



Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in Jesus' name from all of us at **Children of Faith Missions (COFM)**. We are excited to let everyone know that the two of us will be visiting California and other locales on the West Coast from late April into May, and that we are very much looking forward to the opportunity to meet with sponsors and supporters.

As part of our trip, we will be visiting schools in the Bay Area to learn more about best practices in teaching and managing school operations. We have a longer term vision of opening a larger school campus to provide high quality education to not just the COF kids but those in the surrounding area.

School is going really well! The kids have shown significant improvement in critical thinking and interactive learning since we began our own school last year at the COF facility.

We have also been blessed by a larger than normal number of visitors to COF in the past several months. It has been a great joy to us and the children. Looking forward to more visits this year.

There is much more good news to share about what God is doing at COF, so please enjoy this newsletter.

Blessings,

Rosie and Anand

TENTH GRADE EXAMS

In the Indian Education System, performance in Tenth Grade exams plays a vital role for the future of the students. Based on the marks received, students have better chances for admission to good colleges and in pursuing the career stream they wish to follow.

Last year four kids took the exams and passed. This year three kids (Kinnera, Shanthi Nakka & Abhishek) are appearing for these exams from March 27th to April 16th. They have been working hard, and we are sure that they will do very well. They have a total of 11 exams which include:

- *Mathematics I & II*
- *English I & II*
- *Telugu I & II*
- *Hindi*
- *Science I (Chemistry & Physics)*
- *Science II (Biology)*
- *Social Studies I & II*



Kinnera, Abhishek, Shanthi Nakka

GROWING UP AND OUT

Kids Leaving for Technical Work

Some of the kids who joined COF at ages 9-12 had no prior educational skills. A number have now completed their basic education, but don't have the skills to continue in higher education. They do have some extraordinary talents in other areas.

We have talked to a few people who are willing to help these kids by providing paid jobs. Some of these include working in photo studios, painting buildings, tailoring, being sales persons, and computer technicians. The children are very excited about the opportunities. We believe all these children will excel in whatever jobs they do and will remain warriors for Jesus wherever they go. We will be able to continue to be part of their lives, mentor

them, and help them when needed, even though they will no longer be living at the COF facility or be requiring financial support. We will be bringing in additional kids to replace those that move on. Below are the kids now looking for jobs:

Girish Padala, Kamesh, Krupa Rani, Kusuma Kurakula, Murali Krishna, Neeraj, Prasad Kurakula, Raj, Rajesh, Samuel Gondu, Shanthi Kalum, Vamsi Nakka, Victor Potnuri, Vijay Ganti

Kids in College

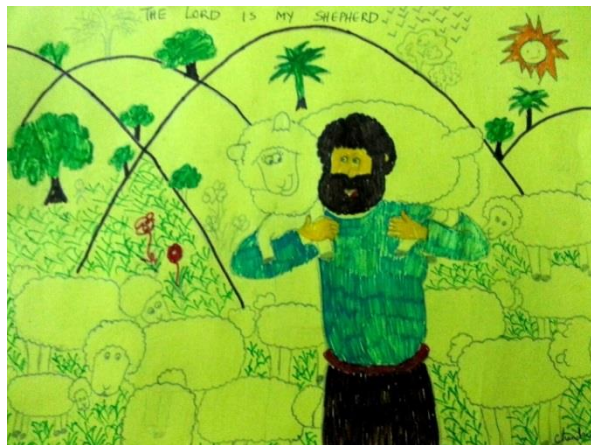
Out of the four students who passed their tenth grade exams last year, three of them, Divakshi, Girish Sagarapu and Satya Jatla, will be getting support from the government starting in June 2014 and will no longer need COF financial support. The fourth child, Vinod, is aiming to become a Mechanical Engineer, so he is in a private college without any help. COF will continue to support him for few more years.

Please continue to pray for the protection, guidance, and safety of the children as they grow, head out and take up their new roles.

VIGNETTE OF COF CHILD



Chandrayya comes from a tribal village in Odisha, where there are no schools, hospitals or basic facilities. The family could not afford 3 meals a day or proper shelter. Chandrayya became part of the COF family 5 years ago. He has discovered many talents and art is one of them as you can see below. He especially enjoys making birthday cards. Chandrayya has a strong faith in Jesus. He suffered from migraine headaches for a year, but God healed him completely.



CHILDREN HEALTH

In November a team of local doctors provided eye, dental and health exams for the children. The checkups found the children overall in good health.



On another medical note, we had no sickness during the monsoon season and flooding that occurred in October. The new water purification system that was installed in January of last year blessed us with clean water during this season.

PRAISES

- Health of the children.
- Fruit garden and banana trees.
- Blessing of many visitors.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Students taking exams.
- Children moving onto technical work and college studies.
- Safe travels for Rosie and Anand during their upcoming USA visit.
- Join Chandrayya in praying for his sponsor who had been diagnosed with a severe cancer.

VISITOR PERSPECTIVES

From being met on arrival by dozens of children welcoming us with a "Praise the Lord" greeting, to dancing and hugs on our last day, our week at COF could be summed up by one word, *joy*. We got back as much as we gave, we taught and were taught. The highlight of our trip to India, better than seeing the Taj Mahal or riding an elephant at the Amber Fort, was the annual COF Christmas celebration. There was dancing, singing and skit performances by the kids, but the highlight was the spontaneous dance celebration as we waited for the Christmas dinner feast to be ready. Happy Birthday Jesus!

We miss Suvarna (the child we sponsor), and all the other kids, but the memories are still vivid and God willing we hope to return. -- Dan & Lynn Menegus



Christmas Party



A field trip to the beach, we all participated in the simple pleasure of being splashed by ocean waves.

