



# hope abides

Hope & Help for Orphans in India

March 2015

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## 2014 Trip to India (pt 2) by Brent Adams, President

This is a trip recap of our one month visit in India from October 24, 2014 through November 19, 2014. In our last newsletter, we talked about visits to orphanages in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

We departed Najibabad, Uttar Pradesh by train on October 30 for a few days of rest and relaxation in Chandigarh and Amritsar.

Chandigarh is the capital city of two Indian states and the first ever planned city in India. The highlight of the Chandigarh visit was the restaurants we discovered. Possibly the best Chinese restaurant ever is 'Mainland China' in Section 26. Chinese food is big in India.

From Chandigarh it was on to Amritsar by bus for a visit with friend and Hope Abides advisor Hardeep Singh and his family, as well as a visit to the Golden Temple, the holiest site for the Sikh faith. I do wish we had the chance to visit the temple in the evening, after dark, when all the lights were on. I am sure it would have been even more beautiful. (Photo at right)



One of the children at Ahead India

After a few days of relaxation, we were back to work and off to Kolkata to visit Ahead India.

Ahead India is a school for disabled children. Unlike many of the many of the organizations with which we work, it is not an orphanage but an actual school with about 60 students who arrive in the morning and depart in the afternoon. It is run by Dr. Banerjee Choudhury who is himself disabled as a result of contracting polio when we was very young. His story is remarkable. He, his wife and the school staff have created an caring environment in which the children are taught life skills and even vocational skills based on their individual abilities. Also, they are keen on changing perceptions about the roles of disabled people in public life. We are proud to say that Hope Abides is continuing our sponsorship of four children and have funded a full time speech pathologist.

Some of the Ahead staff spent time giving us a tour of Kolkata, which is quite beautiful. We visited the Ganges (which runs through the city) as well as viewed many of the older colonial buildings throughout the city. They are impressive. We went to a famous chai (tea) restaurant and sipped chai from clay cups. We were hosted at a hotel owned by Dr. Banerjee Choudhury's brother for which we are very thankful and humbled. We were too spoiled. Kolkata is a growing city with a lot of new construction which is a nice mix with the older buildings. We hope to spend more time there on our next visit.

Next on the agenda was a visit to a potential new partner - Aum Pranava Ashram - in the state of Tamil Nadu. They are located in a very rural area of the state. Upon pickup at the airport we were driven for about 6 - 8 hours to reach our destination. They are located in a beautiful hill region where there are wild peacocks, parrots & other wildlife. (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.

## Save the Dates

Jul 12 - Sevathon; Sunnyvale, Ca  
Oct 2 - Comedy Fundraiser Event; Seattle, Wa  
Oct 3 - 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner,  
Sacramento, Ca  
More info to come!

Thanks Uttoron and SeattleMM for  
allowing Hope Abides to introduce  
ourselves to the Seattle area community!

Marie  
and Brent  
Adams;  
Shana  
Nunez at  
the  
Golden  
Temple



Please consider a [donation](#) to  
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(cont'd) The orphanage cares for about 75 children and is run by V. Visvanathan and his Austrian wife Traude. They are pictured above with a set of triplets who are at the orphanage. Sadly we only able to stay overnight, but we were impressed with their operation and Hope Abides has funded beds for 24 of the children. The hill country can get cold during certain times of the year so this allows the children a place to sleep other than the floor.

Another highlight was meeting an elderly, blind gentleman who resides at the orphanage. He is believed to be well over 100, is fiercely independent and lived on his own until recently. He rises before dawn every morning and loudly sings for all to hear. Ah, I should be so lucky to be that independent at that ripe old age.

Next issue we will finish our trip recap and announce some details about our upcoming events in 2015.

You can see more photos of the trip at [Facebook](#).