

*Students in Bangladesh*



*There are three groups of people that God identifies repeatedly throughout the Bible. They are almost always mentioned together, God's special trio. He is intensely concerned about how His followers respond to these subgroups of humanity.*

Foreigners, fatherless, and widows appear as a trio in 11 verses in the book of Deuteronomy. God's passion is clearly articulated in chapter 10, "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you..." How does God provide for them? Each local town was expected to respond to the needs of the foreigners, fatherless, and widows that lived among them. God's blessing was tied directly to how they responded to the needs of these groups.

Orphans are close to God's heart. Perhaps the most well-known passage is Psalm 68:5, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling." Psalm 27:10 sheds further light on God's passion for the fatherless, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me."

Without question, orphans, widows, and foreigners are among those ones that Jesus highlights in Matthew 25:40, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." This special holiday issue highlights our work with those some consider the "least of these," the blind, deaf, and orphans. Our actions of compassion toward foreigners, orphans, and widows will truly make an impact for eternity!



Photo: The Evans Family 2014

## GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO

Congruence is a state in which a person's ideal self and actual experience are consistent or very similar. Joining the team at Child Impact in August of 2021 created congruence for my wife and me. It was a merging together of personal values that we had been living out for the past 20 years. When my wife and I first met, she emphatically stated that she wanted to have 10 children. However, my wife was not referring to all these children being biological ones. Deep in her heart was a passion for adoption. She wanted to provide a home for orphans.

We began the adoption process in 2014 by hosting two brothers from an orphanage in Latvia (through Project 143). They would visit our home for summer or Christmas. We have known these boys since they were five and seven. They are now 13 and 15 and have been living with us full-time since July of 2021. We are anticipating that their adoption will finally be completed early next year. If you have met our boys in person, you know what an incredible gift from God they are! As a prayer request, the youngest is currently battling a relapse with leukemia and will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant at the time of this publication.

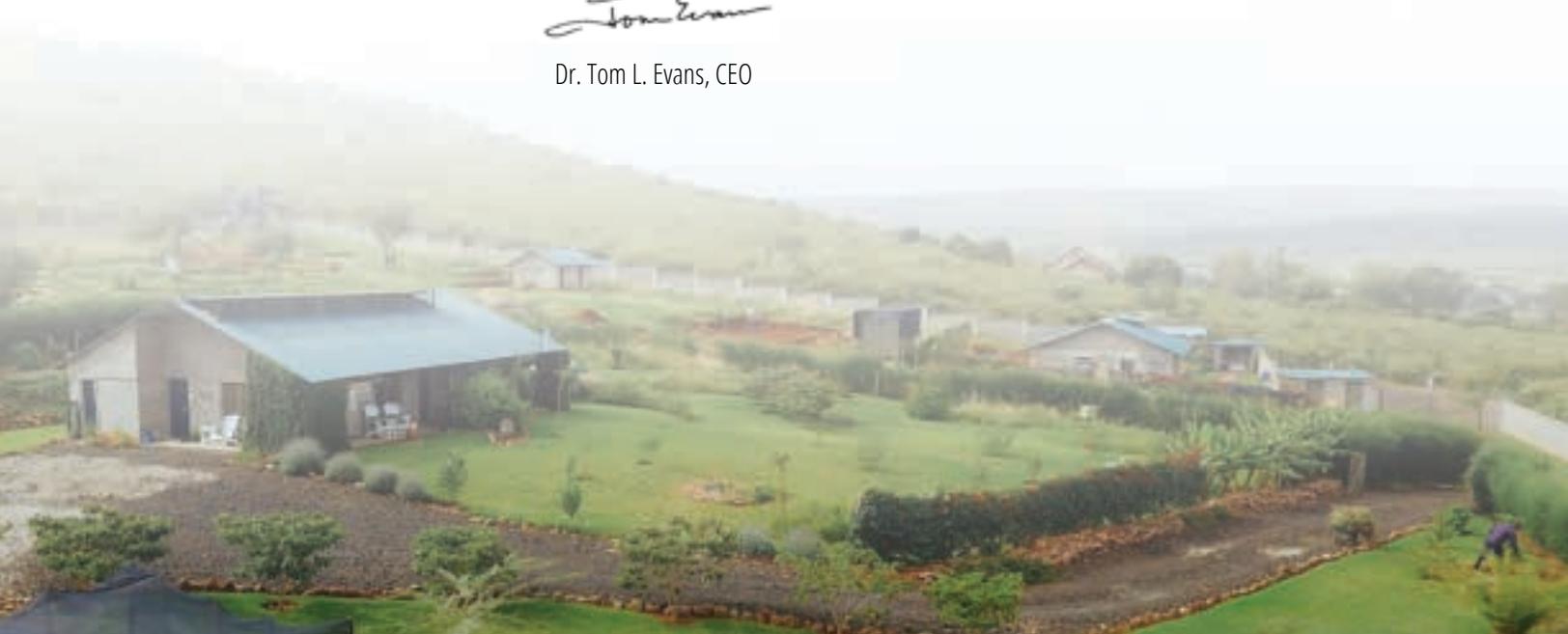
As our family prayerfully considered the position with Child Impact, the congruence of our personal life and this opportunity came into focus. In fact, I believe the Bible in James 1:27 is clear about the responsibility every human being has to engage in helping the most vulnerable, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." What does congruence look like in your life? What more is God calling you to do on behalf of orphans?

