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## Jean Boonstra and Daughters Visit India



For some time, the Boonstra family has sponsored a girl named Sheela at Sunrise Home. This year, Jean Boonstra and her two daughters, Natalie and Naomi, traveled with Asian Aid CEO Jim Rennie to India for a rare chance to meet the girl whom they sponsor. Sheela is about the same age as Natalie Boonstra.

When they first met Sheela both girls were shy, but within minutes the girls began interacting and talking.

After returning home, Jean reflected on the experience. "I never would have guessed when we first started sponsoring a girl with Asian Aid that one day we'd get to meet her," she said. "Natalie, Naomi, and I just returned from an amazing visit to India to meet Sheela and her 'brothers and sisters' at Asian Aid's Sunrise Home. We spent time visiting, laughing, singing, and getting to know Sheela at her home and school. As we traveled through the villages we noticed how different Sheela's life is compared to how it would be without Asian Aid's involvement. Sheela, the kids at the Blind School in Bobbili, and the Slum School in Vizak all have a chance for an incredible future, and we were privileged to see that first hand. What an honor to be involved with this ministry."

Natalie was impacted by the visit. "It was great getting to know girls my age that come from such a different lifestyle," she said. "I hope to go back in the future. I really love India."

Naomi made observations about India and was able to make new friends. "Everything about India is so different," she said, "but my favorite part was getting to see where Sheela lives and meeting all of her friends. Everyone at Sheela's home was so nice to us. It was an amazing experience."

In addition to visiting Sheela at Sunrise Home the Boonstra family also stopped by the Blind School, attended the opening of the Vizak Slum School, and visited with people in the villages. The trip has been captured on film and will be released shortly as an Asian Aid "Hope in Motion" program on 3ABN.

Dear Friends,

Your prayers and gifts have enabled Asian Aid to have a very busy time recently. We are continuing to attend camp meetings and take on new sponsors. I have also made another trip to India; this time I traveled with Jean Boonstra and her two daughters, Natalie and Naomi. The family sponsors a child at Sunrise Home. This was a unique opportunity for the girls to visit their sponsored child and meet children of the same age in a country that is totally different in culture and conditions than their own.

While I was in India, they convinced me to get in a paddy field with the



oxen. The deep mud had me worried, but it caused huge laughter with the Indians.

We are launching two special funds this month: the Asian Aid Education Development Fund that will help build poor Adventist schools in India, and the Operation Child Rescue Fund that will help rescue trafficked children.

We are grateful for the Lord's blessing and for your support,



Jim Rennie CEO Asian Aid USA



Asian Aid is facing many challenges with schools in India. Our role has been one of sponsorship. However, we now see the urgent need to take an active role in assisting certain Adventist schools in teaching quality and improved resources. This fund has the full support of the General Conference and the Southern Asian Division, which covers India.

**The AAEDF will be formed to assist specific Adventist schools initially in India in the following capacity:**

## Management and planning

**Need:** Poor management and a lack of planning are both prevalent at these schools.

**Solution:** The AAEDF will appoint a senior experienced education director to act as a consultant for the project. Additional support staff will be employed as required. AAEDF will also liaise with Adventist universities to share staff with these schools. The AAEDF will enter into a contract with the SUD and the local Union to be able to take a leadership and mentorship role in these schools.

## Staff training and curriculum development

**Need:** There is a shortage of qualified Adventist staff on these campuses.

**Solution:** The AAEDF will assist in creating an academic development plan for attracting qualified staff.

## New staff incentives for graduates

**Need:** New graduates are not being attracted to these schools because of the schools' reputations, poor wages, and often the location of the school.

**Solution:** The AAEDF will develop an incentive program to attract new Adventist graduates to these schools.

## Industry and agriculture development

**Need:** These schools need to develop some small industries and agriculture, both to drive self-sustainability and for student work experience.

**Solution:** AAEDF will develop both industry and agriculture plans to suit each school location.

## Deans and pastoral staff

**Need:** There is a shortage of qualified deans and pastoral staff at many of these schools.

**Solution:** The AAEDF will develop training for new deans, pastors, and retraining programs for current deans, pastors, and spiritual development for students.

## School resources

**Need:** Many of these schools lack a proper library, science equipment, computer resources and other classroom material.

