



## HOPE CONNECT

### MAY 2019 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:

**DURING MY TRAVELS** over the years across different places, I have met many people with a great sense of urgency and passion to 'do something' for those who are 'less privileged'! While many of them plug in with organizations they come across through referrals or marketing materials, many of them hold back, hesitating, not knowing what to do and how to go about translating the goodness of their hearts into tangible expressions of service to others. A few however struggle with this thought: *'What can one person make any difference?'* To them, as well as others, I would like to say that you



**do** matter! Some come and visit; many share their resources and donate; still many others pray earnestly and faithfully regularly. Everyone of you are important to us. Your prayers, sacrifice, giving, visits and encouragement means the world to us! Thank you for being part in this transformational movement of the Hope Home Calcutta!

#### EDUCATING TO EMPOWER!

**WE ARE THANKFUL** to Jenny Watson and her team at the Denver-based non-profit 31:20 for taking the initiative once again this year to fund the start-up to the new academic year for the children at the Hope Home Calcutta. All of the children got new text books, stationery, new school dresses and shoes, new school bags and a fresh coat of

smiles and they start the new school year! A special thanks to all who pitched in towards this. We would like to help provide for



more children to be able to come and study in our School, especially those from economically deprived and dysfunctional families. Our focus continues to educate the girl child-and this is the reason why:

- One out of every **six** girls do not live to see her **15<sup>th</sup>** birthday in India
- Girls are often compelled to drop out of school as they grow older to help with work at home, earn money or get married
- Out of the 'out-of-school' children, over **65%** are girls
- Girls make up **two-thirds** of illiterate in India
- In 2012, the United Nations declared that India is one of the **most deadly country** for the female child

There are more facts and figures, heart-wrenching statistics. I have often iterated that many of the children in our own School would never had seen the light of education and learning had it not been a priority for us to equip, educate and empower them!

#### IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE!



**WE WERE ABLE** to add to our facilities and improve our infrastructure for children and students of our School. We got new desks and chairs for our Play Group and Nursery classes [so far, we had incorporated

the Montessori method for 3 and 4 year old children where they would sit in mats]. The kids are all excited to have these brightly colored tables and new chairs. We also built a small shed for the Nursery and Kindergarten children for their recess time; they no longer have to go to the field during this time. It has been extremely hot this year with the heat index touching 110F with cent per-cent humidity! And it's only the beginning of May!



*the old generator*



*the new generator we want to purchase*

**OUR 19 YEAR OLD** hand-propelled diesel generator 'retired-hurt' last week! The dealer informed us that it is impossible to get spares (the diode plate and rectifier needs replacements). More importantly, only 2 of us at the Hope Home Calcutta are able to rotate the hand-held lever to start the generator. We are desperately praying to be able to purchase a new gen-set [KOHLER 5 KVA] costing INR 1,55,000 [USD \$ 2460]. There are frequent power outages and both our facility and the field (where the girls are presently lodged) are often plunged into darkness. Request you all to prayerfully consider pitching in for this urgent need!

### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES...**

**A FEW CHILDREN** at the Hope Home Calcutta and the Hope Home Imphal (our associate organization) are still in need of regular commitment of support to enable them to live, study, be equipped and empowered and grow up in an environment of love and security. Most of these children, would otherwise never had a decent upbringing and no access to education. Please consider getting involved and invest in the life of a child!

We would especially like to highlight one of the kids who came in the last week of April.

**Solomon** (*name changed on purpose*) is from the eastern Indian state of Orissa. His father died of brain stroke on March 29, 2019. He was a Pastor of a small rural congregation. It is a common plight in most families in India that the wife and children are suddenly left without any support whatsoever when the husband/father dies and are plunged into poverty-like situation overnight. Solomon's cousin has been with us for the past several years. Solomon has a younger brother back at home. They come from a very remote village in Gajapati district of Orissa belong to the Kui tribe. They are so backward-there is no basic civic amenities and no infrastructure- that they don't even have electricity in their homes. The mother has decided to keep his younger brother with her for the time being. Solomon joined the Hope Home Calcutta family in April!

### **UPDATE ON OUR BUILDING PROJECT**

**WE ARE AWAITING** for one final piece of documentation- conversion certificate from the land revenue officer's office before we are permitted to start building! We would request you all to kindly uphold us in prayers that the same would be issued by the end of May so that we could prepare to start the ground-work for the construction by June! It has been a long, long wait for us, often stretching our patience (while we cling to our faith in God!)

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

**Be a voice, not an echo!** - Author Unknown

**THANK YOU** for being part of the extended family of the Hope Home Calcutta!

### **Dev and the Hope Home Calcutta family**

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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 - [vvcc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://vvcc.churchcenter.com/giving)**

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