



CHILDIMPACT INTERNATIONAL



Empowering Education. Eradicating Exploitation.



Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO, and his wife, Mara, enjoy fresh coconuts with their sponsored child, Jayashanth.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Blind, deaf, and orphaned children

This issue of our magazine focuses on responding to the special needs of blind, deaf, and orphaned children. The manifestation of the loss of the senses of sight or hearing is observable. We know that certain challenges will be faced by children encountering these disabilities. But what about an orphan? Is it possible to visually identify them? The obvious answer is “no.” And yet, the challenges they face through the trauma of being orphaned can create barriers and limits in their lives.

Several years ago, our family sponsored a young man through Child Impact by the name of Jayashanth from the Sunrise Home (orphanage). On my first visit to India, I had the privilege of meeting him in person and hearing a bit of his story. On a subsequent visit, my wife was able to accompany me, and we visited the village where some of his relatives live. Jayashanth is a single orphan as his father passed away. This tragedy made it impossible for his mother to provide him with enough support for him to pursue his educational dreams. This is where Sunrise Home and Child Impact stepped into the gap to make a world of difference

through sponsorship.

Jayashanth was waiting to greet my wife and I as we arrived at the Sunrise campus a few weeks ago. One of his classmates warmly greeted us with a statement that deeply touched our hearts: “Jayashanth talks about you every day.” Halfway around the world, it is easy to miss the significant difference that a sponsor makes in the life of a child, especially one that has been orphaned. I quickly shared that I have Jayashanth’s photo proudly displayed in my office. It was a beautiful experience to spend time with Jayashanth and even travel to the high mountain village where he was born and lived until his father passed away.

The plight of orphans is close to the heart of God. “A father to the fatherless...is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families...” (Psalm 68:5-6). My prayer is that Jayashanth will see us as part of his extended family. Perhaps God is calling you to sponsor a child as part of your family and to help touch the heart of a lonely and broken child.

“One of his classmates greeted us with a statement that deeply touched our hearts—‘Jayashanth talks about you every day.’”

Tom Evans

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO



To become the sponsor of a blind, deaf, or orphaned child, visit childimpact.org/sponsorship.

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Empowering Education. Eradicating Exploitation.

Child Impact International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. We believe that education empowers children to break the chains of generational poverty. Our sponsorship program first launched in 1966 in India under the name Asian Aid and has grown to support 5,000 students. In 2014, Operation Child Rescue was initiated to help eradicate exploitation. Ten years later, Child Impact International is a global leader in the fight against human trafficking. Our generous donors have partnered with us to bring hope and a brighter future to thousands of vulnerable children in over 20 countries.

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ORPHAN

Children reeling from family rejection find a new home

By Jason Churchwell

At Child Impact International, we support hundreds of orphaned babies and children in Africa and Asia. As I have spent time in these special orphanage homes, I have heard firsthand the stories of how many of these children tragically became orphans. Some were abandoned at birth while others had one or both parents pass away. Recently, however, I became aware of a different type of orphan.

On my latest trip to Thailand, I met two children in our sponsorship program who were orphaned because of their religious beliefs. At the Kampiban School for refugees, I met a young boy named Saw* who was born into a Buddhist family. The school he attends is a Seventh-day Adventist mission school where Saw began learning about Jesus in his classes. He made a personal decision to give his heart to God and was recently baptized!

However, after converting to Christianity, Saw found it increasingly difficult to stay at home due to tensions with his family. His new beliefs were not accepted, and he faced hostility from his relatives. He moved into one of the teacher’s homes at Kampiban, where the staff embraced him with open arms. The teachers have become his new family, providing the support and love he desperately needed during such a

challenging time.

At Sunshine Orchard, the staff introduced me to a very courageous girl named Na*. She also comes from a Buddhist community, and she attended Sunshine for six years before being baptized, becoming the first Christian in her family. When she told her father about her decision, he became very angry with her. They called a witch doctor and asked him to cast out the evil Christian spirit in her. Na called some of the staff at Sunshine and asked if she could stay with them as her family wanted nothing to do with her. Recently, however, Na has been able to return to see her parents, but she must leave her Bible outside of their home. When her parents give their Buddhist offerings, Na is not allowed to sleep in their home and must stay with a neighbor nearby.

I was touched as I heard the stories of these young people taking a stand for Jesus, orphaned because of their newfound love for Christ. Please pray for Saw and Na as well as the many other children touched by Child Impact who are making decisions to give their hearts to God! Thank you for your continued support that is impacting lives for eternity. ■

*Names changed to protect the identity of the children



Top: the students at Kampiban School; above left: Christina Donesky, Sponsorship Manager, meets Na, center left; Saw at Kampiban.



Left: Jhansi sits outside her home; top: the Child Impact team visits the tailoring program and meets the students; above: Jhansi demonstrates the tailoring skills she has developed.

