

## Spring 2011 Newsletter

Dear Asian Aid Friends,

Greetings from all the staff here at Asian Aid USA.

I would like to say a big "thank you" to the donors who supported our Christmas appeal for Bobbili Blind School and the Operations Fund. Your support of these projects is greatly appreciated.

The most current, exciting news that we would like to share with you is the progress on the new Sunrise Orphanage. Construction has begun! The team is currently leveling the ground and preparing to put up the wall around the perimeter of the campus. The older children visited the site and had a dedicatory prayer as bulldozers began shoveling through the first mounds of dirt. They are just so excited! One small boy asked, "Will it be finished next week?" We had to tell him that it would probably take most of the year to complete. However, our goal is to have their new home ready for them to move into by this Christmas. Please pray for this project as it advances steadily forward.

As we print this newsletter, I am in India to attend some meetings and will also be visiting the Sunrise building site. I know many of you have given generously to this project and we thank you for your support. Most importantly, we are grateful and thoroughly indebted to our heavenly Father for His abundant blessings.

Christian regards,

Jim Rennie, CEO Asian Aid USA



Ravi with his daughter, Coralyn Olive Meredith,  
whose middle name is in memory of Ravi's Asian Aid sponsor

## Meet Ravi Dass: From the RAGS of poverty... to the RICHES of giving back

My name is Ravi...and although I currently work in India as an Asian Aid field officer and Hungry Money fund coordinator, I believe none would be in a better position than I to understand the tremendous impact of Asian Aid on the lives of orphans, children, and families. I say this not only as an employee of Asian Aid, but predominantly and most significantly, as a beneficiary.

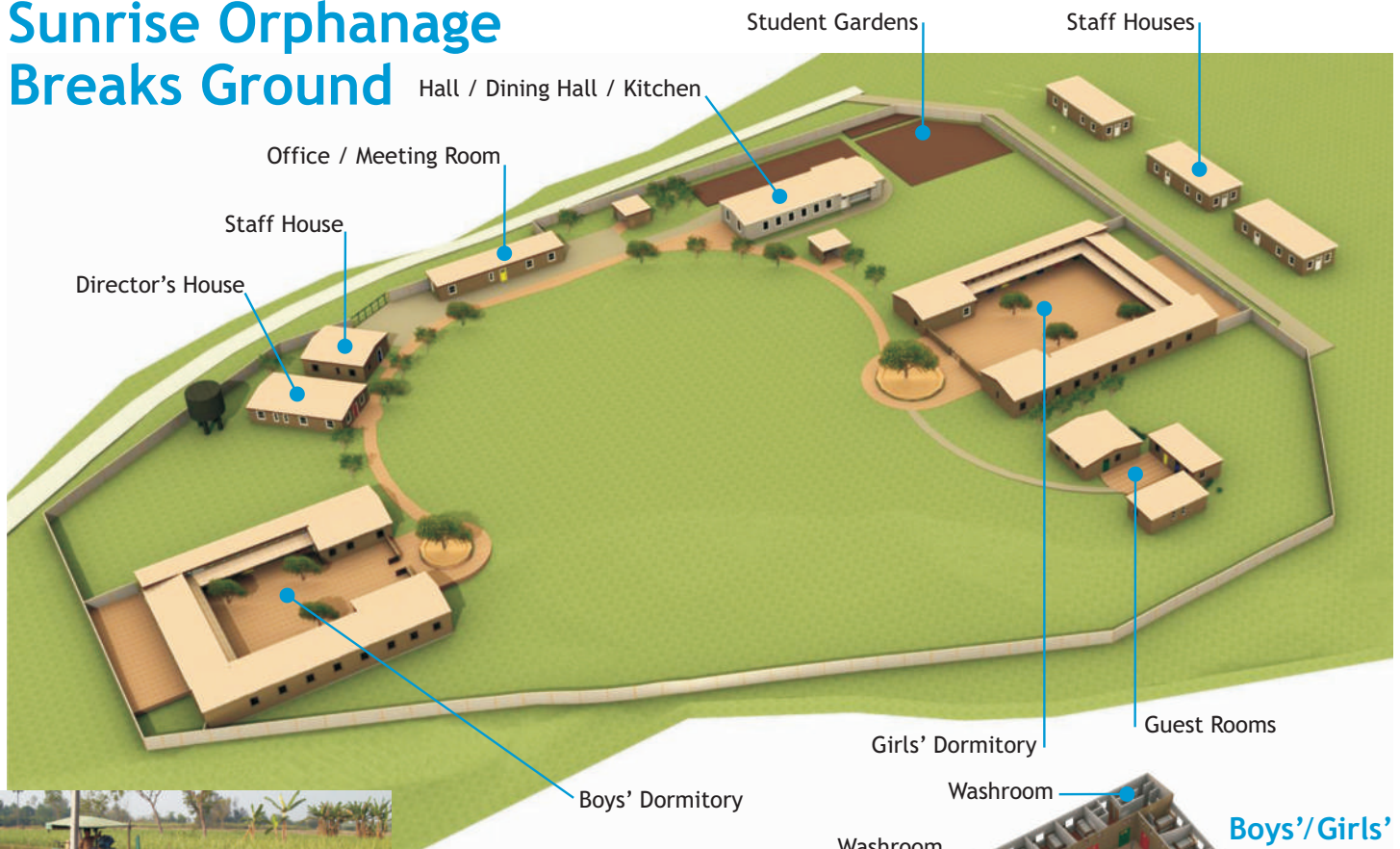
I was born into an extremely poor family in India. When I was five years old, my mother was bitten by a dog and died, leaving four children in the care of my father. Incapable of dealing with the stresses and responsibilities upon him, my father decided that the whole family would be better off to end their lives by consuming poison. It was at this time that God interceded. Someone who heard of my father's plan had also heard of Sunshine Home, a safe and caring nearby haven for orphan children. So on December 18, 1979, I and my two younger sisters were taken to Sunshine Home and placed in the loving hands of Pastor and Mrs. Watts.

