

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Greetings from Asian Aid!

Our team has just returned from ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries) in Sacramento, CA. It was a great event where we met many new as well as current sponsors and supporters. We were joined by co-founder Helen Eager from Australia and Ravi Dass, Asian Aid field officer from Bangalore, India.

Helen's knowledge, experience, and commitment to the needy in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh are an inspiration. She just returned from Nepal where over thirty children were brought from a prostitute community, where the children steal or beg just to survive, to Asian Aid orphanages and schools. Most do not know who their father is and many have now lost their mother due to AIDS or other sickness. Asian Aid Australia and USA are sponsoring these children. Ravi Dass, our field officer from Bangalore, is in the USA for three weeks doing promotional work and training. You may remember Ravi's story from our last newsletter. When five-year-old Ravi's mother died of rabies, his father was unable to cope and decided to poison his three children. A neighbor convinced his father to allow the children to be taken to Mrs. Dorothy Watts' home. That home, with Ravi and the many other children Mrs. Watts looked after, soon became Sunshine Home which Asian Aid has funded for many years. Asian Aid will be making an announcement shortly about an exciting new project and home in the memory and name of Dorothy Watts.

A team of college students are currently in India putting on a summer camp program for the children at Vizak Slum School and the Bobbili Blind School. The children love the fun activities and are learning more about Jesus, as well.

There is such a huge need wherever we look, and I am excited that Asian Aid is making a difference in the lives of many. Please help us to help more by telling others about Asian Aid. We encourage you to contact us so we can mail you bulletin inserts for your church or to hand out to your friends and family.

*Thank you so much for your support,
Jim Rennie, CEO Asian Aid USA*



Directors of Sunrise Orphanage, Varma and Lalitha, with the three students who were baptized

Sunrise Students Baptized

On Sabbath, July 16, students and staff of Sunrise Orphanage gathered on the campus of Bobbili Blind School for a very special occasion. Three students, surrounded by their supportive Sunrise and Bobbili Blind School family, took their stand for Jesus and were baptized.

Hannah, a young student at Sunrise, had already known much trauma before coming to the orphanage, as many who live there have. She had witnessed her father murder her mother and had felt the despair of being an orphan. However, at Sunrise she has been happy and active in the school's religious programs and activities. Her one complaint was severe headaches she suffered with for months. Despite visiting many doctors in and around Bobbili, she had found no relief.

When Hannah took her stand for baptism, two other children from Sunrise, Rohini and Joseph, also joined in her decision. The services were held at the Blind School so that the children and staff of both schools could be a part of the occasion. Lalitha, director of Sunrise Orphanage, described the baptism as having a "holy and cheerful environment. It was like heaven came down as described in Luke chapter 15, when children are added to the home of our Father and even the angels in heaven make a feast!"

And the children in India didn't miss out on the feast either! After the services there was a special outdoor lunch, followed by Bible games and singing.

As for Hannah, Lalitha describes that after her baptism, "she felt as if a heavy weight was removed from her head and she felt like flying in the air". Lalitha asks us to please pray that Hannah's headaches will not return. But even if she must suffer them, that she will have the strength to endure them, and that she will be strong as Christ was after His baptism to face whatever trials may come her way.



Hannah takes her stand for Jesus

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3



Water tower with tank going up

Sunrise Orphanage Update

At the time of writing this newsletter there is exciting progress being made on the Sunrise building site. The team has faced some challenges with material shortages, heavy rains, and a property dispute which has caused access problems. Locals have dug up the road three times claiming ancient land rights. However, the true motive has been to obtain money. We have now had to involve the police and are thankful that the situation has quieted down. Please pray for this project.



Completed compound wall

you would like to help with furnishings or farm equipment, please send your donation marked "Sunrise Fund". We thank the Lord for His blessings and your generous support of this project. Please keep this project in your prayers.

The boundary wall is up, the water tower, office building and guest rooms are just about complete, and work on the foundations for the dormitories and dining hall has started. Jim Rennie, CEO, will be visiting the site in two weeks and will continue to update you. We are truly grateful for the amazing support of this project, but if

Tradesmen Urgently Needed

Do you have skills as a plumber or electrician?

We are in need of short term volunteers who can help at Sunrise and the Blind School.

