CHILDIMPACT INTERNATIONAL

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Dear Ministry Partners, In this first newsletter of 2018, we look back on 2017. With your generous support and the Lord's blessings, we ended up with a 15% growth for the year. The increase will allow us to continue having a positive impact on so many young lives. Thank you for responding so graciously to our year-end appeal, we can now send the much-needed funds to the orphanages and to the schools for the deaf and blind that are struggling.

#### The outpouring of support was indeed an answer to prayer!

As some of you are aware, we had to install a new database and website at the end of last year. The database holds all the children data and all our records. Unfortunately, we faced some issues in the transition, and I know it affected some of you. We apologize for this and hope that as it starts to function correctly, you will see better service. Thank you for your patience.

It was my privilege late last year to travel to Myanmar with the Adventist church world leader, Elder Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy. The church in Myanmar was celebrating 125 years, and we took the opportunity to visit some key schools. It provided me a glimpse of the worldwide church and the importance of supporting our leaders in prayer.

We were very grateful that Elder Wilson did some filming for us and is very supportive and endorses the Child Impact sponsorship program.

When I visit the countries where we work and see the difference you are making, it reminds me of how grateful I am for each of you.

Thank you,

Jim Rennie CEO Child Impact International.



# Sunrise orphanage garden & building program

Many of you have supported Sunrise Home over the years; this year the garden and farm had a bountiful harvest. The most significant crop is rice, some of which the children eat and the rest is sold for income. The quality was the highest in the area. The children grow many vegetables and enjoy gardening. It is beneficial to have a garden that helps build a work ethic in the children, and also allows them to witness the blessings of the Lord. In these pictures, you can see them harvesting the crop.

#### **Building program:**

Some of you have contributed to the new office and classroom block. After experiencing delays, we are excited to report the old building has been razed and a contract to build the new signed. We are so grateful to have the building fully funded and anticipate the construction to start immediately.

We are so proud of Sunrise Home and are grateful to Lalitha and Raj Varma, our administrators, who the children lovingly call mommy and daddy, for their spiritual leadership. It's not easy to bring up over 130 children so please pray for them.





## **GC President in Myanmar**

In early December the church in Myanmar celebrated 125 years. Elder Wilson and his wife, Nancy, visited for the celebration at Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary.

While filming for the "*Hope in Motion*" series to play on 3ABN, he endorsed the Child Impact sponsorship program.

Sponsoring children in Adventist mission schools is a tremendous way to help form the character of young people. As they look to the future, they will never forget their association in a Christian environment, and by God's grace, many of them will become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It is an absolutely powerful witness. To sponsor a child in Child Impact helps young people find Jesus. Sponsoring a child not only has short-term effects, but it is having a long-term impact. Sponsoring a child is investing in the character of a young person for eternity.

At Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary about one-quarter of the students are sponsored by Child Impact. People who become workers in God's church—people who make an impact in the community—were sponsored students.

Your sponsorship is an absolute investment in the future of the church.



#### **New staff**

We are very excited to welcome Josué Loyola to our staff as an administrative assistant. He will also be leading customer service so you may get to meet him on the phone. Josué is a Southern Adventist University graduate.



## **New bus for Fjarli Adventist Academy India**

Fjarli Academy is in rural India near the city of Ongole in the state of Andra Pradesh. Child Impact sponsors about 100 of the more than 600 students enrolled there which was built by the Fjarli family and Maranatha donors seven years ago. Child Impact, with the help of our donors, is now its primary financial resource.

There are many small, poor villages, with children who would like to attend Fjarli, within a few miles of the school. However, there is no public transportation, and the average family does not own a vehicle. With the help of a generous donor, Child Impact purchased a brand new bus. This investment will help bring over 100 new children to school.

The Principal Mr. Gunturu says he is so grateful to the donor and Child Impact as this will be a huge blessing to the school and these rural children will be able to attend an Adventist Mission school.



### **Construction starts at Sunrise home**

Construction has started on the classroom and admin block at Sunrise home India. The previous small admin block had to be demolished and contractors are arriving on site. Child Impact CEO said that he is very grateful for the support of donors in getting this project funded and started. It will have a big Impact on the children.





