



HOPE CONNECT

NOVEMBER 2018 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:

WORLD FOOD DAY- OCTOBER 16

CALCUTTA is a city of contrasts! While you have the 'World's Most Recognizable Address' – the Trump Towers' built by Mr. Trump, Jr., and other high-rises, you



have over 40% of its people (of over 18 million) living in slums. I have always desisted from posting pictures that 'glorify' poverty! But this edition of Hope Connect is different! As I mentioned in our last update, **October 16** is commemorated as the 'World Food Day'. The primary reason behind this celebration is to secure and advance the food security across the world, particularly in days of the crisis and in countries such as ours, here in India. The annual celebration of World Food Day also helps in increasing awareness of the crucial need for effective agriculture and food policies to be implemented by governments across the world to ensure there is sufficient food available for everyone worldwide. The theme for this year's World Food Day is: **"Yet to Come"**.

And this is the reason why we emphasize on food and celebrate **World Food Day** here at the Hope Home Calcutta:

- India has been ranked at the **103rd** position among **119** countries on the Global Hunger Index [WHI], according to a report prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide

- India is also among the 45 countries that have **"serious levels of hunger"**
- The ranks of countries are based on four key indicators - undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting
- **Child wasting** refers to number of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition



- India is ranked below many neighbouring countries, including China (25th spot), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67) and Bangladesh (86). Pakistan is placed at the 106th position
- Although there has been a gradual, long-term progress worldwide in reducing overall hunger, but this progress has been "uneven"
- As per the report, around 124 million people suffer acute hunger in the world, a striking increase from 80 million two years ago while the reality of hunger and undernutrition continues to have a massive impact on the next generation
- About 151 million children are stunted and 51 million children are wasted across the globe

We, at the Hope Home Calcutta celebrated the World Food Day by distributing groceries and food supplies to 3 needy families from

the local community! The food products and groceries are enough to last a family of 4 for



one whole month. **Rajesh**, one of the recipients of our 'Food Bank' on the World Food Day is a 'toilet-cleaner'-considered a 'low' and 'demeaning' job here in India meant only for the lowest castes. He makes less than Rs.6000 (US \$ 90) every month. He was ecstatic to receive the goodies and was all smiles! He mentioned that nobody, absolutely nobody has ever invited him to their home and provided food supplies for him and his family! What a joy for us to be part of his life! Once again we invite you to join with us to provide food supplies to the poverty stricken families in our community. It costs us around **INR 1200 (USD 25)** for each family to receive the food supplies and daily necessities for a month through the Hope Home Calcutta Food Bank!

FIELD TRIP TO THE BEACH

WE were able to take a 2-day trip to the sea-beach at Digha, just over 3 hours by train from the city for a much-needed break! The children especially, lost no time in running to the sea-after we checked into our hotel! A special attraction this year was a brand-new



indoor swimming pool in the hotel we usually stay put. The kids and staff spent most of their waking hours by the waters! This was a much-deserved time of bonding,

fun, games, swimming and fellowship! Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing the children excited, happy and smiling!! Wish we could do this more often!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSORSHIP opportunities are available for children both at the Hope Home Calcutta and the Hope Home Imphal. Please consider investing in the lives of the children, especially the girl child in either of our locations. Do write to us for more details! Join us in this transformational ministry of changing lives-in the- one life at a time!

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord, so often times, as any other day
 When we sit down to our meal and pray
 We hurry along and make fast the blessing
 Thanks, Amen. Now please pass the dressing
 We're slaves to the old factory overload
 We must rush our prayers before the food gets cold
 But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more
 To rally give thanks to what I'm thankful for
 For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
 My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head
 I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
 Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know
 Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure
 Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure
 Thank You, dear God reside in that place
 And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace!!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!
 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

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