

HOPE ABIDES

Hope and Help for Orphans in India

A U.S. Charity for India



Who Are We?

April 2011

[Hope Abides](#) is a U.S. faith based organization whose mission is to provide help and hope to orphaned and destitute children in India. We help children regardless of their gender or religious background and seek participation from all regardless of nationality or faith.



Hope Abides Has a New Board Member!

We wish to welcome Jon Fish to the Hope Abides Board of Directors. Jon has nearly 45 years in the business world in the areas of military, aerospace, project and construction management. He is also the current President of the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento. He will be a great asset to our organization and our mission!

A Tragic Shooting

On March 4, 2011 Surinder Singh, 65 and his friend Gurmej Atwal, 78 were shot in Elk Grove, California as they took their afternoon walk. The shooting took the life of Mr. Singh and left Mr. Atwal in critical condition.

Police have not yet made an arrest in the crime, but witnesses believe the attacker drove a light tan Ford F-150 pick-up truck. While authorities have not confirmed that it was a hate crime, they believe that the men were targeted because of their turbans.

This type of act is always a tragedy, however it is especially personal for us at Hope Abides since Elk Grove is our home town and the shooting took place only a few miles away. There are many Sikhs in Elk Grove and it was a very common sight to see older Sikh gentlemen taking a walk with friends or perhaps their faithful dog. Since the shooting, this sight has become a rarity.

We hope that the attacker is captured and brought to justice; our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of the victims.

While most readers of this newsletter are familiar with the Sikh faith we have included a short narrative about the religion as a tribute to Mr. Singh and Mr. Atwal.

Interfaith Day of Dialogue

Hope Abides attended the March 31, 2011 Day of Dialogue sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento.

Among the issues discussed were "Can we come together more often in interfaith activities to resolve our differences?" and "How do we overcome longtime biases?".

The recurring answers to these and other questions was communication, education and putting our faith into action.

A Brief Introduction to the Sikh Religion

The Sikh religion is monotheistic and believes in one omnipresent God. It was founded by Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the 15th century. During this time there was significant discrimination towards the poor. This discrimination was so extreme that the poor were not allowed in schools or even to fetch water from village wells, and instead had to walk miles for drinking water.

It was in these circumstances that Guru Nanak taught that we are all children of one God and that discrimination against anyone on the basis of caste, color, religion or gender was wrong. He spent 22 years traveling throughout India and the surrounding countries spreading the message of universal brotherhood. He also preached that service to humanity is service to God.

One custom of the Sikh faith is the "Langar" or the community meal. In the afternoon, all temples are open to people of any faith for a free meal. People can enter and eat together and are served by faithful members of the community.

To learn more simply Google "Sikh Religion". Thanks to Jatinder Pal Singh for providing much of this information.

Media Appearances

Punjab Mail USA was kind enough to provide coverage about our mission. Click [here](#) to read the article on page 32.



Recent Appearances

March 8, 2011 we were given the opportunity to speak about Hope Abides at the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir in Sacramento. Thanks to everyone for making us feel so welcome and for your encouragement.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@hopeabides.org or call 1 916 690-4289 (US)