During November and December, Child Impact is focused on three giving opportunities: Blind, Deaf, and Orphans Fund, Where Needed Most Fund, and an urgent building project at the Falco's Children Home in Tanzania. You will find each of these areas highlighted in this magazine. Thank you in advance for your generosity on behalf of these precious children.

Happy Holidays!

Tom Evans

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO



# 14-YEAR JOURNEY WITH JIM

In May 2009, a force entered the community of Collegedale, Tennessee. Child Impact International, then known as Asian Aid USA, and recently under the leadership of the newly elected CEO, Jim Rennie, packed all of Asian Aid USA into his car and a trailer and drove from the small office in Auburn, Nebraska our new home base.

With a staff of two, Jim began the business of growing Asian Aid USA into a strong, supportive non-profit that would provide education in Seventh-day Adventist schools and an introduction to Jesus for thousands of children all over southeast Asia. Jim had a burden to build an orphanage in India to care for the many needy children with no parents, no future, and no way to hear about Jesus. In 2011, construction began for the Sunrise Orphanage in India, near Bobbili.

There are many more milestones that Jim accomplished during his 14 years as CEO.

- We purchased our own office since we had outgrown the original small office. Jim managed to not incur any debt with the purchase.
- Asian Aid wanted to serve children in other countries outside of Southeast Asia so Jim changed our name to Child Impact International.
- Jim started Operation Child Rescue to fight human trafficking in India, Nepal, and Myanmar.

Little did anyone know that Child Impact International would develop tremendously from a small non-profit, supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with just over 500 supporters and approximately 600 needy children to educate to nearly 10,000 supporters and over 3000 children in our sponsorship program.

I was one of the “staff of two” in 2009 where I began my journey with Child Impact International and Jim. I can tell you that Jim Rennie has been an advocate for children all over the world. He has returned to his home in New Zealand and we, who are still at Child Impact thank him for his guidance, his willingness to serve, his persistence, and his vision for all children to have an education. **This is not goodbye to Jim. This is just a thank you for all that the Lord has allowed him to accomplish.** One of his statements that lingers in my mind is, “Even if you get discouraged with your progress, just stop, and look at the children. This will renew your faith to keep working!”

By Anne Binette, Operations Manager



To honor Jim’s legacy at Child Impact, would you consider supporting one of the areas closest to his heart, the **Blind, Deaf, and Orphans Fund?**

You can go to [childimpact.org/donate](https://childimpact.org/donate), follow this QR code, or call our office.





## SUNRISE BRINGS LIGHT TO ORPHANS IN INDIA

Over three years ago, I was at Sunrise when a young girl arrived. She had been living at the railway station and the whereabouts of her parents were unknown. Her name is Laksmi. I treated all the orphans at Sunrise with ice cream and it was clear that Laksmi had never had ice cream before. She gave me a huge smile of appreciation. Whenever I visit, she is sure to greet me with that same joyful smile.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Sunrise Home which we founded and built over 12 years ago. Child Impact donors have given so much and sponsored children at this home. Currently, the home has 120 children. We are grateful to the directors, Raj and Lalitha Varma, and the staff for their leadership. Over the last 10 years, the campus has matured with trees that now provide shade and add to the feel of the campus. The garden and farm are very successful and although there has been heavy rain, most crops have survived. The new classrooms and hall being built on top of the administration building are nearly complete and this year we have repainted the entire building.