Suddenly, as a "brand plucked from the fire," I found myself taken from abject poverty with no hope or opportunities for the future, to a home where I was compassionately cared for by loving "parents," surrounded by dozens of "brothers and sisters," and given the luxury of sleeping in a warm bed and learning to read and write in a classroom. However, not only did I receive an education that fitted me with skills and capabilities needed for this world, but for the first time in my life I experienced the love of a heavenly Father who cared deeply about me. I could see His love vividly demonstrated through what Asian Aid did in my life and did for so many of my brothers and sisters who grew up in Sunshine Home.

As I think back, I am indebted to so many, but especially to my Australian Asian Aid sponsor who through her kind generosity, dedication, and sacrifices of financial donations, time, and love, ensured that I had a secure present and hope for a brighter future. I am eternally grateful to Asian Aid which gave me the gift of a high-quality education and the most valuable gift of all - a knowledge of God. It is because of His mercies that today I am married to a wonderful woman and have been blessed with a lovely daughter.

I deem it a true privilege to continue the chain of reaching out to underprivileged children and making a difference in their lives just as I have experienced. It overwhelms me to think of the alternative for them....and for me. Thank you Asian Aid once again for your love, your sacrifice, and for caring enough to make a difference in my life and in the lives of thousands of children. May God bless you all as you glorify His name through your work and as you continue to show His love "...unto the least of these."