STEPPING OUT OF EXPLOITATION

Child Impact provides opportunity for a new path for Jhansi

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

In the Visag slum of India near 7:00 p.m. each evening, women stand on the steps in front of their small abodes as men navigate narrow alleys to select a woman that they will abuse to fulfill their lust. The women who sacrifice their bodies in exchange for money are part of the lowest caste in India, the Dalits. In their world, this is a means of survival. They see no other option. The exploitation they endure is to put food on the table.

Into this dark world Child Impact established a preschool and opened a tailoring program to provide a path out of prostitution for these women. The response has been overwhelming. Two tailoring classes are offered every year with space for 10 ladies each time. Because of these efforts, prostitution has decreased in the Visag slum by 50 percent over the past six years! Our goal is to see prostitution completely eradicated from the slum.

In September, Child Impact team members visited the Visag slum. We discovered that three 17-year-old girls were enrolled in the tailoring course. A young lady by the name of Jhansi had a sparkle in her eyes and a contagious smile. A friend had told her about the tailoring program, and she immediately jumped at the opportunity to select a different path for her life. Jhansi's father passed away when she was nine years old. He was painting the outside of a building and fell from the fifth floor to

his death. Jhansi observed her mother, relatives, and friends involved in activities to eke out an existence that she did not want to engage in. She desired to stand on her own feet and have a respectable life, one where she didn't have to endure abuse.

Jhansi was able to complete her education through 10th grade and is excited about a career in tailoring. Thanks to Child Impact, she is well on her way to earning a living in a career she is passionate about and where she can maintain her dignity.

Our team was able to present a sewing machine to each graduate to celebrate the completion of their training. Every graduate is also offered the opportunity to enroll their children in the preschool or at the local Adventist

mission school, with expenses completely covered by Child Impact. Join us in providing a new path for women and children in the Visag slum. Together, let's see more eyes light up and faces beam with smiles. ■

"Because of these efforts, prostitution has decreased in the Visag slum by 50 percent over the past six years!"



To support rescued women and children like Jhansi, make a gift at childimpact.org/ocr.

HOPE AND HEALING

Child Impact tracks progress of lives transformed at blind school in India

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

The loss of sight has the most significant impact on everyday life of any of the five senses. To compound things, many children at the blind school near Bobbili, India, suffer from additional disabilities. Child Impact brings hope to these precious children through sponsorship and additional operational support through the Blind, Deaf, and Orphan fund. The generosity of donors has opened doors of possibilities. The following stories are of how lives are being changed, one child at a time.

Silver Medalist at National Paralympics

Chandini is a 15-year-old girl who was born with a congenital disorder known as albinism. Albinism is accompanied by poor vision and sensitivity to direct sunlight. Between 100,000 and 200,000 Indians are affected by albinism, with the primary cause due to close relatives marrying.

Despite these challenges, Chandini determined to pursue her dreams. In the fourth grade, she enrolled at the blind school and immediately became active in learning computer skills and music. She is now in the 10th grade and said, "I came here with nothing, but today I am something with great success."

On June 30, 2024, Chandini entered the National Paralympics in Bangalore with the shot put and javelin throw. The result? She came in second place and was awarded a silver medal. The Child Impact team enjoyed watching Chandini demonstrate the proper technique for the shot put. She was exuberant with joy. We are so grateful to the team at the blind school who go above and beyond to provide students with opportunities to excel and pursue their dreams.



Clockwise from top: Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO, meets Nandini, Chandini, and Priyanshu; Chandini displays her medals; Chandini demonstrates the shot put; four of the children who underwent eye surgery.

I Was Blind and Now I Can See

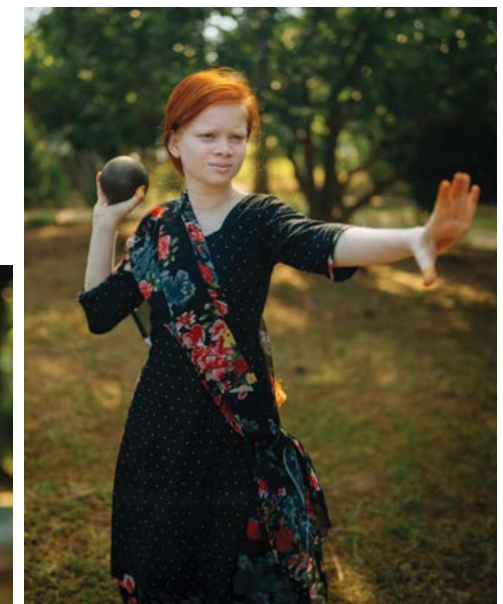
Earlier this year, Child Impact provided funding for all the students at the blind school to have eye exams. The goal was to determine if there was potential through surgery for any of the children to regain their sight. Six children were identified, and four went forward with eye surgery. Before the surgery, a student named Nandini had vision that was 10-15%. When she woke up from the surgery, the first face she saw was her mom's. Nandini's vision has now improved to 90%! During the welcome at the school, the children threw flower petals on our heads. I asked Nandini what color the petals in my wife's hair were. She confidently responded with "yellow." I then asked her if she could remove some of the petals. Without hesitation, she began removing the petals. Prior to the surgery, this would not have been possible.