This is a special place for me personally because of our long involvement. Each child has an amazing story and at Sunrise they are so happy and given hope. Child Impact supporters can be proud of what they have achieved at Sunrise.

By Jim Rennie, VP of Special Projects and Former CEO



## FROM TRAUMA TO TRIUMPH

Hello, my name is Hannah. When I was eight, I moved to Sunrise. Before living at Sunrise, life was very hard. My father was an angry alcoholic. He was very abusive to my mother and when I was about six years old, I saw him take her life. My father went to jail for this crime and I went to live with my grandmother. In her old age, she brought me to Sunrise for a better future. A few years later, I lost my grandmother too.

Although my life began with such tragedy, I can say I was the happiest child at Sunrise! I thank my Heavenly Father for giving me a new family with many brothers and sisters. If it was not for Sunrise, I would likely have become a servant girl or married off as a young girl. There are many children like me who have ended up begging on the streets.

Thank you to my sponsors who have blessed my life. Today, I am in my final year of nursing school. As a nurse, I want to help the poor and needy. One day, I will become a sponsor too.

By Hannah and Lalitha Varma, Director of Sunrise Children's Home



# BUILDING A LEGACY



I began this year traveling to Africa, visiting established partnerships and evaluating potential partners. I will never forget my time at Falco's Children Village in Tanzania. A government official stated publicly that this is the best orphanage in the country. Honestly, it didn't feel like an orphanage. The children live in a home setting with "mommias" who shower them with love. The joy and laughter observed at any moment of the day catapulted this project to become my favorite.

Perhaps you have heard the story of Miracle Moses who was buried alive at birth? I'd encourage you to visit our YouTube channel and watch the full story. It was incredible to meet Miracle Moses and so many other children who have had a tragic start to life, but who have found hope and healing at Falco's. Jerry is the founder of this ministry. He and his wife Valerie inspire me to reflect on my own personal commitment. How committed am I? Am I all in to make a difference in every way possible?

At Child Impact, our goal is to see all the children at Falco's sponsored to relieve some of the financial pressure from Jerry and his team. We would also like to help them with expanding their infrastructure to help even more children. We are currently raising funds for Falco's resolve a compliance issue they have encountered with the Tanzania Health Department. The cafeteria space is not adequate for the number of children being served. I've been there during mealtimes and crowded is an understatement! Child Impact is **raising \$75,000** to expand this space. **This will enable Falco's to better serve the orphans and vulnerable children in their care.** Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can do to support this project.

By Tom Evans, CEO

**Your gift to the Building Fund  
will make a world of difference for  
these children.**



# EMPOWER THE VULNERABLE



Orphans and children born with disabilities have often experienced rejection, abandonment, and trauma.

We provide compassionate care and affirm God's infinite love for these vulnerable children.

Your donation to the **Blind, Deaf, and Orphans Fund** provides hundreds of children with a safe place to learn and grow.



Scan the QR code to donate. Learn more at **ChildImpact.org**.



## FOCUSED ON A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In India, it is estimated that over 200,000 children have severe visual impairment or blindness according to National Center for Biotechnology Information in India. Although strategies to combat childhood blindness have greatly gathered steam, there is a lot that needs to be done. From the little that we know, the cause of blindness in India varies from vitamin deficiency, malnutrition, or albinism, to accidents. For those children born blind, the cause of blindness seems to stem from the fact their parents are close relatives, especially in Andhra Pradesh. It is estimated that less than 10% of blind children in developing countries are receiving any level of education. Education can change the life of a blind child. Education makes them independent and gives them the self-respect and dignity they deserve just like every other child.

The Asian Aid School for the Blind in Bobbili, India, was established at its current location in 2004. This beautiful, expansive campus, set amidst lush green paddy fields, was built specifically for blind children, providing them with quality education in a safe and secure environment. Led by the vision of Helen Eager and built with the generosity of the McNeilus family from Minnesota, USA, the Asian Aid School for the Blind brings light and hope to children that live in darkness. Hundreds of graduates have gone on to pursue higher education and many have secured well-paid jobs in various government establishments and private companies. I would like to introduce you to one of those successful graduates.

