



HOPE CONNECT

MAY 2018 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE....

ONE of the main concerns I had when we had purchased the first property for the Hope Home Calcutta way back in 2000 was that of providing pure, clean water, especially potable water for the Hope Home Calcutta community. I had been informed from various sources that more than 60% of people in our state of West Bengal suffer from stomach-related illnesses, mainly due to water contamination. After we moved into the property, we did some research, asked questions, met doctors of the Cancer Hospital across the main street and took suggestions from the West Bengal Voluntary Health Association. We were exposed to the dangers of water contamination, especially arsenic poisoning. So, along with the property, the very first capital investment we made in 2000 was in digging a deep bore-well of over 600 feet to get clean, fresh drinking water (we still run the water through a RV system to make it safer).



Over the years, more research has been conducted by various national and international agencies regarding the extent and danger of arsenic poisoning in groundwater in the vicinity of the Hope Home Calcutta. It has now been reported that arsenic in groundwater above the WHO maximum permissible limit of 0.05 mg

l⁻¹ has been found in six districts of West Bengal covering an area of 34 000 km² with a population of 30 million, including the district of South 24 Parganas in the southern fringes of the city, where we are located. Various social dynamics are at play – including consumption of arsenic-contaminated water for many years- that has aggravated the arsenic toxicity among people who live in this area.

We are therefore preparing to dig a new bore-well of over 650 feet as part of our **‘Let There Be Hope- Phase 2’** so that our new facilities too (and all those who would eventually live there including our girl boarders) would have access to clean drinking water. Tentatively we have christened this project as **‘HOPE SPRINGS’** and the estimated costs is just over **USD 3300 (INR 205,000)**. We would like to invite individuals, groups of individuals, corporate houses, institutions and concerned people to prayerfully consider investing in providing fresh, clean water for the girl-residents and students of the Hope Home Calcutta and those at the Hope Education Centre!

31:20 AND HOPE HOME CALCUTTA SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

FOR the past few years, **31:20**-the Denver-based non-profit headed by our dear friend **Jenny Watson** (who initiated the ever-growing **Justice Run**- a stand against human



trafficking) has been raising up funds for school supplies for the children of the Hope Home Calcutta. School year in many schools in India (including ours) begins in April and runs through March the following year. This year too, Jenny and her team has raised up more-than-enough funds required for our children. The children are ecstatic – all smiles with their new school bags, new text books, exercise books, shoes and stationary to kick-start a fresh academic year! Thank you Jenny and a special thanks to the Watson children (we had mentioned last month that these kids donated their last dime to get school supplies for our kids out here!)

NEW 'KIDS' IN THE HOUSE!

WE are so glad to have two new individuals join the Hope Home Calcutta community!



ANKITA is a young lady from **Nepal** (her brother is in our school as a resident student). She had finished her Grade 8 in a school in the hills a couple of years back. The family later brought her back to Calcutta. The mother suffers from an advanced stage of tuberculosis for the past two years. The father too keeps very poor health and often the family stays without food. Ankita joined us as a Volunteer for Nursery. We have also enrolled her in an 'Open-School' for her to be able to complete her school graduation next year.



RISHAV (5) comes from a dysfunctional home-his father left the family when he was just 2. Jobs don't come easy in India, and although his mother has a college degree, she is not able to earn any money for their upkeep (there is no provision for social welfare in India either). We are so glad that he now has a place to stay and is studying in Kindergarten!

LET THERE BE HOPE-PHASE 2

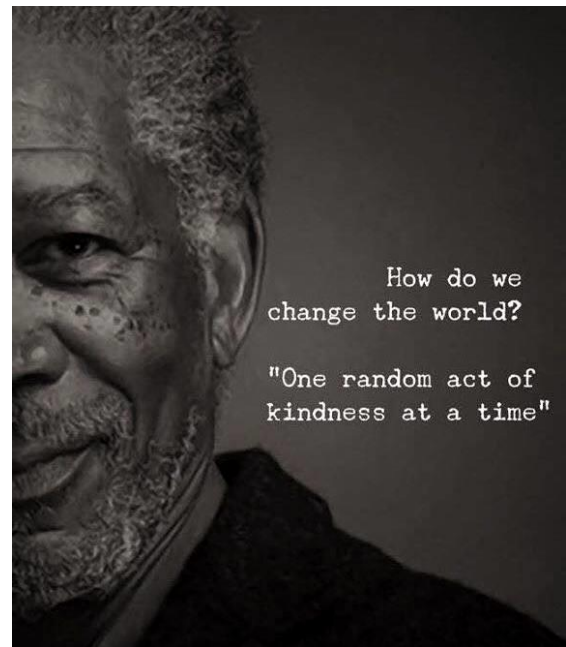
OUR UPCOMING BUILDING PROJECT 'LET THERE BE HOPE-PHASE 2' is on track. There are a couple of government formalities that need to be completed and we expect to start work within

the next couple of months. As mentioned in past news-updates, this facility totalling approximately **4500** square feet spread over two floors would both provide living facilities for our girl-children as well as additional rooms for our School project-Hope Educational Centre. Once again, we invite all of you to make a one-time investment in helping us make the '**Let There Be Hope-Phase II**' a reality. Each **square feet** of built up area costs **INR 1,300** or **U.S.\$ 25** Yes...**YOU** can make a difference!

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

➤ May2: Deep

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

NEWS ALERT...

Coming soon-our new website