



# hope abides

Hope & Help for Orphans in India

December 2014

## 2014 Trip to India by Brent Adams, President



Some of the boys from SASA

My wife (Marie) and I recently returned from our 4 week visit to India. For many reasons it was our best India trip to-date. It was our longest trip yet, so we had a chance to visit a ton of partners and friends (both new and old) as well as take

a few days to sightsee, relax and eat really great food.

We arrived in India at the Mumbai airport and joined up with Shana Nunez from clean water NGO - [For One Another Foundation](#). We then went to Rays of Hope where Pastor Manoj Magar hosted us for a couple days. He runs an orphanage for about 75 children in the Navi Mumbai area. He also operates a community tutoring center for children of sex workers in a red light district and does humanitarian work in one of the poorest slums in the city. It was especially hard meeting the children of the sex workers; most of them ages 5 to 11. The future that awaits the girls, and even most of the boys, is grim. To look at their young faces and know what they have already been exposed to is heartbreaking.

We visited Rays of Hope to evaluate them as a potential partner for Hope Abides. Since completing our visit, we have made a grant to them to be used for nutrition or education costs for the orphans.

After Mumbai, we traveled by bus to the city of Pune which is 3 hours away. We stayed for three days at Saraswati Anath Shikshan Ashram (SASA) with whom we have been working for three years. They care for about 35 boys in a slum area of the city. We have sponsored food, leadership training and a computer lab for them.

Since our visit we are working to enhance educational opportunities for the boys as well as fund badly needed facility renovations. You can see pictures of our SASA visit at our [Facebook page](#). What a great bunch of kids and leaders! A special thanks to friend and former co-worker Dinesh Jangle for coming by SASA to hang out with us. It was good to see him again and meet his family.

Our next leg of the journey was a flight to Delhi where we were met up by Father Shibu Thomas for a 5 or 6 hour ride to Najibabad, Uttar Pradesh. This area is fairly poor and remote, near the base of the Himalayas. Here Father Shibu and two other priests run Prem Dham, a home for severely disabled children. In addition to caring for the children, they work with the community at large with issues like mainstreaming the children, clean water initiatives and other projects to improve the lives of those in the region. Their commitment to the 'last and the least' is humbling and inspirational; many of the children are bedridden and immobile. We have been able to assist over the past few years with food and general necessities; new beds for the children and new kitchen supplies. (cont'd on right)

Questions? Comments?  
E-mail us at  
[info@hopeabides.org](mailto:info@hopeabides.org) or  
call 1 916 690-4289 (US)

To remove your  
name from our  
mailing list,  
please click  
[here](#).

**Hope Abides** is a U.S. based multi-faith organization whose mission is to provide help and hope to orphaned and destitute children in India. We help children regardless of their gender, caste or religious background and seek participation from all.

## 4th Annual Dinner a Success

We thank all who attended, supported and volunteered at our October 11th event. It was our largest fundraiser dinner to-date with approximately 180 people in attendance. Entertainment included a tabla performance by Rahul Pophali, a classical dance by Nitya Kotha, a fashion show coordinated by Anisha Yerramilli, a Bollywood [dance performance by Elite Naach Academy](#) and Skypping with a partner orphanage in India.



We especially want to thank Congressman Ami Bera for stopping by to express his support.

Congressman Ami Bera (in green) with leadership of the Telugu Assoc of Greater Sacramento)

## Ways to Help the Kids

You can help us by shopping on Amazon, using your Fidelity Investment Donor Advised Fund or donating through JChoice: Jewish Causes of Choice.

Or the **best** way - donate directly to us at our website! Click [here](#) to learn more.



Misc trip photos; clockwise from upper left - young girl at Mission for the Rural People; child bride (18 years old with 3 children); breakfast in Andhra Pradesh.

(cont'd) We are now trying to finance a generator or wall around the compound. Both are badly needed. Shortly after our visit paw prints from a large cat were found around the facility. Sometimes the residents of the home go outside at night so there is a significant safety issue involved.

Our deepest gratitude to Fathers Shibu, Benny and Bijou for their hospitality and for a great dinner with the Bishop; for supporting the rollout of clean water filters in the area and for taking us to many children homes in Delhi and UP. The amount of good work being done in the region is heartening and a thing of beauty. We're looking forward to our next visit.

Pictures of our Prem Dham visit (and the rest of our trip) will be posted on Facebook in the days ahead so follow us there. Additionally, we will highlight more of our trip in the next newsletter: Amritsar, Kolkata, Hyderabad, here we come ....

Please consider a [donation](#) to

hope abides

this Christmas season  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!