Asha is a typist at the Water Resources Department of the state of Andhra Pradesh in India. She has a passion for singing and has appeared in numerous television singing competitions. Asha studied at the Adventist school in Nuzvid from kindergarten to 5th grade. At Nuzvid, Asha was sponsored by Asian Aid and a couple from the USA even wanted to adopt her, hoping she would have a better life there, but her parents never gave up on her. Their response was, "God gave us this child." Although many in her village looked down on her because of her disability, her parents showered her with love and affection. When she found it hard to follow instructions in class, because of her partial blindness caused by albinism, her parents were encouraged to send her to the Asian Aid School for the Blind in 2003.

Upon completing her studies, she was offered a job as a typist in the government Water Resources Department when she was just 18 years old. Her husband Lokanadham is also a graduate of the blind school in Bobbili. Asha continues to pursue her interest in singing and wants to make her own record album one day.

By John Alfred, Guest Contributor



**YASWANTH**

I was born with visual impairment due to my albinism. I could not read or write. Although there are many challenges, I try to be positive. I am learning more and more about being independent and I hope to be an accountant someday.



**SUBHASH**

I am in sixth grade at the Kollegal School for the Speech and Hearing Impaired. I enjoy drawing and I hope to be a computer engineer someday.



**LACKSON**

I lost both my parents in the last three years and now my grandmother takes care of me. I am determined to achieve my goals and take care of my grandmother. I would like to protect my community as a soldier.



**DEEKSHIT**

I have inherited an eye condition causing difficulty seeing objects more than five feet from me. I still find many reasons to smile and love life. I want to be a teacher to help children who also have disabilities.



**KIRAN**

My favorite subject is English and I hope to become an English teacher when I grow up. Your sponsorship means so much because I lost my mother when I was three and I just lost my father due to COVID.



**MUKWAZO**

My father died last year and my older brother takes care of me and six other brothers. I love going to school! My favorite subject is English. I love playing soccer in the street. I would love to become a doctor in the future.



**SURYA**

My dad is a bicycle mechanic and wouldn't be able to afford my specialized education without sponsorship. When I grow up, I would like to become an educator so I can serve other children.



**LENSA**

My favorite subject is art, and one day I hope to become a doctor. My father passed away when I was very young and my mother is physically disabled and unable to work. My sister, Tsehay, and I are grateful for the orphanage we now call home.



**FRANCIS**

After my parents passed away, my two sisters, brother, and I started living with my grandparents. They are struggling to take care of us so we are grateful to study at Anchor. I hope to serve others as a police officer.

**BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!**

Two ways to sponsor a child:

1. Search our website to identify children waiting for sponsors at [childimpact.org](http://childimpact.org), then click on the "Sponsor" button.
2. Call our office at (423) 910-0667, and our team will walk you through each step of the process.



# SPONSOR A CHILD. RESCUE A CHILD.



Provide a path out of poverty by eradicating exploitation and empowering children to pursue their educational goals.

Prayerfully consider a gift to the **Where Needed Most Fund**, giving the most flexibility to meet emerging needs.



Scan the QR code to donate. Learn more at **ChildImpact.org**.

# ANCHOR SECURES A PROMISING FUTURE



The Bible tells us in Galatians 6:9 to never grow weary of doing good, but it also tells us in Ephesians 3:20 that He will accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. I believe there is something beautiful about creating a balance between exerting your maximum human effort towards a task, and then sitting back and letting God work to take care of the rest. I saw this idea on full display at the Anchor Orphanage and School, located in Chibombo, Central Province, Zambia.

Last year, I had the privilege of serving as a student missionary in Zambia. While there, I got to visit Anchor for a few days, meet some of the teachers and the founders of the school, and interact with the children there! The school is in a very opportunistic location: historically, the area has been underdeveloped, but it is starting to see some major growth in population and industry. However, many of the children in the area have grown up in poverty and many have been orphaned. After seeing this great need in the area, the Mvulas, a local Seventh-day Adventist family, decided to tackle this challenge by starting the Anchor School and Orphanage.

The Mvula family was one of the kindest and most hardworking families that I met during my time in Zambia. They lovingly took me into their home and showed me around the school they had built. I got to sit in on a social science class where the teacher was encouraging the students to speak out against domestic and sexual violence. I sat through a choir practice where the children were excited to perform a few songs for me. Anchor strives to support all these operations through agriculture; they are currently investing in tomato farming to bring in revenues and provide jobs for their students.