Do you have expertise in the construction and set up of greenhouses?

There is a desperate need to establish gardens and hot houses at some of our Indian schools. Vegetables are becoming very expensive in India and it is important for Asian Aid schools to develop a degree of self-sustainability.

Please contact us for details.



Above: Sunrise Orphanage's new office building taking shape

Below: The vision is turning into reality as the building site becomes a home

Blind Students Win at Science Exhibition



Two students from the Bobbili Blind School, Pradeep and Reddy Krishna, were selected to represent their school at a science exhibition in Bobbili. They displayed their Braille material, and with the help of their teachers, presented their project before the government education department. Out of the 400 schools represented, Bobbili Blind School received 4th place, were given certificates for their participation, and were selected to attend the state level exhibition.

Thank you to all the supporters of Asian Aid's Blind School who have made academic success such as this possible for these students.





Vizak Slum children enjoy games during Heartsight summer camp

Heartsight Blind Camp

At the time of this writing, a group of college students are in India conducting a summer camp for the Vizak Slum School and the Bobbili Blind School. The team members include Tyler Morgan, Ben Schnell, Nick Livanos, Jessi Turner, Tara Becker, and Chris Terry, with most of them having experience with blind camps in the USA. They will be organizing fun activities for the children, including crafts, games, music, and spiritual programs. The team has just spent a picnic day with the children from the Vizak Slum School. Over one-hundred and twenty children boarded two buses and headed to a park in the city of Vizak. These children who live in the slum with no place to play and attend a school with no playground were so excited! Team leader Tara Becker said it was an amazing experience with these kids. The team is now putting on a special one-week program at the Blind School. Asian Aid is very grateful for these young people who have given their time, energies, and hearts to this life-changing work with these children.

Asian Aid USA has recently launched **HOPE for NEPAL** **WOMEN**

a project which is intervening in two areas of critical need in Nepal.

Rescuing Women from Slavery

It is estimated that up to 15,000 Nepali girls are smuggled each year over the border into brothels. This rescue project includes education, an anti-trafficking booth on the Nepal border, and construction of a new Safe Haven home.

Advocating Women's Health

For many Nepal Women a prolapsed uterus is a legacy of carrying heavy loads since a young age, which leads to a life of shame and often rejection by the husband and family. Asian Aid has sponsored over 10,000 life changing operations and is continuing to provide education programs and operations.



Contact us for more information or visit
www.HopeNepalWomen.org

New Life for the Abandoned: **Sanjay's Story**

Imagine being abandoned and discarded by your birth parents just because you were born blind. Sadly, that is exactly how Sanjay Nurkurti's life began. Wrapped in newspaper and pieces of dirty cloth, Sanjay was dumped along the side of a deserted road. A nearby worker, John, upon returning home from his hard day of labor, heard the cries of the six-month old baby and found him frightened and abandoned in a bush. Holding the baby in his arms, John waited for a while hoping that someone would return to claim him. But no one came. Fearing that the child would be attacked by wild animals, he took the baby home to his wife. After giving his wife Mary an explanation, they decided to keep the child even though John and Mary lived a simple life in a thatched roof hut and had the challenge of feeding four children of their own. Even a little milk for the crying baby was more than they could provide, so Mary mixed some sugar with hot water and fed it to the baby, who eventually drifted off to sleep.



Sanjay is happy to be in 1st grade at Bobbili Blind School

Mary and John had to think very seriously as to whether they should keep the baby. But Mary, having a mother's heart, refused to give the baby away even if it meant an extra burden to their

already difficult lives. Seeing the compassion this couple had for the baby, neighbors came forward to contribute the little they could to help them financially. For six years Sanjay grew up as part of John and Mary's family, and in spite of his visually challenged condition and the family's hardships, he was given all the care that he deserved and that they could afford. However, Sanjay's handicapped condition slowly made it more and more difficult for the family to take care of him. When the pastor of their church learned of the situation, he suggested that they take Sanjay to the nearby Seventh-day Adventist school. But since he was visually challenged, the principal of the school recommended that he be taken to Asian Aid's School for the Blind in the town of Bobbili. Sanjay is currently studying

Standard One at the school, and it is by God's providence and grace that he will now have an education and be illuminated with the rays of hope and opportunity that so many like him deserve.



