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Hope and Help for Orphans in India

October 2011

Who Are We?

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.

Some of you may have noticed the new look to our newsletter. The improved look is built around our new logo which we believe better captures the themes of Hope Abides – hope, children and India. The logo was designed by **Preeti Chandan of LeoGraphix** in Southern California and we think it perfectly symbolizes our mission. Many thanks to Ms. Chandan. Over the weeks ahead we hope to rebrand our website to incorporate our theme.



Sponsor A Child

Sponsorships!! We are able to provide sponsorships of children and supplies. One of our orphanages has requested sponsorships for several children and another for some of their daily and monthly supplies.

Child sponsorships are \$25/month and supply sponsorships range from \$20 - \$40 month. Please visit www.hopeabides.org/sponsorships and consider helping our kids.



A Trip to India

by Brent Adams, Founder

In late September and early October, I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting India and touring nearly 20 different children's homes in 12 days. While many of the visits were short, it gave me the opportunity to learn a bit of their

operations, best practices and challenges.

My travels took me from Kerala in South India to Andhra Pradesh to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and finally to Pune and Mumbai. While the main focus of the trip was learning from and about the orphanages, there was time for stops in Kerala at shrines to St Thomas and Mother Mary as well as Silent Valley, a nature preserve; in Delhi there were visits to the Lotus Temple of the Baha'i Faith as well as to Gandhi's shrine; and in Uttarakhand we visited the holy cities of Hardwar and Rishikesh which sit at the base of the Himalayas.



I was fortunate to be joined on my travels by Father Anto Pudussery, General Auditor of the 3,000 strong Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). Not only was he gracious enough to help me navigate around the country for the entire 12 days, he also has 27 years experience doing Social Welfare work and has been responsible for opening two or three orphanages himself. It was a valuable opportunity for me to learn from his experiences. Also, joining us to travel about Kerala were Father James Narithookil, CMI who is CMI's director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue and Father Varghese Kakkadan who is their General Councilor for Social Apostolate.

While the conditions at the facilities varied greatly depending on factors such as rural vs. urban, new vs well-established, number of children, ties to community, etc. they all are doing amazing and inspirational work. The children are loved, fed, sheltered and receiving an education. The difference between the lives they lead vs the lives of many street children is stark. (cont'd right column below)

Local Student Raises Funds for Children in India

Natasha Yerramilli, a junior at the Sacramento Waldorf School, recently held a booth at their Harvest Fair to raise money to help orphans in India. She sold earring, bags, scarves and other items from India. Natasha generously chose to donate the funds raised by her booth to Hope Abides. In total she raised nearly \$800 which will benefit children in the orphanages we assist. A gift of this size has substantial purchasing power in India and will be a tremendous help to the children. THANKS NATASHA!!

Rotting rafters to be replaced by Hope Abides. These support a roof over a dormitory for small children.



(Cont'd)
One night in Uttar Pradesh as I waited for a train, I saw two young teens make their makeshift bed on an unused rail track only a few feet from the track where trains were arriving. The unused track on which they laid was regularly used as a bathroom by passengers waiting for their trains to arrive. This scene in particular has stuck with me since my journey and it reinforces the importance of the mission of Hope Abides.

I want to thank all of our supporters for making our work possible. You can visit our Facebook page (just search for Hope Abides) for more details and pictures. The visit was educational and the children were fantastic beyond words. There are times in my life that I wished I was a more eloquent writer. There are ideas, thought and emotions that I wish I could put on paper and allow people to understand completely what I feel - this is one of those times. For those who have read this article, and for those who visit Facebook, please remember that the words I have written do not begin to capture the joy of visiting with these children nor the importance of the opportunity we are providing to them.



Many thanks to Mylapore Restaurant in Folsom, CA for making us part of their 3rd Anniversary Celebrations. They donated 25% of their October 25th sales to Hope Abides. Thanks so much!!

Fundraiser Dinner

Our first annual fundraiser, held September 17th, was a great success. We had a full house of supporters that enjoyed great food, dancing and music. The silent auction included items from Disney, the 49ers and several other donors and we secured sponsors for some of the children at the Sphoorti Foundation. Net proceeds will go to various projects at our partner orphanages. We are already planning the date of our next event. A few pictures are available on our Facebook page under the Fundraiser Dinner Album.

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

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