As our team visited the campus, Nandini would notice us from a distance and enthusiastically wave with a big smile on her face. In fact, that smile never left her face the entire time we were there. I'm reminded of Jesus's mission in Luke 4:18: "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind..." Through the generosity of donors and the miracle of modern medicine, Nandini's world has changed from darkness to light.



Producing Music for the Depressed

Priyanshu is a confident and articulate 17-year-old young man. He was born with normal vision, but at the age of five, due to complications of pneumonia and jaundice, he completely lost his sight. No medical intervention was able to reverse his condition. Despite his disability in being blind, Priyanshu has big dreams for his life. He said, "I thank my God, school administration, and my dear sponsors for the great support." Priyanshu will graduate in a few months and desires to pursue his gifts in music to bring joy to people's lives. He specifically highlights helping those who are depressed as a major goal in life and a way he desires to serve God. Priyanshu recognizes that the development of his skills as a musician has been because someone believed in him from halfway around the world. He lives a life of gratitude despite the challenges he faces. ■





L-R: Mia poses in her Pathfinder uniform; Mia rides on the back of a scooter with her father driving.

HOPE FOR “THE LEAST OF THESE”

Sponsorship provides education and a bright future for students trapped in India’s caste system

By Beverly Joubert

Meet Mia, a 13-year-old young lady with an infectious smile, sparkling personality, and sharp mind who is also deaf. Our team from Child Impact met her at the Seventh-day Adventist School for Speech and Hearing Impaired in Kollegal, India. She is a day student who is an enthusiastic participant in all school activities, including Pathfinders, worship services, and games. In fact, she wants to be dropped off as early as possible in the morning and picked up as late as possible in the evening so that she doesn’t miss out on anything. We were told that at times, when her father was not able to pick her up on time, he would send an Auto (scooter taxi) to fetch her, and she would send them away. Her father would then have to come and pick her up late at night after work.

Mia lives with her parents and sister in a two-room,

300-square-foot home located down an alley behind some small shops. When our Child Impact team visited, we were welcomed warmly and invited inside. We could not help noticing the absence of furniture—no chairs, table, or even mats. In the corner of the first room were three giant bags full of disposable plates and cups that Mia’s father peddles for a living. Nothing else. The adjoining room also had no furniture but did have some shelves with folded blankets and clothes on them. Nothing on the floor. My thought was, how and where do four people sleep?

While taking all this in, Mia’s father disappeared out the front door and her mother into the minute kitchen. Our interpreters told us that they wanted to serve us some juice and tea. Before we could even accept or decline, her dad appeared with a bottle of

juice that he had bought from a store and her mom brought out chai tea she had made. How do you refuse such hospitality? We drank with conflicting emotions knowing that they were sacrificing hard earned money to serve 10 guests.

Watching the family interact, we sensed a genuine love between them. Mia’s dad seemed especially proud of her. Her parents expressed gratitude for the sponsors and what the school is doing for Mia. When asked what she wants to be one day, Mia replied without hesitation: “A teacher.” I look forward to when “Teacher” Mia will be the one welcoming Child Impact guests to the Seventh-day Adventist School for Speech and Hearing Impaired in Kollegal. Mia is a talented girl with a bright future, and she has been given a chance to succeed because of a sponsor like you. ■

Pathfinder Camporee Offering: Seventh-day Adventist School for Speech and Hearing Impaired

The International Pathfinder Camporee, held every five years, typically has a special offering appeal. For this year’s camporee held in Gillette, Wyoming, Child Impact International was named as one of the recipients. Soon after, Child Impact was informed that they would receive the entire offering. The Seventh-day Adventist School for Speech and Hearing Impaired in Kollegal, India, was chosen as the specific Child Impact project that would receive the offering. Children attending this school are part of the “untouchable” caste in India due to their disability. Funds raised from the offering would go to the construction of a boy’s dormitory and additional classrooms. A special tie-in between the Camporee and this project is that all the students and staff at the school are members of a Pathfinder club called the Silent Warriors. A goal of \$100,000 was set for the offering, which was going to be the largest offering collected at an International Pathfinder Camporee.

Despite multiple challenges encountered, the biggest of which was Camporee ending a day early due to a forecast of severe weather, the goal has been surpassed! To date, \$124,000 has been raised for this project! We are grateful for the opportunity provided by the International Camporee to highlight this important ministry of Child Impact.

EMPOWERING FUTURES

How Child Impact’s partnership with Sunrise Home impacts orphan lives in India

By Julie Ann Pflug

Recently, I visited India with Child Impact to see some of their projects. Upon arriving, there was much to see and experience. I saw beautiful scenery, incredible poverty, packs of roaming dogs, traffic jams to rival little else, and some of the most remarkable, dedicated people I’ve ever met caring for children.

At the Sunrise Home orphanage, we met many beautiful children, but I was so impressed to meet Sunrise’s graduates who are studying to become electricians, nurses, or work in the hospitality industry. One lovely young woman I met was Raji, who is a nursing student. She came to Sunrise when she was 10 years old along with her brother, Shiva, who was 8. After losing their father to AIDS, their mother was ailing from the same disease and unable to care for them. Her mother is a Seventh-day Adventist and asked her pastor where she could send her children. He suggested Sunrise as a solution. Despite some initial hesitation, after arriving, Raji and Shiva made friends quickly and loved the school.