**Solution:** AAEDF will seek funding and grants to build these resources.

## Building improvement

**Need:** Many of these schools have had no investment in the buildings and lack maintenance plans.

**Solution:** The AAEDF will assist with building development and training maintenance staff.

## School reputation and image improvement

**Need:** Many of these schools are not attracting fee-paying students because of the image and reputation of the school in the local community.

**Solution:** A school improvement package will be developed that will include:

- Improvement of physical plant and buildings
- New name of school to reflect a higher quality of education
- Improved staffing to include foreign teachers, fulfilling a six month to one year appointment to the school
- Improved education resources including library, science, and computer resources
- Improved planning and financial management
- Building of a marketing strategy to attract fee-paying students

**This fund has an immediate need of \$450,000 in order to assist and help grow six large Adventist schools. Any contribution to this special fund will directly benefit thousands of children.**

# Vizak Slum School Reopens

By Jim Rennie, Asian Aid USA CEO

On July 9, the newly renovated Vizak Slum School held its opening ceremony. The service was held on the open area on the roof of the school. Visitors from the community, the church, and Asian Aid USA were present. It was my privilege as CEO to reopen this renovated school. Jean Boonstra and her daughters were present, and Jean gave a brief comment on the importance of Christian education. Since the school is located right in the slum poverty, criminals, and prostitutes surround it. The people in the community are very excited that we care for their children, and they could not thank us enough. The refurbished school now has



more space, improved cooking, and water supply. The children are served a midday meal. Asian Aid is very grateful to those donors who have supported this project. You can continue to support this school as Asian Aid funds all of the expenses of the school.

## Slum School Welcomes Alumna Speaker

By Jim Rennie, Asian Aid USA CEO

At the reopening of the Vizak Slum School the special speech on behalf of the children was given by a passionate young woman who grew up in the slum and attended the school. She now attends an Adventist boarding college near Vizak, India. In this newsletter we will give her the pseudonym Mary\*. Since



Mary\* with CEO Jim Rennie

the young women and girls are from the slum and are high targets for trafficking, we have to protect their names and locations. In her opening words, Mary stood tall, looked me in the eye, and said in perfect English that this school had given her a future. This school had been her second home and had given her a key step on her way to success. It was a touching speech. She is now doing well at college, and she said that she would go on to be a doctor. She

thanked me with such passion that it touched me very much. She is intelligent, attractive, and very grateful for what Asian Aid has done for her. She showed me where she had grown up right in the slum, and she said she would return to help her mother. She brought tears to my eyes as I saw her passion for Jesus and her passion to succeed. Thank you for your continuing support. The movement of this work is just amazing, from the many pictures of little children who live in poverty to the success of this empowered young woman.



Children at the Vizak Slum School

## OPERATION CHILD RESCUE

## Assists in Human Trafficking Raid

Last month an Asian Aid field officer, Joshua Moses, based in Bangalore, India, went along on a child rescue raid in

Bangalore, India. Word came from a tip that a group of children were being trafficked to a factory that was not only used for child labor but was also a base for child prostitution. Initially it was thought that they were traveling by train, but then word came through that they were being loaded onto a bus. The rescue team coordinated with a team of handpicked police (since some are on the payroll of the traffickers). After a short high-speed chase the bus and a van were stopped. They found some older people who had been promised jobs as well as a group of minors, including

*The police and rescue team with the bus*



young girls and teenage boys. The case was complex since parents had given permission without understanding the real situation.

In rural, poor areas circumstances are hard for widows. There is often work offered with promises that are simply lies in order to lure girls in to human trafficking. One of the girls told Joshua that her father had passed away. Her mother genuinely believed that getting this job would be good for her daughter.

Some children were returned to their parents, some were held to find their identities, and some were taken to the Oasis home.

“I have learned that human trafficking is a byproduct of extreme need and poverty, but [it is] also a result of lack of knowledge and understanding,” Joshua said. “Collectively, we can do something about these things.”

*Some of the girls rescued from the bus*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 3ABN Broadcasting Times:

Asian Aid has begun its new 30-minute series on 3ABN. For those of you who have enjoyed watching the *Hope in Motion* episodes every Friday evening, you definitely don't want to miss these brand new stories of how God has been working through Asian Aid's ministry this last year.