# Sunrise Orphanage Breaks Ground



*Groundbreaking dedicatory prayer with Sunrise Orphanage students*

For the last two years Asian Aid has planned for the construction and raised funds for the new Sunrise Orphanage in Bobbili, India. At the beginning of March the construction team, led

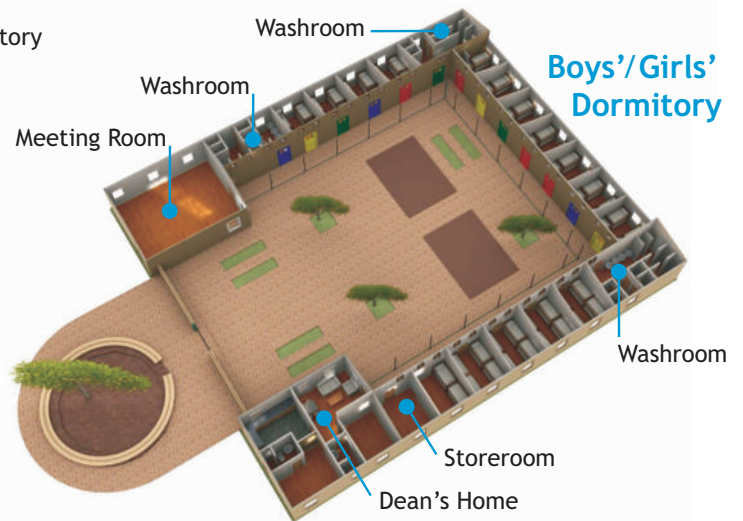
by Mr. Doug Clark, arrived to start construction. Doug, having been the Director for Maranatha in India for over 10 years, has wide experience in building projects in this country.

The initial stage began with leveling and preparing the ground and building the wall around the construction site. On the groundbreaking day as bulldozers rolled onto the site, a group of the older Sunrise students met on the site and had a special prayer of dedication. They are extremely excited and bursting with questions! Reflecting the students' current conditions where more than half of the children have to sleep on the floor, one boy asked, "Will I get a bed, Sir?" to which Doug replied, "Yes, and you will have a mattress!" The little boy burst into a big smile.

The total land area encompasses twelve acres. The home will take up about five acres with the remaining being used for growing crops. Rice and vegetables will grow well in the fertile farming soil enabling the home to grow some of its own food and sell some crops for income. Each child will also have his or her own vegetable plot where they will be taught gardening skills as well as the benefits and values of



*Bulldozers begin preparing the ground for construction*



industry. Due to constant escalations in food prices in India, growing their own food and training the students in agriculture will be a long-term benefit to Sunrise Orphanage and to the education of the children.

This project will not only supply a much-needed home to the current orphans but will also provide the same opportunity to over 130 more children who have no parents and often live on the streets. Funding is just about complete, but donations

for tables, chairs, furniture, fans and other kitchen furnishings are still required. Please support this mission outreach with your prayers and financial contributions.

**If any donors would like to visit the site, please contact Asian Aid to arrange a visit.** (Accommodations are provided by Bobbili Blind School nearby.)

## An Experience Most Incredible

Early in January, 2011, I joined Asian Aid to begin a life-changing adventure and responsibility serving what Christ calls "the least of these." My primary responsibility is Director of Partner Development. God is blessing as Asian Aid USA is growing rapidly.

Previously, I was in development with a multi-media ministry, spent approximately ten years teaching and in administration, and pastored for fifteen years. It was while helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that I became hooked into what I now call "humanitarian evangelism." I realized that we too often miss that the suffering which breaks the Father's heart should break ours too.

When I left for India on January 9, I realized that I'd never be the same. After the 30+ hour flight with layovers and less than 2 hours of sleep, we were off and running meeting and visiting the most incredible children I've ever met. Many were orphans who had eagerly embraced an opportunity to be loved and educated and were reveling in it! In India I visited 10 schools and orphanages as well as the Eager-Nagar Leper Colony where lepers are lovingly cared for.

At the school/orphanage in Jeypore, I had the privilege of presenting the evening devotional and did those 800 children ever sing! I couldn't hear myself sing as they sang, but you could have heard a pin drop when I spoke - never happened to me with a group of adults much less with a group ages 4-17. As I awoke the next morning, I heard some 400 girls singing "Jesus Loves Me" enthusiastically!