When Raji obtained a sponsor through Child Impact, her education in a loving, Christian environment was secured. Though she made friends quickly, she had stage fright. Through the loving guidance of the principals who became like family, she gained confidence, which has helped her strive for a nursing career.

The cost of nursing school is roughly \$600, which is a fortune to Raji. However, with help from Child Impact supporters, a special arrangement was made to help

Sunrise graduates pursue nursing and engineering degrees. Raji is taking advantage of the chance to step into a career of serving others, and she is succeeding. She loves nursing school and enjoys going to church with her friends.

Raji’s brother, Shiva, was also sponsored and has gone on to graduate with an engineering degree. They now live near one another and see each other often. Raji’s advice for children with difficult backgrounds is to “believe in God” and know that “God loves them.” Thanks to sponsors like you, the course of Raji and Shiva’s lives has been changed; they can look to a brighter future! Would you consider sponsoring a child? Maybe it’s for the first time or you’re adding to your sponsored family. Join Child Impact in rewriting more stories at

childimpact.org/sponsorship. ■



Julie Ann meets Raji.

TESTIMONY OF A LIFE THAT TOUCHED MANY

Grand opening of Andris Evans Memorial Guest House

By Dr. Tom L. Evans

Andris Evans, the son of Child Impact’s CEO, Tom Evans, and his wife, Mara, grew up in an orphanage in Latvia. Beginning at age 5, he would visit the Evans’ home in the United States for Christmas and summers. When Andris became available for adoption, he officially joined the Evans family in America, along with his older brother Daniel. Sadly, on April 13, 2023, Andris lost a long and painful battle with leukemia. He was just 14 years old.

Funds given in his memory were contributed through Child Impact to a project at the Sunrise Home orphanage in India to construct a guest house. This home will welcome visitors to the campus and provide a comfortable stay while visiting the staff and children at the orphanage.

On September 22, 2024, the completed guest home was inaugurated with Tom and Mara present while their three sons—Lukas, Andre, and Daniel—joined by video call from the United States. Students and staff of Sunrise attended the special occasion. The Sunrise children sang three beautiful songs, followed by a prayer offered by Sanjeev Mahpure, CEO of Helping Hand, Child Impact’s partner organization in India. Tom and Mara shared memories of Andris. A highlight was a touching testimony Mara shared of how Andris always encouraged anyone who was sad or hurting, offering to pray for them and giving them a gift. Andris would forget his own pain to show compassion for others. Raj Varma, director of Sunrise, expressed the significant need for the guest house and shared appreciation to the Evans family and Child Impact for making this dream possible. After a ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees took a tour of the five-bedroom, five-bathroom home.

Tom and Mara desire to be reunited with Andris in heaven. Until that time, this beautiful guest house will be a testimony to his life that touched so many. ■



L-R: The grand opening ceremony of the guest house takes place; Mara and Tom L. Evans cut the ribbon; Sunrise staff members and the Child Impact team pose beside a plaque naming the new guest house.



L-R: Jerry Joubert and his wife, Beverly, meet Esther; Esther at the pharmacy she runs for her village.



INVESTING FOR ETERNITY

Transformed lives of orphanage graduates are testament to the possibilities of sponsorship

By Jerry Joubert

On a recent trip to India with Child Impact International, I met four amazing young adults who are all alumni of Sunrise Home. Sunrise is an orphanage that Child Impact partners with, providing sponsorships for the children there to help take care of their needs and education. Your support and that of others like you have made it possible for these children to be rescued from a life of poverty and abuse and be transformed into young adults with purpose and a hope.

One of these young adults I met was Esther, a vibrant 25-year-old young lady who works as the only pharmacist and health educator in a village of about 5,500 people. With no doctor available, Esther says she not only dispenses medication, but she also prescribes medication and provides therapy in emergency situations.

How did this capable, energetic young lady get to be where she is today? Esther is a shining example of resilience and determination who found her roots at Sunrise Children's Home. There she learned the basic skills of life and how to aspire towards higher goals. She attributes her success to Sunrise and to Child Impact, which helped her on her path to getting a pharmacy degree. Esther's love for the Lord and her fulfillment in service to others is truly inspiring.

Another young adult I met was Jacob, who came to Sunrise when he was seven. His father had died when he was only two years old. After finishing at Sunrise, he studied nursing. Today, he has a government job as a Community Health Officer serving nine village communities of about 5,000 people.

Jacob thanks his sponsor in the U.S. "from the bottom of my heart" for helping him attend Sunrise Children's Home. He says his time there taught him about

God, life, and how to cope with trials and challenges. Being at Sunrise gave him an opportunity to learn English, obtain a job, and gain a sense of purpose in life.