## **Madhu Smita Alang**

In 2002, a love story was beginning.

Bhagwan and Pramila were friends and spent time playing cricket together as children. Because their families owned adjacent fields, their time together became more frequent when they were old enough to help in the gardens. Conversations, while planting onions or pulling weeds, became frequent and more in-depth, and soon they realized their friendship had grown into a love for each.

As time passed and Bhagwan grew sure of his love for Pramila, he decided to ask her to marry him. Happily, she agreed to be his wife. However, in a land where parents prearrange marriages, the idea was not welcomed by their families. Therefore, the couple decided to elope. In 2003 Bhagwan, at a wedding at his sister's house, Bhagwan took Pramila to be his wife.

The two started a life and a home together. Eventually, they welcomed two beautiful baby girls into their family, while supporting themselves by working in the fields. They celebrated holidays together and cherishing every moment until tragedy struck in March of 2015.

One day, Pramila went to collect potatoes from a nearby field with her oldest daughter, Madhu Smita. On the way home, Pramila walked ahead of Madhu Smita. Pramila, so focused on balancing the produce on her head, didn't notice the live electric wire which electrocuted her when touched it.

With two children, three and seven years old, and overcome with grief, finding the time to work and care for the children seemed impossible to Bhagwan. However, God made it a possibility, when church members from a nearby Adventist church, heard of the situation and suggested that Madhu Smita attend the Immanuel English SDA School in Jeypore, India, in the state of Odisha.

Bhagwan is grateful, even though he lost the love of his life, she left him with two beautiful girls and one receives a mother's care and protection at the Immanuel English SDA School thanks to a sponsor.

Madhu Smita was just seven years old that day when she witnessed her mother's tragic death; a memory engraved in her young mind, forever. Currently, in the 1st grade, she will tell you with a shy smile how much she misses her mother's hands and the food she cooked. She will also tell you that she enjoys art and thinks she would like to be a teacher someday.

## Your sponsorship does have an IMPACT in many, many ways

## **Akila Macha**

#### A beautiful girl with an ever-present smile.

In her tribal village of around 40 homes, no one has ever graduated from high school. She might be the only one who speaks English. You might ask, "What makes Akila so unique and how did she become so fortunate?"

Often, when a child is born, parents dream about the child's future. Such was not the case for Akila's birth. In 2004, Akila was born blind. Her parents faced fears and questions about her future. They worried about how they would care for and support their little one with their income.

Even though she was born blind, they believed Akila to be a gift from God. They tried their best to take care of her and show her how to face the world in darkness. The income earned in the fields, however, proved insufficient for her individual needs.

Everything changed 2010, when her parents learned about the High School for the Blind, in Bobbili, India, a school specially designed for people like Akila, where she would get a proper English education. With the sponsorship program from Child Impact International, she would receive her tuition, room, board, and uniform without any cost to the family. This opportunity almost seemed too good to be true!

Now in 7th grade, Akila is a happy student at the High School for the Blind and enjoys singing the songs she learns attending church and Sabbath School. Though pampered



when she goes home during summer vacation, she misses the school and eagerly counts the days when she gets to go back school with her friends. She likes the school more because, there, she has a whole world of her own with friends, studies, and games, where everything is designed to help her grasp life enthusiastically.

She is grateful to her sponsor for giving her the opportunity to learn and grow just like the other boys and girls her age.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Child Impact's 3ABN time is every Friday at 8:30pm PT, 9:30pm MT, 10:30pm CT, and 11:30pm ET.

## Missed an episode on 3ABN?

Watch them all at your convenience on our website (www.childimpact.org) under "Resources" and then click "Video Library".

For more information, articles and videos on our sponsorship program and the many projects we support please visit our website **childimpact.org** 

Like us on facebook facebook.com/Child Impact

### **Attention Sponsors**

You know the joy you receive being a sponsor and knowing you are helping a child receive an education, which brings them hope!

Child Impact currently has about 600 children that need a sponsor. Please ask your friends at church and your family members if they would be interested in becoming a sponsor. It's easy and you will be passing the joy you receive on to them.

If you would like someone from Child Impact to come speak at your church, give us a call, we have a few dates available.

