

## Summer 2011 Newsletter

Dear Asian Aid Supporters,

I am very grateful for the ongoing growth of support for Asian Aid USA. We recently held our Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting, celebrated in completing and passing a full accounts audit, and recommitted the organization to the Lord. We have made some bold plans to serve those who are in need, including some major initiatives that will launch at ASI in Sacramento this year. If you will be attending ASI, August 4-6, please drop by our booth and visit us.

Progress at the new Sunrise Orphanage is starting to happen! We are very fortunate to have Doug Clark who was the Director of Maranatha in India for over 10 years now assisting us with managing the project. We urgently need plumbers and electricians at the site and to help with some nearby projects. If you are qualified and would like to be a part of these exciting developments and important ministry, please contact us.

A while ago we told you about Anjali, a blind girl found chained in her home suffering in terrible conditions. We believe she had been chained there for over three years. She came to the blind school and would not talk and had no expression in her face. It was heartbreaking to see. Now, although she has a long way to go, on my last trip there in April I saw her talking with other children, smiling, and even singing. We thank all of you for giving these children such needed HOPE.

On my last trip to India I visited the slum school with two Asian Aid USA supporters, Nancy Kirk and Sonna Smith. It was so exciting to see Sonna meet the two girls she sponsors. She had been told about the criminals in the slum and wondered how safe we would be. But she soon found that the criminals leave us alone and in fact even follow us to provide us protection, as they appreciate what we do for their children. Visiting that school is always a very special experience.

We are so thankful for all the support we receive towards sponsorships and our project funds. Our special appeal to you now is for our Operations and Urgent Needs Fund. Our operating costs both in the USA and India are tightly budgeted, but to effectively carry on the work of Asian Aid takes efficiency and generosity from supporters like you. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this important fund this month.

Thank you again for your support!

If you would like to share information about Asian Aid with friends please call us for material or let us know if we could do a presentation at your church.

Christian regards,

Jim Rennie, CEO Asian Aid USA



Anjali (left) with a friend at the Blind School

## Anjali's New Life

In the Fall 2010 newsletter we told you about a 10-year-old blind girl who had been tied up under the steps of her home. With only a plate of food and a cup of water beside her, the knowledge of being rejected, neglected, and treated as an animal made her almost insane. She was rescued by a young man who noticed her pitiful condition every day as he walked by her house on his way to work. At much relief to her parents, who were happy to be rid of a child they considered a burden and embarrassment, he offered to take her to a blind school that would love and care for her and give her an education.

It has now been over a year since Anjali began her new life at Bobbili Blind School. At first she was so traumatized that she was constantly fearful and wouldn't speak to the other children. But with the gentle care and love that she has been given at the school from the staff and her new found friends, she has truly blossomed into a lovely and happy young girl. The fear that she once had has turned into trust and a love and knowledge of Jesus who has healed her heart. The school administration is planning on taking her to an ophthalmologist to see if her sight can be restored. Perhaps one day she will have the joy of seeing love, not just in the words and touch of those who have cared for her, but also in the beauty of their faces and of the surroundings which have set her free.

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."

Isaiah 42:16



*Gathering for prayer on the land prepared for construction*

## Sunrise Construction Site Visit

By Jim Rennie, CEO Asian Aid USA

In April I had the privilege of visiting the construction site of the new Sunrise Orphanage with Asian Aid USA supporters Sonna Smith and Nancy Kirk and Asian Aid co-founder, Helen Eager. We also took all the children from the orphanage to see the progress. The construction crew had marked the buildings out on the ground, and I took the children on a tour of where their new home would be. They were spell bound and so delighted. Questions like "Will I have a bed, Sir?" and "Will it be built next week?" came as a torrent as we walked around the property. They could hardly believe they would each have their own bed and there would only be four to eight per room. Cricket is the big game in India so we got out the ball and bat and commenced the inaugural game. Just to have a large area to play is a blessing.

We stopped and formed a circle as Mrs. Helen Eager said a special prayer of thanks. The children were very moved and grateful. Then it was time to play and the boys headed to the river and had just as much fun as you can see in the pictures. The girls played with Frisbees, jump ropes, and splashed in the water.

We are grateful not only for these seventy children, but also for the managers of Sunrise Orphanage, Lalitha and Raj Varma, who do an exceptional job. Because of this new project, another one-hundred orphans from nearby villages will have a home. For those who have supported this project, I can tell you from first-hand knowledge, you are making a difference for these children. "Thank you" from them and from Asian Aid.

### Project Update

As we print this newsletter the buildings are starting to go up. The water tower construction has started and there will be fast progress over the next eight weeks as the weather cooperates. We still need funds for bedding and furnishings. If you can help provide these for the children, please fill out the enclosed card with your donation.



*The children have lots of space to play on the new Sunrise property*



*Doug Clark (left, in charge of Sunrise construction) and John Truscott (right, Asian Aid USA board chairman) check out the progress at the construction site*

### Tradesmen Urgently Needed

Do you have skills as a plumber or electrician? We are in urgent need of short-term volunteers who can help at Sunrise and the Blind School. Please contact us for details.