I was also privileged to meet Raslekshmi, another Sunrise alum. She came to Sunrise as an orphan at the age of 10 because her father was not present, and her mother was disabled and unable to take care of her. She fell in love with Sunrise, made good friends, and thoroughly enjoyed her time there. Now, she is in her first year studying to become a nurse and looks forward to working with children one day. She, too, gives God all the glory and attributes her success to her roots at Sunrise Children's Home.

Prem was the last alum I met. He came to Sunrise as an orphan when he was five years old. His mother died when he was a baby, and his father abandoned him. He, too, lived at Sunrise until he eventually graduated. Now Prem works as a Lifestyle Coach and Medical Missionary for India. He is proud of what he has become, by the grace of God and the positive influence of Sunrise

Children's Home. When asked what he say to Child Impact's sponsors, he said, "I would sincerely like to thank all the sponsors and donors in America for impacting our lives. Without you, I wouldn't be here. I'm speaking English because of you. I am a product of your gifts of kindness and sponsorships."

Seeing where these young adults have ended up is a testament to the life-changing work taking place at Sunrise Children's Home. These success stories are just a few examples of the many lives being transformed through the impact of sponsorship! Thank you for giving hope, purpose, and a future to vulnerable children. ■

"Your support and that of others like you have made it possible for these children to be rescued from a life of poverty and abuse and be transformed into young adults with purpose and a hope."

FROM HEARTBREAK TO HOPE

Twin brothers experience love and new life after unimaginable loss

By Suleiman Bayu, Shana Fairchild, and Melissa Moore

On a quiet morning in Ethiopia in February 2022, twin brothers Muluken and Mulualem had an uneasy feeling when a relative arrived at their grandmother's house with somber news. Their mother, Rahel, was dead.

Rahel first met Muluken and Mulualem's father, Feyera, after he had finished basic military training. They soon got married, and Rahel later gave birth to their first child, a boy. After Feyera was discharged from the military, the little family of three moved to Feyera's hometown and began to cultivate land he owned. This, however, wasn't enough to support them, so both Rahel and Feyera went to work as daily laborers, earning around \$2 per day for Feyera and \$1 per day for Rahel. According to the World Bank and United Nations, the international poverty line is at \$2.15 per day.

Rahel later gave birth to a girl, which increased the family's needs. They continued to work their plot of land to produce a seasonal grain and to work as laborers. As Feyera did his best to provide for his family, his health began to deteriorate. Meanwhile, Rahel became pregnant again and gave birth, this time to the identical twin boys, Muluken and Mulualem. Tragically, their father's health continued to decline, and not long after the twins' first birthday, he died.

Now, the responsibility of providing for five people rested on Rahel. To make matters worse, her own health began to decline as she suffered from leukemia. She struggled to take care of her family and manage her health at the same time. Eventually, she felt that she could not care for her children anymore. Rahel decided it would be best to take the oldest boy and her twin sons to live with her husband's mother. Leaving the three of them with their grandmother, she took her daughter and went back to her hometown,

a couple hundred miles away. The boys hoped their mother would get better soon and return to them one day along with their sister.

However, tragedy soon struck. Only a week after returning to her hometown, the terrible news came that their mother died. Brokenhearted and frightened,

lacked clothing. It became clear their grandmother was unable to care for their needs. Neighbors recommended that she take the boys to the nearby New Hope Orphanage and School, which cares for and educates orphans, children with disabilities, and impoverished community children. Taking this



Identical twins Muluken and Mulualem smile for the camera.

the boys cried and cried. They felt very lonely.

Their grandmother did her best to comfort and provide for the boys, but as she was unable to work herself, she struggled to afford to take care of them. Tragically, the family splintered further when the oldest son disappeared from his grandmother's house without a trace. His whereabouts are still unknown.

Alone now with their grandmother, Muluken and Mulualem soon became malnourished and

advice, she brought the twins to the orphanage with a government letter requesting the orphanage to accept them to live and go to school there.

After a time, Muluken and Mulualem settled into their new life at New Hope. Their needs were met, they made friends, and they became healthy, growing boys again. Where once their lives were filled with so much heartbreak and tragedy, they have now found new joy and hope for the future. ■

A haven for the vulnerable: New Hope Orphanage and School

Nearly 600 students have found refuge at the New Hope Orphanage and School, just like Mulalem and Muluken. Students who are at risk of starvation, abuse, and discrimination find protection and holistic healing. Suleiman Bayu, principal and director at New Hope, is not a stranger to starvation, hardship, and discrimination. He lost his family due to famine and experienced discrimination after a freak accident left his arm disfigured. Out of this tragedy, he has created a safe haven for children who have experienced similar loss. Child Impact International was inspired by Suleiman's passion for serving children with disabilities and survivors of extreme poverty. Today, Child Impact sponsors nearly a third of the students at New Hope.