HOPE in Motion full DVD set

Our new 3-disk DVD set of the complete *Hope in Motion* series is now available! This inspirational series will make a great gift for friends and family. For only \$10 you have the opportunity to see the places we've been talking about in these newsletters and the faces of the children you are affecting by your support.

PLEASE CALL TO PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY

facebook

Like us on Facebook:
Facebook.com/AsianAidUSA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meet Asian Aid: Visit our booth at the Festival of the Laity held Sept. 7-10 in Dallas, Texas. We would be happy to meet you!

3ABN Broadcasting Times: Asian Aid's TV series, *HOPE in Motion*, airs every Friday at 7:30pm EDT, 6:30 CDT, 5:30 MDT, 4:30 PDT

Sponsorship Payments: In the soon-coming future, we plan to send sponsors a summary and status of their sponsorship payments with each newsletter. Meanwhile, if you would like an update on your status, please contact us. You may also set up an automatic monthly charge to your credit card. If you are having difficulty meeting your commitment, please call us and we can discuss with you how you can continue your sponsorship.

We need your help! We need all our supporters to assist with distributing bulletin inserts, whether at your local church or any other place you can arrange. When speaking with your church or organization, we encourage you to share that Asian Aid is a fully supportive ministry of the SDA church and all children are in Adventist schools. Please fill out the enclosed card or contact us so we can send you materials.

www.asianaid.org

THESE CHILDREN URGENTLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Kavya is from a poor family that migrates in search of work. She is very tidy and helps others keep their rooms clean.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IONG144**



Sainadh lives in a rented room in a cellar. His father works as a lorry driver and his mother is a housemaid.
\$30 Day Student Plus
ID: **IELD080**



Abhishek's father goes to different villages repairing stoves. His grandparents live with them so it is difficult to pay for school.
\$23 Day Student
ID: **ISKM060**



Ganesh is totally blind. He is in lower kindergarten and wants to someday become a teacher.
\$45 Boarder Plus
ID: **IBBL231**



Hema likes to collect coins and sea shells. She is in 9th grade, is a good student, and would like to become a doctor or singer.
\$23 Day Student
ID: **IBBE003**



Saghik likes to play cricket and badminton. He would like to become an officer or computer engineer. He is in 8th grade.
\$23 Day Student
ID: **IBBE005**



Ravi's father is a pastor of 2 village churches. Ravi is in 3rd grade and his favorite subject is English.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IONG166**



Pranab's family used to be Hindu before they became Adventist. He wants to become an engineer and enjoys drawing and painting.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IEMN569**



Phani's parents live in a small, thatched house. He likes to play cricket and read. He is in 6th grade and would like to become a doctor.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **INZV182**



Rajesh and his brothers help their father cultivate their land. They grow sunflowers and corn and collect honey in the winter.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IEMN276**



Surya's parents are day laborers. They live in a hilly area where it is difficult to find good food. Surya is obedient and helpful.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IONG202**



Nazeer's father works small jobs and has a hard time supporting his family. Nazeer is in 4th grade and likes to play with cars and trucks.
\$23 Day Student
ID: **ICHM014**



Sai was a Hindu before becoming Adventist. Her mother has to care for the family because the father is a drunk.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **INSP361**



Both of Kartik's parents died from illness. He is in 7th grade and wants to become a doctor.
\$45 Boarder Plus
ID: **IEMN499**



Ashnini is totally blind. Her 3 older sisters are studying in the Bobbili degree program. She likes to sing and wants to become a teacher.
\$45 Boarder Plus
ID: **IBBL233**



Rohima likes to help her mother in the kitchen, drawing, and playing with dolls. She would like to become a nurse.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IEMN489**



Saikumar is totally blind. He is in 10th grade, likes to listen to music, and would like to become a teacher.
\$45 Boarder Plus
ID: **IBBL234**



Appalachari is totally blind. He is in 10th grade. He enjoys reading and wants to become a teacher.
\$45 Boarder Plus
ID: **IBBL230**



Susmita likes to read and skip. She is in 2nd grade and would like to become a teacher.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IEMN487**



Rajkumar's father is a cattle shepherd. It is hard for him to make enough money for a family of seven.
\$35 Boarder
ID: **IEMN484**