*Sunrise boys enjoying the river that runs through the new property*

# Asian Aid India: My Experience

By Sonna Smith

As our plane touched down in Hyderabad on a very sultry March morning, I knew I was in an exotic land. Tall palms could be seen in every direction beside many little oases of green fields. I couldn't even see a city due to the haze. Later, riding in the hotel shuttle along the manicured boulevard, one could almost assume that the mass poverty, lack of space, and horrendous living conditions had all been eradicated from India.

The next morning Nancy (the other Asian Aid supporter on the trip) and I were picked up at our hotel by Ravi Thummalapalli, a Field Officer for Asian Aid. We were on our way to visit the Elim Orphanage and School. Ravi told us what a special place Elim was to him, since it was there that he was rescued as a five-year-old water buffalo herder, given a loving home, education, and a successful future.

As we entered the outskirts of the city the "real" India greeted us. Cows, stray dogs, and sundry other animals wandered the streets, mingling with oxen-drawn carts, bicycles, rickshaws, and buses. Crosswalks seemed nonexistent as our van driver braked and honked at continuous interference in the lanes of traffic. We arrived at Elim during the morning school session. The principal showed us the entire compound including a visit to each classroom. In spite of a campus urgently needing painting and upgrading, the children appeared genuinely happy and content. Helen Eager, co-founder of Asian Aid, had been staying in a small guest room next to the girls' dorm and joined us for lunch in the principal's apartment. As we were shown the kitchen in the unit a small mouse ran across the counter top. Nancy and I gave each other a glance. We had expected that very little would be the same as home!

The next day we flew to the city of Vishakhapatnam where we would visit the Vizak slum school, an "inner city" school of the most extreme kind. I had a very special interest in the school as the two little girls my husband and I sponsor attend school there. Nancy and I had taken on a personal project a few months before embarking on our trip. We had decided to buy stainless steel water pots for each of the children and staff to take



L to R: Sonna, Nancy, Helen, and Jim with students at Vizak school and their new water pots

home and use. We had heard there was only a single water pump available for the thousands that lived in the area. With no indoor plumbing in the family hovels, water was a most precious commodity, and a proper container that would not spill would be of great value and usefulness.

The driver let us off at the end of a long, narrow street - really only a path as a car would not have fit. Various people who lived in the slum were standing in the doorways or gambling on the cement with stones or bits of wood. The area is known for a high population of prostitutes and criminals. On arrival at the school we climbed to the third floor where a rooftop had been turned into a beautiful assembly hall. Brightly colored material was stretched across a frame, a bit like a canopied bed, to hold back the hot Indian sun and allow a little breeze to flow

across the children all sitting cross-legged on the floor. We were greeted by Miss Naomi, the principal, and a wonderful program was given by the children. The shiny, metal water jugs had arrived and made the occasion even more festive. We handed out pencils to the children and school was dismissed. I had a chance to meet and visit with "my" little girls for a few minutes. They were a little bewildered by all of the attention I'm sure. I had brought them a few additional small gifts and their sweet smiles were worth the price of the entire trip for me!

I was given some very sad news while visiting with the children. A little 12-year-old girl we had sponsored had dropped out of school last year. Her brother who still attends school told me she had been married off in an arranged marriage. Although this is illegal in India, it is still done in secrecy in very poor families that may need one less mouth to feed.

Walking back to our van I knew that I had been changed forever. The verse that Helen quotes often, Mathew 25:40, had made a permanent impression on my mind. "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me." May we, through the care of love of these children, serve our Master Who has set the example and given His all for each one of us.



Workers from the Deaf School take their stand for Jesus

## Deaf School Workers Baptized

The Sabbath of March 12, 2011 was a special day in Kollegal, India. Three deaf ladies who work at Asian Aid's Deaf School were baptized by Pastor Rajdas, Secretary of South Karnataka Section, at the Adventist Church in Kollegal. The three deaf ladies were Puttamadhamma, one of the school cooks; Manjula, a teacher for the nursery class; and Evangeline Hembrom, another one of the teachers.

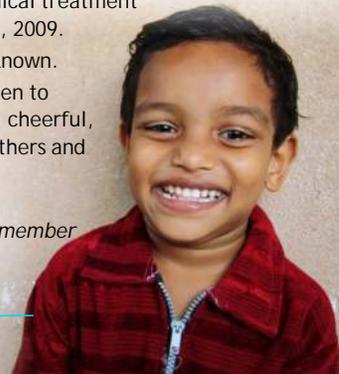
We praise God and rejoice to see these three women make this important decision to have a new life in Christ. Please pray that this would encourage many other deaf young people who attend the church services in Kollegal to take the same stand and come to a fulfilling relationship with Christ.

## Cheerful Smiles From a Rocky Past: Joshua's Story

Joshua Sunnapu was conceived through unfortunate circumstances. His mother, Sunita, was only 13-years-old when she was sexually assaulted and then left to try to struggle through life as a young unintentional mother. In a society where illicit affairs and pregnancy out of wedlock is frowned upon, one can only imagine the fate of a girl as young as she. Sunita didn't find out she was with child until she was into her sixth month. And the man responsible for her pregnancy did not want anything to do with her, even though the community tried to intervene. After giving birth to a son at that young age, Sunita could not cope with the burdens of life. Her health deteriorated and she suffered great mental agony. Her grandparents could not afford medical treatment for her, and sadly, she passed away on April 17, 2009.