Extreme poverty creates cascading vulnerabilities for children: gender-based violence, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, lack of access to basic medical care, and more. According to UNICEF, over 20% of children worldwide are underweight, and nearly half of all child deaths are associated with undernutrition. Only half of the population has access to clean water, and less than 10% of Ethiopian children have access to basic sanitation. The World Bank adds that approximately 17 million children are out of school. Child Impact is working with the New Hope Orphanage and School to change that. Students at New Hope are grateful for a roof over their heads, caring staff who become like family, food in their stomachs, and the chance to learn and know Jesus. Would you consider giving a child the life-transforming gift of sponsorship today?



childimpact.org/sponsorship



Girls work on landscaping outside of one of the newly constructed dormitories.

compassion in action

By Jason Churchwell

How Child Impact responded to the urgent needs of Myanmar refugee children affected by the world's longest ongoing civil war



Jason Churchwell, VP of Field Operations (far left), and Christina Donesky, Sponsorship Manager (second from right), meet students from Sunshine Orchard.

Early in 2024, I was traveling through Thailand investigating possible future Operation Child Rescue projects for Child Impact to support. While there, multiple people told me to visit a school on the border between Thailand and Myanmar called Sunshine Orchard. The school's enrollment had recently doubled from 300 to 600 students because of the military coup in Myanmar. The school was doing everything they could to accommodate the additional students.

On my first day visiting the school, I was invited to eat dinner at one of the teacher's homes. Upon arriving, I was shocked to learn that he was housing 14 students in his own home! It seemed that all the staff at Sunshine Orchard had opened their homes to refugee children fleeing the civil war in Myanmar.

Sunshine Orchard primarily serves children from the minority Karen ethnic group. The Karen people assisted the British in their conquest of Myanmar and sided with the allied forces in World War II. The majority Bamar, or Burmese tribe, sided with the Japanese. The continued conflict between tribes in Myanmar is now the world's longest ongoing civil war, spanning over eight decades. In April 2024, the Burmese military began a mandatory conscription of 5,000 men per month into the army, but reports have circulated that anyone old enough to carry a gun has been forced to take part in the war. Consequently, this has



A group of girls living in a teacher's home spend time together.

meet this urgent need was because of generous supporters like you! This fund is crucial to Child Impact's work because it allows us to respond immediately as soon as a time-sensitive need arises.

This fall, I had the opportunity to return to Sunshine Orchard and see the two new dormitories in person! They were both full of children who were very happy to have a safe haven to live in. Each dormitory houses 60 children and includes a separate bathroom area and dean's apartment in the back. There is an overhang on one side with a large concrete pad for washing and drying clothes. The children all sleep on small mats and don't like to use pillows, as this is what they are accustomed to in their traditional bamboo huts.

The civil war continues to bring challenges to the Thai-Myanmar border. This fall, our Child Impact team was planning to cross over into Myanmar and visit a branch school started by graduates of Sunshine Orchard. The militaries on both sides of the border were notified, and everyone agreed that it was safe to visit. Our team made a last-minute change to the schedule and pushed back our trip to Myanmar by one day to wrap up some filming at Sunshine Orchard. While we were in a meeting, a cell phone went off with an alert that a drone had dropped three explosives on a village 20 minutes from the school. This was at the same time we would have originally been in Myanmar had our plans not changed at the last minute. Had we been on the other side of the border, there is no knowing how difficult it may have been to get back out. We praise God for His protection and solicit your prayers for the people continually displaced by the conflict. Many families fled across the border into Thailand and stayed on campus that night, unsure of what would happen next after the drone strike.

There are more unknowns of what's to come due to the ongoing civil war. What we do know at Child Impact, however, is that because of generous supporters of our Where Needed Most fund, we can act quickly in response to crises. Because of supporters like you, 120 children are living in safety inside brand new dormitories without the worry of bombs dropping on them at night or having to run through the jungle to take cover. Thank you for allowing us to immediately respond wherever the greatest needs arise in a world filled with change and uncertainty. May God bless you for your generosity to Child Impact International as we serve the world's most vulnerable children. ■



Boys hang out in the newly built dormitory.

caused a further influx of refugees into Thailand.

When registration opened at Sunshine Orchard this spring for the new school year, the staff were completely overwhelmed. Families crammed into the school chapel trying to secure a space for their children. The school ended up accepting over 200 additional students than they had enrolled during the previous school year. Now, enrollment is over 800 children in grades K-12. Every space in the dormitory is occupied. Every teacher's home is full of students.

Child Impact immediately began adding children to our sponsorship program to help with the additional costs. Our staff also began discussing other ways we could assist, and it was determined that the greatest and most immediate need was housing. Very young children were crossing the border into Myanmar without their families and had no place to stay. Parents were begging the border guards to allow their children to cross to get them to safety.

Pulling from our Where Needed Most fund, Child Impact was able to support this critical need. Our team got to work immediately drawing up plans and beginning construction on two brand new dormitories to provide a safe space for primary-age students. Our ability to quickly



To support the ongoing work of Child Impact and the ability to provide immediate support to unforeseen urgent needs, give to the Where Needed Most fund at childimpact.org/wnm.



L-R: The purchased float plane is prepped for work in Zambia; Rosemary and Mike Ferguson see the float plane up close for the first time.



