

Asian Aid USA, PO Box 2258, Collegedale TN 37315
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Dear Supporters,

I just want to thank all of you for your support in 2012. The generous giving especially in December contributed to an overall growth of 25% in 2012. Because of your support, hundreds more children have sponsorship, orphans have homes, and our projects are progressing strongly. Praise the Lord!

We have a special appeal this month for sponsorship of children in Bangladesh (their pictures are on the back page). All the children have been accepted to Asian Aid based on their qualifying need and will be attending Adventist schools. If you are unable to commit to a monthly sponsorship, you may want to donate to our Un-sponsored Child fund as Asian Aid is already supporting these children through this fund until a sponsor is found for them.

Besides your financial support, you can help these children by telling others about Asian Aid. We have materials you can hand out and a short DVD featuring Shawn Boonstra for you to play in your church or Sabbath school. Please consider being an Asian Aid ambassador this year and contact us for further details.

As I write this letter I am preparing to leave again for India for various meetings, to visit two of our orphanages, and to finalize plans for construction at the Vizianagaram School. There are plenty of challenges in this work, but we have seen the Lord open doors to help provide for the needs of these children and continue to pray that their hearts will be open to His love.

I am so grateful for the Lord's blessings and thank you for your support,



Jim Rennie CEO Asian Aid USA



My Beautiful Indian Daughter

“ I would love for her just to be able to dream, to be able to hope, to be able to think that she has options...”

Trina Gifford has been sponsoring Deepthi for the last four years. Never in her wildest dreams did Trina think her commitment to sponsor Deepthi's education would take her on a 10,000 mile journey to Andhra Pradesh, India.

Deepthi is now a 5th grade student at the Vizianagaram School, which has suffered with very old, run-down, and leaking classrooms. However, you may have seen in our last newsletter that Asian Aid USA would be building Vizianagaram ten new classrooms. We are thrilled that construction will likely start within four weeks and soon Deepthi will be able to study in an environment more conducive to learning.

It is a very rare but special event when a sponsored child gets to meet his or her sponsor. Deepthi had always wished that she would have an opportunity to meet her sponsor and now her wishes came true. Initially being surprised and shy at meeting Trina, Deepthi soon warmed up to her. It was a special moment for Trina as well. “I was able to hug her and smile at her and say, ‘my beautiful Indian daughter’ and tell her that I loved her.” The yearning and hope that many sponsors have for their sponsored children Trina expressed for Deepthi. “I would love for her just to be able to dream, to be able to hope, to be able to think that she has options, that she can move from her village, that she can become a teacher or a nurse. And just to give her that opportunity of choice, of freedom to travel to other places, to see other things, to grow her understanding of the world and have hopes for her future.”

Thank you to Trina and the many other dedicated sponsors who are giving Asian Aid children in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh this life-changing hope.





Harvest Time at Sunrise

The children at Sunrise Home are settling in to their new home, although it still seems a bit like heaven to them. If you have been following Asian Aid's Facebook page, you will know that recent news on campus has involved such excitement as snakes, pillows, and high-jump.

(Check us out on Facebook for pictures and for ongoing new stories.)



This last growing season, the children and staff enjoyed their first harvest from their farm. They pulled up Indian radishes, threshed rice, shucked corn, and harvested many other garden vegetables which added variety and homegrown flavors to the Sunrise kitchen. In a few months, a professional farmer from the US will be visiting Sunrise to help them develop and advance their agriculture program.

Sponsorship: The Challenges

Throughout the year we have the difficult job of telling some sponsors that their child has left the school. Although we offer them another child to sponsor in his/her place, it can be disappointing after the investment of emotions and finances.

In working with more than 130 schools, there are many factors which lead to these situations. Perhaps the most common is when parents move. In most cases the child does not show up at school and both the school and Asian Aid do not know where the child has gone. The parents of poorer children often do not want to face talking to the school and prefer to just disappear. In a small number of cases the child may leave the school because of pressure from friends or family members to not attend a Christian school. When our field officers visit a school they do their best to follow up with the child who has left. But in a country where there are often no phones or unclear addresses, this can be very difficult. This process can take time and often it may be eight weeks before the school can report to us that the child is definitely not returning. We understand the disappointment that sponsors feel but

hope that you realize that you have planted a seed in a child's heart and given them hope.

Most sponsors also look forward to their children's Christmas cards and letters, particularly in response to packages that may have been sent to their children. However, this can be another challenge as teachers in these schools are very busy and we are

dependent on them to ensure that the children write these. If you have a question regarding correspondence with your child, please contact us and we will do our best to look into it.

Many of you have mailed gifts or letters and wondered if your child received them. There have been problems within the India postal service and unfortunately some go missing. We are working on an online gift ordering system where the gifts can be distributed directly from our India office. This would save shipping time and expense. We will keep you informed as to when this is put into place. In the meantime, thank you so much for your understanding and patience.





Excitement for All the Senses

The high-pitched whirring of propellers on an airplane, the thundering of waves crashing on a beach; all of these are sounds that the more than 80 children at Asian Aid's School for the Hearing Impaired cannot or can only distantly hear. And yet the dimensions of life are still vibrant and alive for these children.