The hard work and industrious nature of the Mvula family has impacted many lives, one of which is Greatson, the last-born child in a family of four kids. Greatson was orphaned by the age of five, and he and his siblings were taken in by their grandmother. However, the grandmother died soon after and Greatson's older siblings left the home in search of work, leaving Greatson all alone.

Thankfully, his grandmother lived near the Anchor School and Orphanage, where Greatson was able to find a haven. He started the first grade at Anchor and made it all the way through grade 12. He was then able to be sponsored through university, where he obtained a degree in business administration. Now, thanks to the support of Anchor in his early childhood years and continuing education, Greatson works a stable job for a finance company in Zambia! I believe Anchor is a success story of how God does call us to put in our maximum human effort, but He steps in to "accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

By Ashley Blake, Finance Assistant



## MORE THAN A HOME, WE GIVE HOPE

On July 2, 2010, Haptamu was born. What should have been a joyous occasion quickly turned desperate. Once the midwives saw that Haptamu was born with deformities to both hands and one leg, they saw this as an evil omen and left him and his mother laying on the ground bleeding to fend for themselves. His father was outside, as men are not allowed inside the birthing room, and being deaf it took some time for him to realize that something was wrong. Their beliefs taught that disabilities were an indication of God's wrath, and they would be social outcasts in society all because of precious little Hebtamu.

While hiding him from everyone, his parents tried to find anyone another home for him, but to no avail. Eventually, a nonprofit organization, in partnership with a prosthetics and orthotics center was willing to provide surgery for his leg. This helped, but the family still could not handle the shame of his disability. They eventually heard about New Hope Orphanage and arrangements were made immediately for Haptamu to live there. Living at New Hope has given Haptamu the love and care he needs. He now can be free of shame and live a healthy abundant life. This was all made possible by sponsors like you. Please consider changing the life of a child just like Haptamu.

By Cheri Gardner, Office Manager



**Learn more about New Hope's mission to bring dignity and love to orphans in this video:**



# OUR EXPANDING GLOBAL IMPACT



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE UNITED STATES?

Child Impact attends several events every year throughout the United States. At these events, we set up a booth and share with those who stop by about the work of Child Impact to empower through education and eradicate exploitation. I sometimes will capture attention by asking, "How much do you know about human trafficking?" What do you think is the number one question? Here it is...**what are you doing in the United States?**

All of us are most familiar with what is right in front of us. We know there is poverty, exploitation, racial inequities, and even human trafficking taking place nearby.

Child Impact is excited to announce a new partnership with the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist church in South Chicago and Pastor John T. Boston II. The statistics are staggering! 16,000 young girls are trafficked every year in Chicago. The vision of the Shiloh church is to offer free education and other critical resources for children from the community who meet specific criteria that place them at elevated risk. Risk factors include poverty, victims of domestic violence, the death of a parent through gun violence, a parent who is incarcerated, or a parent involved in the sex industry.

Of course, education is not free. Someone is paying. That is where Child Impact has stepped in. Melissa Moore recently presented a check for \$10,500 to provide one year of support for four children. The precious children that will benefit from these funds have already been selected.

By Tom Evans, CEO



If you would like to support projects that benefit at-risk children, you can donate to Child Impact through Operation Child Rescue.



## LEAVING A LEGACY

Our supporters are passionate about giving hope to the some of the most vulnerable children in the world. There are many ways to steward your resources and become a powerful advocate for education and the eradication of exploitation. Have you considered honoring a friend or family member by making a memorial gift? Create your legacy through a thoughtfully planned gift that will help us meet our mission for many years.

- Bequest through your will or trust
- Retirement assets including IRA roll over (i.e., pension plans, IRA's)
- Gifts of stock
- Charitable gift annuities
- Real estate
- Life insurance policy you many no longer need
- Naming Child Impact International as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

## PLANNED GIVING SERVICES

Child Impact International utilizes the professional services of Western Adventist Foundation (WAF).

With more than 100 years of combined expert service, the team at WAF dedicates themselves to God's work through the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can learn more by visiting [wafsa.org](http://wafsa.org).

**Western Adventist Foundation**  
**8767 East Via De Ventura, Suite #300**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85258**

**M–Th. 8:00 am–6:00 pm (MST)**  
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