A TRACTOR FOR A FLOAT PLANE

How an unused piece of farm equipment made a difference half a world away

By Lesieli Savelio

What do I have to give?" This is a question many may ask themselves when it comes to supporting important causes. Rosemary Ferguson asked herself that question earlier this year, and God showed her the answer.

When Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO of Child Impact International, traveled to the Pacific Northwest, he spoke with Rosemary about Child Impact's desire to purchase a float plane to bring education and medical care to unreached children in Zambia. She felt impressed to give to the project and began thinking about how to help. Soon after, she and her husband, Mike, were going on a walk when she saw their tractor sitting outside.

The couple had owned the tractor and some other farming equipment ever since Rosemary inherited a pear orchard from her father when he passed away. When taking care of the land became too much, they sold the orchard but kept the tractor.

"I saw [the tractor], and it hit me that since this project was new, maybe it could be helpful," Rosemary said. "So I thought about it, and I said to my husband, 'What if we donated it?'"

Their only setback was getting the tractor prepped for sale, something the couple

couldn't do on their own. They decided to put it in God's hands and reached out to Tom about their idea. God led, and the Fergusons were put in contact with a family willing to help with the preparation of the tractor.

They ended up selling the tractor for over \$5,000, with all proceeds going to the float plane project. Rosemary said she's glad that something she no longer uses could help make a difference in the lives of people halfway across the world.

"Everyone has something, even if small, to share."

"There are things that you would hope to use—they may have been useful at one time—but they will do more in the work of the Lord," Rosemary said. "One doesn't need to be rich to support missions. Everyone has something, even if small, to share."

Recently, Rosemary and Mike had the opportunity to see the purchased float plane up close. Looking up closely at the wings and propeller, she was struck by the thought that their gift for the project was just a drop in the bucket toward purchasing the plane. "Many others gave from their hearts to make this happen," Rosemary said. "Standing next to the plane was a special honor. In doing so, we represented all of those who helped make this happen." ■

SMALL HANDS, BIG HEART

A young girl's compassionate mission to help children in need

By Shana Fairchild

It was a warm, late summer day when Pearl Nelsen, age 10, walked into Child Impact International's offices with her mother and sister. She was on a mission to bring money she'd spent months raising to Child Impact!

Pearl first heard about Child Impact in January 2024 when a speaker came to her church and told many stories about the children who were being impacted by the organization's work. She was immediately inspired to begin raising whatever money she could for the children supported by Child Impact. Using a piggy bank she had recently created at an Adventurer Club meeting, she went around to family members, fellow Adventurers, and even residents at a nursing home to ask for monetary contributions. After collecting what she could, she proudly brought the funds she'd raised to Child Impact's offices.

Pearl's story is an inspiring example of how even the youngest members of families can play a part in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children around the world. ■



Pearl Nelsen displays the piggy bank she used to raise money.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR CHILD IMPACT

Recent move to Southern Adventist Univ.'s campus fosters growth, opportunities, and student engagement

By Lesieli Savelio

In November 2023, Child Impact International moved to a new office space, located on the campus of Southern Adventist University. Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO, thought the new location would be beneficial for Child Impact, allowing for more visibility and opportunities for student involvement, as well as volunteers.

Segofalang "Sego" Gabasiane, a junior international development studies major at Southern, was the first student worker hired at Child Impact. He works as the Sponsorship Communications Assistant.

"I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity of working at Child Impact," Sego said. "As someone studying international development and interested in humanitarian work, I've gained a lot of insight through my experience here."

Since Sego started in December, Child Impact

has hired two additional student workers to work in sponsorship and two other students from Southern for internship roles. Student groups have also completed volunteer and class projects for Child Impact. One marketing class even raised more than \$1,500 as part of an assignment. However, university students aren't the only ones giving their time and talents to serve God and others. Students from Collegedale Academy and other community members have often come to the office to volunteer. Child Impact's hope is to collaborate and partner with more students as time goes on, sharing with them a vision of ministry, said Tom.

In July 2024, to celebrate the move and showcase the new space with supporters and community members, an open house was held. The event was

in conjunction with Child Impact's annual Rescue Vespers, held the day before, which highlighted Operation Child Rescue projects and raised awareness for the UN World Day Against Human Trafficking.

Visitors had the opportunity to explore the new office space, take part in a giveaway, and enjoy refreshments. One of the most impactful parts of the day was a special prayer time held in the boardroom every 30 minutes, dedicated to uplifting a specific country or project in prayer.