The whereabouts of Joshua's father is still unknown. Upon his mother's death, little Joshua was taken to Sunrise Orphanage where he is now a thriving, cheerful, 6-year-old boy with a big family and more brothers and sisters than he could ever have imagined.

Joshua is now a smiling member of the Sunrise family

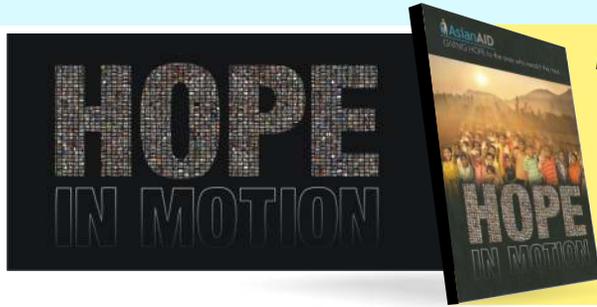


## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- National ASI - Sacramento, CA (Aug 3-6)
- Festival of the Laity - Dallas, TX (Sept. 7-10)
- 3ABN Campmeeting - 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



### 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



Milan is one of four boys in a very poor family in Nepal. His mother cares for the family at home and his father has no job. Milan is in the 7th grade.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [NEPL403](#)



Chameli's father is a poor rickshaw driver. She and her family live in a village very far away from her school. Chameli would like to become a nurse and likes to sing, dance, and draw pictures.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [IKNT133](#)



Abhishek's father travels to villages repairing stoves. His grandparents live with them, so it is difficult for Abhishek's father to pay for his Christian education. He is in the 6th grade.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [ISKM060](#)



Ashmita is one of two girls in this family. Her parents both work for daily wages as laborers when work is available. Her parents are originally from Kathmandu and relocated to Nepal in search of better jobs.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [NEPL400](#)



Rubee and her mother live in a small single room together in Nepal. Her father left the family, and her mother works for minimal daily wages as a laborer whenever work is available to her.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [NEPL394](#)



Elijah comes from a very poor family. Both his parents work but income is very little. Elijah is smart and likes to smile. He is active in class and likes to play football.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IONG039](#)



Hanoti's father works for daily wages as a laborer, but it is not enough for the family's needs. She has one brother and two sisters and they live in a bamboo hut in Bangladesh.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [BHT015](#)



Santoshi's whole family live in a small hut and depend on foods like berries, mango and dates. Santoshi gets good grades, would like to become a teacher, and enjoys making flower garlands.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IEMN527](#)



Deva is from a family of three children. His father works as a day laborer cutting wood. The family income is very low. Deva Raju is smart and obedient. He likes football.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IONG221](#)



Lalruatfail's family is very poor. Her father's earning are not enough for their daily needs, let alone for education. Lalruatfail has two brothers and the family live in a small tin sheet home.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [BJA011](#)



Riches is from an extremely poor family. His family are regular church members, and he likes to participate in church activities. He studies hard and would like to become a doctor or a teacher.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IKDA053](#)



Gollapalli is totally blind. Both his parents are uneducated, and very poor. He is in the 9th grade, gets good grades, and wants to become a teacher. He enjoys singing and playing cricket.  
\$45 Boarder Plus  
ID: [IBBL170](#)



Vanjarapu has been totally blind since age three. His parents are illiterate and live in a thatched house. He is a good boy, very active, and friendly with everyone.  
\$45 Boarder Plus  
ID: [IBBL138](#)



Kattimudi's father died in car accident, so her mother supports the family. They are active church members. Kattimudi gets excellent grades and would like to become a nurse.  
\$45 Boarder Plus  
ID: [IHHP226](#)



Johnson is studying commerce at Spicer College. His grades are excellent and he works in the college library every day. Johnson enjoys singing and reading.  
\$45 Boarder Plus  
ID: [ISMC6832](#)



Gedhala is studying at Lowry College where he studies hard, gets good grades, and would like to become an engineer. Gedhala also participates in church and likes to read and play sports.  
\$45 Boarder Plus  
ID: [ILRYC098](#)



Samjhana's father is a carpenter and left the family four years ago to buy wood to make furniture. He never returned. Samjhana's mother struggles to support her family.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [NEPL401](#)



Parbati is from a family of three children who live in Nepal. Her father is a driver and her mother takes care of the family at home. They struggle on a single low income.  
\$23 Day Student  
ID: [NEPL395](#)



Vamsi's father has a small tea stall on the street which provides the families meager income. Vamsi is in 4th grade and loves to color and read. His favorite subject is Science.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IONG179](#)



Himansu's family live in a house made of mud walls and a thatched roof. A lay preacher visits with them every Saturday, and Himansu wants to become a pastor.  
\$35 Boarder  
ID: [IEMN429](#)



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