Visiting Children of Faith is a special blessing. Nowhere else could one receive such a wonderful welcome and so quickly become part of the "family". Beginning the moment we arrived in the driveway, greeted by over 100 smiling, beautiful faces, we could feel the love and warmth of God through these children.



They reached out with their hands and their hearts to learn from us and unknowingly to teach us that although God may have made us different from

each other, we are also the same, created in his image and filled with joy. With patience and kindness they taught us cricket and their beautiful stick dance. Their jubilant songs about Jesus in English and Telugu were beautiful. We saw how they care for each other, living examples of Jesus's teachings. Leaving was difficult, it would have been impossible except that we know we'll be back this summer with 45 high school students from LOPC. The children at COF cannot wait, and neither can I. -- Virginia Ross

VISITS DURING FALL & WINTER

- Jim & Donna Wiens (10/2013)
- Dan & Lynn Menegus (12/2013)
- Virginia Ross, Colleen Whitelock, & Kris Ramirez (1/2014)
- Dick & Barbara Abel, Andrea Cochran (2/2014)

MISSION TRIP & FUNDRAISING

"As the Father sent me so I send you" John 20:21
This summer Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) will be sending 45 high school youth to Children of Faith. They will be working on several projects at the Children's Home to complete the new boys' dormitory and improve existing facilities. In addition they will offer a "Vacation Bible School" experience to the children at COF.

The LOPC youth are raising money to help cover their travel expenses and purchase supplies for the projects by selling "Youth Shares". Anand and Rosie will be sharing at the morning worship services on Sunday, May 4th at the Lafayette church campus.

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church (WCPC) is holding a celebration dinner and fundraiser on its campus on May 9 at 6:30pm. Funds raised will go towards helping to furnish the new dormitory. Rosie and Anand will be at this event as well.



Examples of some of the furnishings needed for the new dormitory.

For more information, visit our new website at childrenoffaithmissions.org.

BOARD MESSAGE — JOHN KOPPEL

What a blessing it's been for all supporters/donors of Children of Faith Missions to witness the great things God is doing in India. Construction of the boys' dormitory is almost completed and an improved method of teaching is being instituted at COFM's school. A post-graduation scholarship fund has been established for the children in an effort to pay for college or trade school in order for them to continue their education and for future job placement opportunities. Just as amazing is what is happening at COFM in the States. Many professional and skillful volunteers are helping with an improved school curriculum, organizing upcoming mission trips, and facilitating fundraising events. The wonderful letters and pictures that have been sent by the children to sponsors were organized by volunteers.

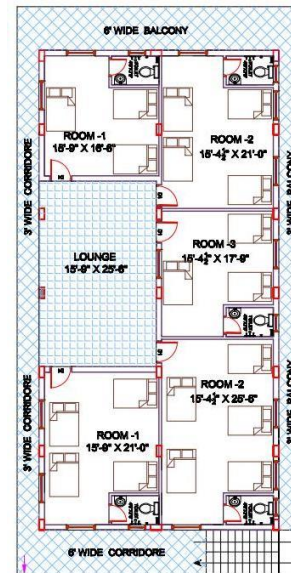
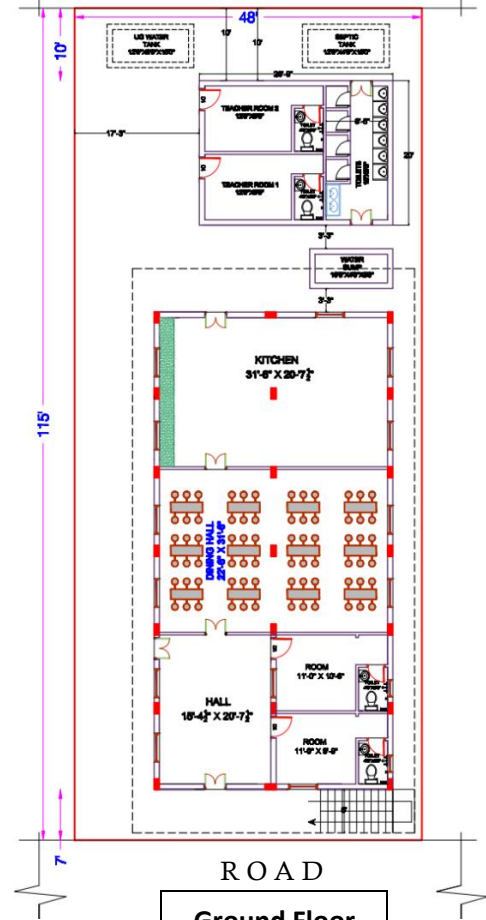
Our directors, Anand and Rosie Thandu, have set a wonderful example of Christian love, which in turn, has motivated our volunteers to want to help the children. Please continue to pray for the children, Anand and Rosie, all our volunteers and our Board of Directors.

DORM UPDATE

The new dorm which we began construction on last October, is moving quickly towards completion. The physical construction will be complete next month. A youth group from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church will be visiting in July to paint the dorm.



The new dorm building will allow us to be compliant with government regulations requiring older boys and girls to be in separated living space, and it will increase the standard of living for our children. It will allow each child to have their own bed. (Typically right now two children share a bed with some using mattresses on the floor.) It will also create two spare rooms for volunteers from abroad to stay during visits.



*To donate, please make checks payable to -
Children of Faith Missions - and mail it to
"Children of Faith Missions,
P.O. Box 3453, Walnut Creek, CA, 94598."
You can also donate on-line at
www.childrenoffaithmissions.org.
Our email address is: rosie.anand@gmail.com.*