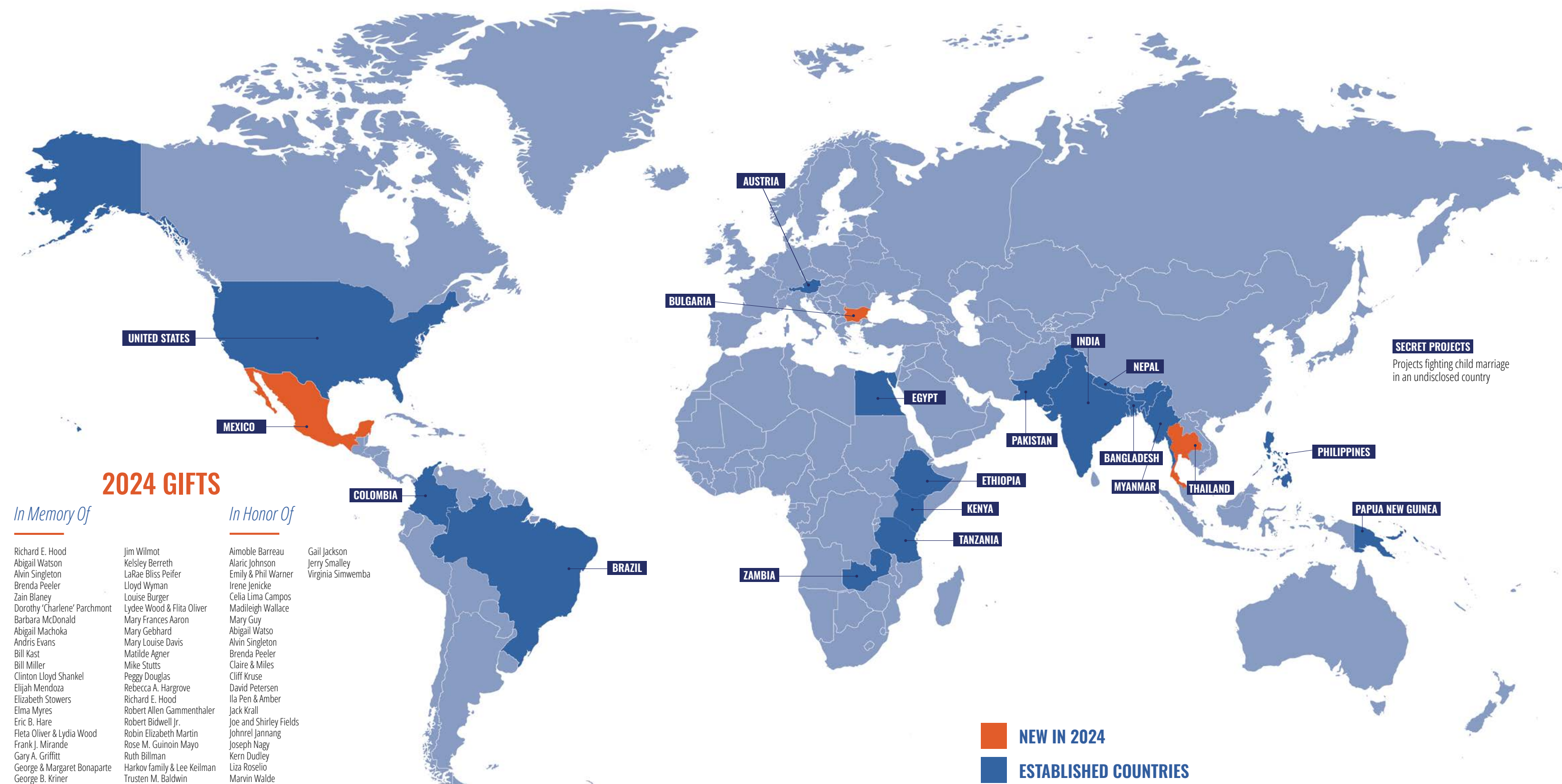
The team at Child Impact is excited to see how God leads and what the future unfolds in the years to come at the new location, for the organization, for students, and for the children who are being ministered to. ■



Clockwise from top: visitors chat in the lobby of Child Impact's new office; guests pause to pray for one of Child Impact's major projects; visitors mingle during Child Impact's 2024 open house; exterior of Child Impact's new office.



OUR **IMPACT** AROUND THE WORLD



2024 GIFTS

In Memory Of

Richard E. Hood
Abigail Watson
Alvin Singleton
Brenda Peeler
Zain Blaney
Dorothy 'Charlene' Parchmont
Barbara McDonald
Abigail Machoka
Andris Evans
Bill Kast
Bill Miller
Clinton Lloyd Shankel
Elijah Mendoza
Elizabeth Stowers
Elma Myres
Eric B. Hare
Fleta Oliver & Lydia Wood
Frank J. Mirande
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George & Margaret Bonaparte
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Glen A. Amundson
Harkov Family
Harry E. Olson
Jacky Houde
James Francis Patton Jr.
Jim Reiswig

In Honor Of

Jim Wilmot
Kelsley Berreth
LaRae Bliss Peifer
Lloyd Wyman
Louise Burger
Lydee Wood & Flita Oliver
Mary Frances Aaron
Mary Gebhard
Mary Louise Davis
Matilde Agner
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Peggy Douglas
Rebecca A. Hargrove
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Robert Allen Gammenthaler
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Wenceslao & Esther Chavit
Wilfred Dale Appleyard
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William Miller
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Celia Lima Campos
Madileigh Wallace
Mary Guy
Abigail Watso
Alvin Singleton
Brenda Peeler
Claire & Miles
Cliff Kruse
David Petersen
Ila Pen & Amber
Jack Krall
Joe and Shirley Fields
Johnrel Jannang
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