At another orphanage, 8 of the 13 staff were Asian Aid orphans giving back in remarkable ways. Probably, the most touching experience was meeting Esther who serves 130 lepers. She was an Asian Aid orphan and even though only 33 years old now, has selflessly given back at the leper colony for 13 years. She radiates the love of Jesus!

## Women's Health Project in Nepal

Asian Aid has been active in providing women's health care and education in Nepal. However, just recently a new project has been initiated to provide even more rigorous intervention in the desperate area of untreated uterine prolapse. Due to lack of knowledge for prevention and overwork - most women work 17 hours each day and carry heavy loads during and immediately after pregnancy - more than 600,000 women in Nepal suffer from 2nd and 3rd degree uterine

prolapse, causing incredible pain, difficulty in walking and working, and traumatizing social stigma. Among this number, up to 200,000 need immediate surgery. Asian Aid has already sponsored more than 10,000 life-changing surgeries. However, this latest project aims to provide screening, hospital assessment, transport, operation, medicine, and follow-up for 600 women over the next 3 years. This year, Asian Aid USA is sending funds to Dhading District (South of Kathmandu) and Sindhupalchok District (North of Kathmandu) where they will be able to provide immediate help for over 50 Nepalese women.

*Shanti - feeling young again after her surgery*

Shanti, a 55-year-old woman who suffered from prolapse for 25 years, exclaimed after her Asian Aid sponsored surgery, "Now I feel like a young lady of 16 years...I never knew that such incredible healing would be possible in this life! I thank you for helping me."

**Your contributions can make this "incredible healing" possible for the many other women in Nepal who dream of once again feeling "like a young lady."**

The experience in Nepal was precious as well, as I visited two Asian Aid orphanages and met some 13 girls who'd been rescued from human trafficking. I also met with a nurse who works with the medical team and who has helped make possible more than 10,000 hysterectomies. Truly God is blessing in that country which is lagging badly behind developing India.

Without question the personal highlight of the trip was meeting my sponsored little orphan girl, Sushma, whose name means "beautiful flower." She's an eight year-old Hindu and had been



*Ravi T. (field officer), Shushma, and Dale meet for the first time through Asian Aid*

at the Elim Home orphanage/school for a couple of months when I met her. Already Sushma has fallen in love with Jesus asking her teacher if it's possible for the class to study the Bible all the time. When I informed her that I would see that she got a new mattress, she smiled. And then I asked if she needed anything else.

Her response still haunts me as I live in materialistic America. "It's enough," was the response from a child whose entire possessions could likely fit in a dishpan.

Sponsoring Sushma only costs a tank of gas monthly and it's the best \$45 I spend each month. Every morning when I awake, I know that one child who will soon sit on Jesus' lap is being loved and cared for in ways that will profoundly impact her for eternity. She has inspired me to increase my commitment to "the least of these." If you haven't done so, I invite you to enjoy these blessings, as well.

**Please contact Asian Aid's office if you would like Dale Martin to present at your church and discuss personally the ministry of Asian Aid and how you can get involved.**



## Blind Students Receive Awards

Recently two students from Bobbili Blind School received rewards from the government of India for excellence in their studies. The "Department of Science and Technology Inspire Award" was presented to both Reddy Krishna (9th grade) and Prem Kumar (7th grade) along with 5000 rupees each (\$111 USD, equivalent to approximately 3 months Indian wages).

We are proud of these students who have received this recognition, and also for the many others at Bobbili Blind School who have been diligent and hard-working students this year. A big thank you to their sponsors who make education and achievement a reality for all of the Bobbili blind students.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Annual General Meeting:** This year's AGM will be held the evening of May 28 in Collegedale, TN. If you would like to become an Asian Aid member please contact us for an application. Membership fee is \$20/year.