Recently the children had the excitement of taking a field trip to the coast of Karnataka and Goa. They had a full day visiting a science museum, planetarium, and aquarium where they saw brightly colored fish and handled prickly sea creatures. At the airplane museum, the boys enjoyed clamoring over and exploring the retired military planes. Most of the children had never experienced a beach, and although to many of them the crashing of the waves were silent, they were ecstatic to feel the warm gritty sand and smell and taste the spray of salt water on a boat ride. Joseph Bhaggien, principal

of the school, said, "I'm sure the experience will be cherished for a lifetime. Thank you for making this dream come true for our children!" More dreams were soon to come true.

In December 2012, generous Asian Aid USA and Australia donors helped fulfill another dream of the students who had a small amount of hearing capacity by supplying the school with over 80 high-quality, behind-the-ear hearing aids. Mr. Bhaggien recalled that "it was sheer joy to watch the smiling and excited faces of the children who were able to hear strange and new sounds for the first time!" He continued to explain that the staff were almost as excited as the students in their responsibility of teaching the children to "speak meaningful words and help in the care and maintenance of these aids". Perhaps another field trip is necessary, and this time when a wave crashes on the beach and a plane roars off the runway, excited children will be able to experience it to a fuller dimension and in a greater sense than ever before.

Vocational Training Acquisitions

Asian Aid has helped the Rajahmundry Adventist School in Andhra Pradesh India with equipment for the older boys in their vocational training. The new welding and electrical wiring machines will enable them to learn the skills of welding and rewiring motors and generators which are important for many

industries in India. David Keeler, Asian Aid's India Director, said "There is a large need in Adventist schools and colleges for trade and vocational training. Donations like this make a real difference in helping boys learn a trade."

Below: Rajahmundry classrooms



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.

Like us on **facebook** :
Facebook.com/AsianAidUSA **asianaid.org**

Come visit our booth at these upcoming events:

SW Union ASI, Gentry AR: **Feb 28 - Mar 3**
Columbia Union ASI, Allentown PA: **Mar 8-9**
Lake Union/Mid-America ASI, St. Louis MO: **Mar 22-24**
Pacific Union ASI, Sacramento CA: **April 18-20**
Southern Union ASI, Dalton GA: **April 12-13**
NW ASI, Seaside OR: **May 2-5**

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**

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.



BANGLADESHI BOARDING STUDENTS (\$35/mo) IN NEED OF SPONSORSHIP



Sujon's father makes \$30/mo with which he supports a family of six. Sujon likes to play cricket and wants to become a doctor.
ID: **U14399**



Asha's family live in a house made of mud and thatch. She likes gardening and her favorite food is apples. She wants to become a teacher.
ID: **U15006**



Tubol is in 4th grade and does well in school. He would like to become a doctor someday.
ID: **U14971**



Rualianthang likes boarding school and is in the 7th grade. His favorite subject is English. He likes lions and wants to become a doctor.
ID: **U14940**



Lima is in 8th grade, likes math and wants to become a nurse. She enjoys playing volleyball and her favorite color is blue.
ID: **U14978**



Runnomsiam comes from the Eastern part of Bangladesh where most people are Buddhist. Her family live in a bamboo house.
ID: **U14943**



Lal Hunruat likes cricket and football. He is in 7th grade and would like to become a teacher.
ID: **U14935**



Jamson comes from a remote area in the eastern part of Bangladesh. His favorite subject is math and his goal is to become a teacher.
ID: **U14917**



Monoronjon's family lives in a house made of mud and tin sheets. He would like to become a teacher and enjoys gardening, football, and cricket.
ID: **U14396**



Jerome is in the 6th grade and wants to become a teacher. His father has irregular work and his mother is a housewife.
ID: **U14918**



Ety is active, respectful and a good student. Her favorite subject is Bangla (the language she speaks). She likes music and playing chess.
ID: **U14951**



Ramthang is one of four children in his family. He likes studying English, playing football, listening to music, and would like to become a teacher.
ID: **U14939**



Lalawmpui is in 2nd grade. She is a good girl and slightly shy.
ID: **U14914**



Sorna's parents own a little shop where her brother helps. She is in 2nd grade and would like to become a doctor.
ID: **U14515**



Dipon's family live in a small house made of thatch. He has 2 students attending a village school. Dipon is in 6th grade and likes to study English.
ID: **U14924**



Shria's family own a cow and some ducks. They cook using water from a nearby pond. Shria likes boarding school and wants to become a nurse.
ID: **U14925**



Mongkyawching comes from a remote part of eastern Bangladesh. His home is made of corrugated iron sheet and wood and is surrounded by mango and jackfruit trees.
ID: **U14958**



Thuaihainu is in 6th grade. Her favorite color is red and her favorite food is vegetables.
ID: **U14927**



Manik comes from a low-lying area where it floods in the rainy season. Manik is in 4th grade and wants to become a teacher.
ID: **U14634**



Mukut likes studying English and would like to become an English teacher. He comes from a village close to a big river.
ID: **U14635**