## **Leaving a Legacy**

Since joining the ministry, a year ago, people have asked,

"How can I remember Child Impact in my estate plan?"

I am happy to include a brochure with this newsletter answering that question.

The good that you do for the ministry does not have to end with your death. The needs of the children will continue, so let your desire to help "live on" with a gift from your estate.



Rob Raney VP for Donor Relations Child Impact

Return the contact portion of the included brochure to begin exploring your options

If you have any questions, please contact me at

rraney@childimpact.org or call me on my direct line (423) 803-9813

#### JUST A FEW OF THE 600 CHILDREN NEEDING A SPONSOR



Sanjit is a very happy boy, he is active in class, he is hard working, has two sisters and they are loving to each other. When he grows up he wants to be a Laboratory Technician.

\$38 Boarder ID: U19025



Mg La is from a large family of six brothers, and one sister. He likes reading, playing football, and studying English in school. He wants to be a Teacher so he can help educate others.

\$38 Boarder ID: U18921



Sam Moses' father doesn't get regular work to pay for Sam's education, Sam takes an active part in church and school activities. He is always smiling and happy.

\$32 Day+ Student ID: U18702



Deepika is in grade 6, she is hard working, likes to study, sing, read books and takes part in all school and church activities. She would like to be a Doctor and serve the poor.

\$38 Boarder ID: U20121



Mi Aye would like to be a Teacher when she grows up. She enjoys playing soccer and reading. Mi Aye's favorite subjects in school are Math and English.

\$38 Boarder ID: U20085



Ganta's family lives near the sea, his father is a fisherman. He likes to play cricket with his friends and older brother and is a good in singer. His ambition is to be a Teacher

\$38 Boarder



Aye Chan's parents are farmers and don't earn enough to support the family's needs. Aye likes to sew, play football, and skip. She enjoys studying Math and Biology in school.

\$38 Boarder ID: U19676



Naw Chai has three brothers and three sisters. She enjoys playing the guitar and badminton. Naw likes Math and wants to study so she can become a Doctor.

\$38 Boarder ID: U19888



Hwah Hgee's father passed away and it is difficult for her family to support her. She likes football and badminton. Hwah wants to be a teacher and help other children like her.

\$38 Boarder



Rebacca enjoys spending time with her siblings and helping people like her teacher in class. She also likes reading and drawing. Rebacca wants to become a Doctor.

\$38 Boarder ID: U18686



Dibakar is the eldest of two children, he is in grade LKG, and loves school. He is active and hardworking in class, likes to play with marbles and would like to be a teacher.

\$38 Boarder ID: U18982



Saw Lwe's father died when he was young and his mother has been struggling to support the family. His favorite hobbies are reading, football, science and wants to be a Manager.

\$38 Boarder ID: U19952



Lwel Gay's parents are farmers which means they have one of the lowest incomes in their village. She likes to sew, swim and wants to study to become a Medical Doctor

\$38 Boarder



Chaithanya works hard in school to make good grades. He reads Bible every day, likes to play with his friends and to read. Chaithanya wants to be a Police Officer.

\$38 Boarder



Mangraj loves going to school and is very attentive in class. He is obedient, friendly and very helpful to his family. He likes to play with marbles and wants to be a police inspector.

\$38 Boarder ID: U19044



Yashaswini's father deserted the family many years ago so her mother works hard as a cook to care for her and her brother. She likes to read books and wants to grow up to be a Doctor.

\$25 Day Student



Suma loves school, learning and enjoys drawing pictures. Her parents are daily laborers and can't support their family. Suma wants to be a Nurse when she grows up.

\$25 Day Student ID: U17764



Sai Prashanth lives with his parents and sister in a small hut. He likes making friends and is popular at school. Sai enjoys singing, drawing, and wants to be a Teacher.

\$25 Day Student



Murashira is the eldest child in her family, a quiet, obedient child. Her mother is not always well enough to work. She would like to attend school and become a Teacher.

\$25 Day Student ID: U15582



Bharath has two sisters, both his parents do not earn enough to pay for his schooling. Bharath is a smart boy, studies well at school and in other activities. He wants to be an Engineer.

\$25 Day Student