**Meet Asian Aid:** Visit our booth at the following conferences. We would be happy to meet you!

- ASI, Southern Union Chapter - Dalton, GA (April 7-9)
- ASI, Pacific Union Chapter - City of Industry, CA (April 21-23)
- ASI, North Pacific Union Chapter - Coeur d'Alene, ID (April 28-30)
- 3ABN Campmeeting (Spring) - West Frankfort, IL (June 1-4)
- National ASI - Sacramento, CA (Aug 3-6)
- 3ABN Campmeeting (Fall) - West Frankfort, IL (Sept. 22-24)

**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

**We'd love to hear from you!** Have you been blessed or have a story of how you have been affected by sponsorship, volunteering, or supporting Asian Aid in any way? We would love to hear from you and perhaps even share your experience with others in our newsletter or website.

**You may email us or send your correspondence to our address in Collegedale, TN.**

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Like us on Facebook:  
Facebook.com/AsianAidUSA

twitter

Follow us on Twitter:  
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Read our Blog: AsianAidUSA.wordpress.com



### 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**

## THESE CHILDREN URGENTLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Renuga's father works as a coolie for daily wages. Her mother is a housewife. She has three other siblings and her parents can't afford to educate the children on a single income. Renuga is good in her studies and happy at school.

**\$23 Day Student**  
Id: **ITTC001**



Godwin Gopi has two brothers. His father provides for the family by selling fish, but his work is seasonal and there is no definite income. Godwin's mother is unable to work as she is at home caring for his baby brother. They are in much need of financial support for the children's education.

**\$23 Day Student**  
Id: **ICHM033**



Shadrack comes from a very poor family. His father works as a daily labourer but can only earn money when the work is available. His mother is unable to work as she must stay home with the new baby. Shadrack is in the 4th grade.

**\$23 Day Student**  
Id: **ICHM032**



Vidhya is in the 5th grade and has one sister. Her family comes from a nearby village approximately 10 km away from school. Her father is not well and unable to work regularly.

**\$30 Day-Plus Student**  
Id: **IMDP039**



Ujwala comes to school by bus. She is obedient and an excellent student. She takes part in church activities and enjoys reading, especially the Bible. Ujwala is growing tall and healthy, is happy and always smiling.

**\$30 Day-Plus Student**  
Id: **IELD006**



Vishak is one of two children. His father works as a hotel cleaner and his mother is a housewife. Vishak is quiet, in 5th grade, and does well in his studies.

**\$30 Day-Plus Student**  
Id: **IPLR060**



Uday has one sister. His father works at a private school but makes very little money. Uday is in the 3rd grade, is smart and hardworking. He wants to be a doctor.

**\$35 Boarder**  
Id: **IONG226**



Teja is from a family of four children. The family lives off of the mother's income which is meager. Teja likes to play cricket and volleyball. He is friendly, obedient, and helpful. He gets good grades and is very respectful, especially of his teachers.

**\$35 Boarder**  
Id: **IONG048**



Sahana is in 11th grade and does well in her studies. She is happy at her new school and would like to become an engineer. She likes to read, collect pictures of nature, and sing.

**\$35 Boarder**  
Id: **IJMS061**



Shanti is from a tribal, idol worshipping family who heard about Christ. The family have accepted Him, but the father has not, and is very abusive. The mother cannot support and protect her children so she sent them to the Adventist school. Shanti is in the 11th grade and would like to become a teacher.

**\$35 Boarder**  
Id: **INSP239**



Sita's family live in a mud and straw house on a very small piece of land that does not yield much crop. She is the seventh child and in 2nd grade. Her father died of an unknown sickness. She's a sweet girl and is happy to be studying at the school.

**\$45 Boarder Plus**  
Id: **IBJP005**



Kavitha's family live in a stone and thatch home. They were driven out of their previous Hindu village because they were Christian. After their father left the family, they were very poor with hardly any food. She is thankful to be staying in the boarding school.

**\$45 Boarder Plus**  
Id: **IKMP057**

**GIVING HOPE** to Children, Families & Communities in Nepal, Bangladesh, India & Sri Lanka