**Asian Aid continues to air on Fridays at  
4:30 PST, 5:30 MST, 6:30 CST, and 7:30 EST.**

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Visit our website at  
**asianaid.org**

## Charitable Gift Annuities

Asian Aid has teamed up with the Western Adventist Foundation to make faithful gift planning simple. Western Adventist Foundation on behalf of Asian Aid offers expertise in gift planning from consultation to implementation and management of your gift plan.

The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a popular way for our donors to provide income to themselves or their loved ones for life as well as to support the ministry of Asian Aid. The Charitable Gift Annuity is a planning tool that, at its heart, recognizes the fact that the rewards of giving begin with the desire to make a gift.

The Gift Annuity marks this decision with two things: the transfer of an asset from the donor(s) to the charity, and the signing of a contract in which the charity agrees to make payments to the donor(s) for life.

In addition to the satisfaction inherent in the act of giving, the CGA adds tangible benefits by providing an attractive income payment, with a significant portion of each payment being income tax free, and an immediate charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the gift. Your annuity payment is determined at the time your gift is made and will not fluctuate with the market.

### Contact us for information:

Call toll-free **866-569-7933**

or email [support@asianaid.org](mailto:support@asianaid.org)

to arrange for a professional advisor to contact you.

Charitable Gift Annuities are NOT AVAILABLE in the states of AL, MD and WA. Annuities to benefit Asian Aid for CA and IL residents are provided by the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; for HI residents they are provided by the HI Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Annuities to benefit Asian Aid in all other states are provided by the Western Adventist Foundation.



## THESE CHILDREN URGENTLY NEED YOUR SPONSORSHIP



Mahindra's parents are dedicated Christians. However, they are also very poor and his father works on a rich man's land for very low wages.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U15328**



Manosh is a 6th grade student in Bangladesh. He likes to play football and would like to be an engineer when he grows up.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U15024**



Dipon is in 7th grade in Bangladesh where he studies English, Bengali, math, and other subjects. He would like to become an English teacher

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U14924**



Mission comes from the Bandarban District of Bangladesh where his father works in the fields earning about 82¢/day.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U14665**



Himansu's family live in a mud house with a thatched roof. A lay preacher visits them every Saturday. Himansu wants to become a pastor.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U08586**



Aurik is in 6th grade in our school in Bangladesh. He likes to draw, read, and play football.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U14696**



Masikul dreams of becoming a teacher. He studies hard and loves reading books. When he isn't studying, he likes to play hockey.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U15009**



Pruthibiraj's family lives near the forest where they live by harvesting bamboo shoots, mushrooms, berries, and wood to sell at market.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U14856**



Salomy's father passed away and she, her mother, and her sister struggle to survive. Salomy would like to become a teacher.

**\$35 Boarder**  
ID: **U11922**



Poli has just started 5th grade at Vishakapatnam Day School. His parents are poor day laborers.

**\$23 Day Student**  
ID: **U15099**



Nagendra's father works as a lorry driver and is not home much of the time. His mother works as a maid. Nagendra would like to be an engineer.

**\$23 Day Student**  
ID: **U15093**



Sachin is a mischievous boy but when it comes to his studies he works hard. His father is deceased. Sachin would like to be become a doctor.

**\$23 Day Student**  
ID: **U15577**



Deepak has just started 7th grade at Mysore SDA School. His father is a driver and his mother a housewife. He wants to be a mechanical engineer.

**\$23 Day Student**  
ID: **U15188**



Salomi is one of three girls in her family. Salomi would like to become an engineer and likes reading and singing.

**\$23 Day Student**  
ID: **U16150**



Aadarsha is in the 5th grade in our newly sponsored school in Nepal. She likes to sing and dance and would like to become a nurse someday.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16550**



Alisha is in the second grade in Nepal. She is very shy and would like to become a nurse. Her father works as a teacher.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16551**



Anjali's parents are farmers in Nepal. Anjali has one older brother. She would like to become a teacher when she grows up.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16552**



Diya is in the 1st grade. Her father is in the Nepal army and her mother is a housewife. Diya likes to play with soft toys.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16553**



Hasina is from Nepal and her main language is Newari. Her father runs a tea shop.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16554**



James has just started kindergarten in Nepal but is already doing well in his studies, especially handwriting.

**\$30 Day+ Student**  
ID: **U16555**