



HOPE CONNECT

APRIL 2018 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:

EASTER GREETINGS to all you wonderful people. I would like to share this Easter poem with you:

Rejoice! It's Easter!

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
Let not your soul be sad
Easter is a time of joy
When all hearts should be glad.

Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like Him, to live again.

So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter Story
Renew our Faith so we may be
Partakers of "His Glory!"

*May Your Easter be Filled
with Blessings*

Easter
greetings



ISSUES OF INDIA'S CHILDREN

PEOPLE around the world often ask me why I left my work in the U.S. and returned back to India to be engaged in endeavors for the emancipation of challenges facing children in India. Here's part of the reason why:

- ✓ **170 million** vulnerable children
- ✓ **42%** of total population (1.2 billion) are children
- ✓ **430 million**, India has the largest child population in the world
- ✓ **99 million** children school drop-outs in 2016
- ✓ **18 million** and over street children in India
- ✓ **33 million** child labor (5-18 years old)
- ✓ **70%** children are anaemic
- ✓ **40%** children malnourished
- ✓ **43%** children are underweight
- ✓ **50%** and more have suffered physical or sexual abuse

[sources: UNESCO, National Crime Bureau, Ministry of Women and Children Development]

For the past several years, we began focusing more on the **girl-child**, whose challenges are

further compounded and aggravated for this:

- ✓ The increase in female infanticide (sex-selective abortion and the killing of the girl child between 0 – 6 years)
- ✓ The UN has declared India as the **most** deadly country for female children
- ✓ The UN in 2012 reported that female children aged between 1-5 were **75%** more likely to die in India as opposed to boys
- ✓ In 2012, the Government of India grudgingly admitted that nearly **3 million** girls went 'missing'

Figures move me. Figures propel in me an uncontrolled urge to 'roll-up-the-sleeves' and be involved! The magnitude of the challenge is incomprehensible! We possibly can't change the present situation and the eternal destiny of a multitude of them. But we are thankful to God for the ones whose lives have been transformed through our initiatives...some are back with us on staff and as mentors!

The joy of being involved in the transformational ministry of the Hope Home Calcutta is unexplainable! We seek your continued prayers, blessings and participation as we seek to change and transform lives through equipping, educating and empowering individuals!

HOPE HOME CALCUTTA FOOD BANK

AS MENTIONED in our January update, the Hope Home Calcutta set up a **FOOD BANK** for the first time last Christmas to provide monthly supply of groceries and food provision for poor families in our community. We have been providing food supplies for a family **every month** since January and plan to do so till the end of this year. This month we donated food to a very needy family of **Uttam Sardar**. Uttam collects garbage/thrash from door-to-door in our locality and makes about **INR 3500**

(USD 56) a month. With this meagre earnings, he has to feed a family of five. He



lives in a village almost 8 km from us and has to walk every day with his 'trash-van' to reach our vicinity. Yet, he smiles *everytime* I meet him! What an honor to be framed with this brave-heart in this picture!

You too can pitch in (especially Calcutta friends) and join us in demonstrating the grace and goodness of God in action! The approximate cost of monthly grocery is **INR 900 (\$15)** for one family!

LET THERE BE HOPE-PHASE 2

OUR UPCOMING BUILDING PROJECT 'LET THERE BE HOPE-PHASE 2' is back on track after clearing all issues regarding mutation and taxation etc. The sketch is ready and the building plan would be submitted to the municipal authorities by the middle of this month! Many of you are aware that we have been praying for this facility of approximately **4500** square feet spread over two floors that would serve the following dual purposes:

1. Provide living facilities for **girls** from slums and dysfunctional families from Calcutta and other urban centres in India – a safe, secure, caring and loving environment
2. Provide additional rooms for our School project-Hope Educational Centre, counselling, vocational training and music programs and the

Community Empowerment Initiative as we seek to equip, educate and empower individuals

For this, we are prayerfully seeking individuals, families, student and peer groups, corporates, non-profit and others to make a one-time investment in helping us make the 'Let There Be Hope-Phase II' dream a reality. Each **square feet** of built up area costs **INR 1,300** or **U.S.\$ 25**. You could help us build as many square feet as you want to (investing the proportionate amount). We invite you to consider getting involved and making a difference in the lives of countless children and families in Calcutta, India! Yes...**YOU** can make a difference!

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH-APRIL

- March 13: Aditya (Andrew)
- April 8 : Anjali

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Dev and the Hope Home Calcutta family

Support for the Hope Home Calcutta should be sent to/checks made out to:

VERDE VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

406 SOUTH 6TH STREET, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326

TEL: 928-634 8166 (Please designate your gift for Hope Home Calcutta clearly)

ONLINE - www.vvchristianchurch.net

Donors in India- all donations, including online, are exempted from Income-Tax under section 80G through HDFC Bank. Contact us for details

