



HOPE CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:

16th FOUNDATION DAY

AUGUST 1, we celebrated our 16th Foundation Day. 16 years of God's unending faithfulness, love, care, protection and provision for the growing needs of our ever-



growing transformational movement that is the Hope Home Calcutta! For the 8th consecutive year, we organized the Hope Home Calcutta Annual Fete on August 3 at



our facilities. This year, we had a record number of visitors come for a time of good food, games, fellowship and bonding! The Fete also provided the opportunity for all our staff and care-givers to meet together after many months! We are so thankful to God to be a 'difference-maker'. Over the years, we have impacted hundreds of lives in our community and shaped the future and destiny of countless individuals. We have been able to equip, educate and empower several hundred boys and girls and rejoice that many of them are now creatively engaged in career activities in schools as teachers, the IT sector, banking industry, hotel management, private sector executives and allied fields and social service! Some are also pursuing higher education. We humbly and gratefully acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without your prayers, sacrifice, encouragement, guidance and sacrificial giving! Thank you for being

part of the Hope Home Calcutta extended family and standing with us side-by-side! Thank you from the core of our hearts! One particular matter of thanksgiving is the **health** that the Hope Home Calcutta community enjoys! We are surrounded by illnesses such as dengue, malaria, gastroenteritis and other contagious diseases in the community we live in. God has protected us from every such illness. None, no, not one of the children, students and carers have been affected by such illnesses over the years even once! Many of those living at our facilities have not taken any medication (including vitamins) for months! Such is the goodness of God we experience in our everyday lives!

INDEPENDENCE DAY - AUGUST 15

AUGUST 15, we celebrated the 73rd Independence Day of India at our School. We were privileged to have Asit Ghose, former Head Master of Bratachari Vidyashram School-one of the largest schools



in this vicinity as our Chief Guest and hoist the Indian National tricolor! The students put up a colorful performance of patriotic songs,



dance sequences, skits and poems. We are thankful to God for the freedom we enjoy in our nation, especially in operating a Christian non-profit organization and a School to educate and empower children!

HOPE EDUCATION CENTRE

WE HAD A SURPRISE intake of students in the first week of August (although school

year in most schools in India commence in April). A friend of mine from overseas started a work of reaching out to children from marginalized families and facilitating their



educational requirements. Most of these children come from far-flung villages where education, especially education of the girl child is treated with contempt! The children began attending our School from the August 1. There is a great probability that most of these children would otherwise have been working in the fields, doing house-hold chores or given to marriage by their families had they not been taken care of by this particular centre and admitted in our School! Students of most of the junior classes suddenly have a bunch of new friends to play with at School! Once again, here's why we focus and prioritize on educating children, especially the girl child:

- One out of every **six** girls do not live to see her **15th** 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

THE DIME CHALLENGE

A MID-YEAR REMINDER: our April Hope Connect detailed plans for a fresh initiative of the 'Dime Challenge'. The idea is to encourage students to save up their 'dimes' in a 2-litre pet bottle (of say, Coke, 7-Up etc.) and they could save at least a minimum of \$350 over a 10-month period. During 2017, students from several schools

took this up as part of our 'Send My Friend Back To School' initiative and raise up a substantial amount of funding that enabled us to sponsor the education of a few of the students in our School who would have otherwise not had the opportunity to get a proper education in their lives. We are once again encouraging students and children to take up the 'Dime-Challenge' and label their collection as 'Dimes for Hope'! All funds raised up in the 'Dimes for Hope' campaign would be utilized both for supporting students hailing from extremely poor families besides some urgently needed school furniture, namely desks and benches for the classrooms! Come, be a part of this life-changing initiative!

LET THERE BE HOPE - PHASE 2

'LET THERE BE HOPE-PHASE 2', is in its final preparation stage and would be submitted to the municipal authorities later in September. We are praying to receive the sanctions in a couple of months and plan to start work on the foundation by December. Once complete, we would be able to house our girl's dorm and additional facilities for our School. We urge you all to kindly uphold us in prayers ('Come, let us rise up and build...' Neh 2:17) and prayerfully continue to provide for this project that would impact and change the lives of many boys and girls!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

DON'T aspire to make a living; **ASPIRE** to make a difference! – Denzil Washington

THANK YOU for being part of the extended family of the Hope Home Calcutta! We are blessed immeasurably! We appreciate your visits, letters of encouragement and emails!

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 clearly for Hope Home Calcutta)

ONLINE - vcc.churchcenter.com/giving

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