a very special appeal. Thank you so much for bringing Christmas to 1000s of children and young people across the world, many of whom would never have celebrated this special time of year and certainly not heard of the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, coming to save each one of them. Thank you for your generosity... lives have been impacted for the Kingdom.*