



Dear Friends,

Greetings and Christmas wishes to you from all of us in India.

There is not a single dull day at COF. With such a big bunch of kids we have frequent celebrations, daily fun and games, but thankfully no tantrums although we see boys being boys and girls being girls all the time. It gives us joy to see the older kids being more responsible towards the younger ones and helping out in many things. We thank God every day for each child he has placed in our lives, and our love for them just keeps growing as fast as they are growing up. God has helped us throughout this year with his plentiful grace and blessings.

This year has been a significant transition for us as we have moved, and are now living with the children on campus. We are even more joyful being their parents full time. They give us lots of happiness, and we feel much thankfulness getting to see the growth and maturing of each child as they excel in all fields.

We are truly thankful to God for everyone who is a part of this ministry. We are humbled by your love and encouragement, and deeply appreciate your prayers and support. You have been responsible for the transformations, joy, happiness, good lifestyle and salvation of the children. We pray that God would bless you richly, meet your needs, and fill you with the joy of Christmas. On behalf of your big COF family in India we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We love you very much.

Blessings,

Rosie and Anand

MORE THANKS GIVING TO GOD

Every year, even though we don't have turkey, mashed potatoes or pumpkin pie, we sit around as a big family and share things about what we are

thankful for. All the kids had many things to say about what they were thankful for. Here are a few:

- *I am happy that I can study. I love Math. (Spoorthi, 9)*
- *Every day I am enjoying eating the best quality rice (Sravani, 11)*
- *I love my sleep in my nice comfortable and soft bed (Sonia, 13)*
- *My family is broken and nobody would have helped me in my education but God gave me the gift of COF. (Anjali, 15)*
- *I am thankful that I am here at COF (Maunika, 12)*
- *I don't have a father but God has become my father and is helping me and supporting me in everything. (Naimusha, 14)*
- *Thankful for good staff, teachers, Mummy, Daddy and supporters (Ramya, 14)*
- *I fell down but I did not get hurt (Suresh Paul, 6)*
- *I love living here and this is my home (Manohar, 15)*



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Each year the children look forward to the Children's Day celebrations. This day is entirely dedicated for children. Teachers plan out many fun events and activities for the students. This has been our best children's day celebration. The kids have displayed great team work, sportiveness, healthy competition, confidence, creativity and imagination.



HOPE ACADEMY UPDATE

In early December eMi completed their Conceptual Design Report for Hope Academy. It provides the master plan for the site, building conceptual designs and floor plans, and site improvement design details. We are so grateful for the creativity, excellence and professionalism of the eMi team (www.emi2.org).

For 2017, we will continue with final design drawings, site improvements, and fundraising. Interested in learning more about Hope Academy? <http://www.hopeacademyvizag.org/about.html>.



Primary Block Concept Drawing

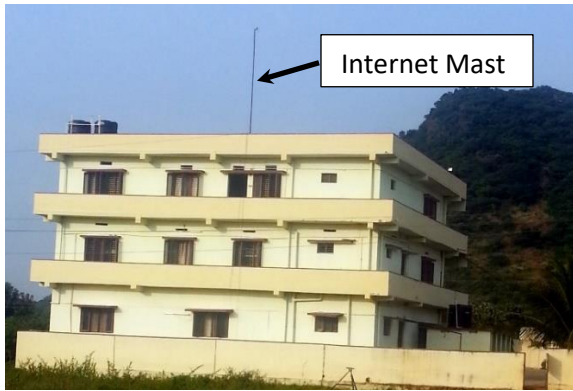
KNOW OUR STAFF—NAIDU



We are thankful to God for providing us with excellent staff. Naidu has been working for COF since the past 7 years. He is a hard worker and helps with bringing groceries, hospital visits, teacher pick ups and drop offs, and is the handyman of COF. He was single when he first came and got married to Satya who has been helping the children with teaching. The kids were part of their wedding in prayer and celebration. The kids love them both and are blessed with their care and love. We are thrilled to see God's blessing in their life as they are becoming a family now. They are expecting their first baby in late December.

PRAISES

- Protection and Provision throughout this year.
- Third floor of the boys' dorm construction is in progress.
- Kids have been healthy and happy.
- We now have internet service.
- Received a new shipment of high quality rice.



A RECENT VISITOR'S STORY

COFM Board Member and Hope Academy Advisory Board Member Dan Menegus recently spent two weeks at COFM celebrating his 56th birthday. Dan and his wife, Lynn, stayed in one of the guest rooms at the Boys' Dorm. He shares about their visit:

COFM is a "thin place," a place where the distance between heaven and earth seems to collapse. A place where it seems God is a little closer, a community where people share life together with a love for one another, where God seems to directly answer prayers more often, and where there is so much joy in simple things, a chocolate, finger nail polish, water spraying in the air, or a new pair of shoes. Our first day with the children we were welcomed by the children reciting Bible verses they had memorized in English and Telugu. We were amazed at the diversity of verses throughout the Bible which were shared, and the increase in their English skills since the last time we visited three years ago.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Demonetization has been affecting the country and its normal functioning.
- Satya, a staff member, is pregnant and the baby is due on 25th December.
- The Junior College students and the 10th graders have their exams in early March.

Special Prayer for India

On November 8th the Prime Minister of India announced that the 500 rupees and 1000 rupees bank notes would be invalid at midnight and new 500 and 2000 rupees notes would be released. The move was supposed to crack down on "black money," but it has caused an extremely high number of disturbances, inconveniences, a huge cash crunch, and has totally affected the normal lives of many individuals. God has been helping us during this situation. Please pray for India and the return of normalcy, peace and security for the citizens.

MORE SPACE FOR THE BOYS

The construction of the third floor has begun. The pillars and roof work is done. It is projected to be completed in March. This would provide reading /TV/Games room for boys and additional space for beds for the children. Thank you to LOPC for making it happen.



We brought with us 100 pounds of love that was supplied by many supporters: Laptops from Otis McAllister, school supplies from Shepherd's Gate, dozens and dozens of letters with small gifts from Haley and Maddie (two college students who visited during the summer), books, DVDs, candy, clothing, nail polish, water balloons,...The kids give a big thank you to everyone.



We ate well, spent lots of time with the children, got a number of issues resolved on the Hope Academy project, but the highlight was my birthday celebration. COFM really knows how to throw a party. The children performed skits, songs and dances. There was prayer and giving thanks, great food, good music, lots of dancing and joy-filled celebration of life and friendships. It was a once in a lifetime experience.

The hardest part of visiting COFM is leaving, there were many tears and hugs and well wishes. COFM is a long way from California, but a trip well worth making.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

This is definitely the best time of the year. The weather is just perfect, although many here may think that anything less than 75 degrees is COLD. We are all enjoying the weather and the fact that a shower once a day is enough, as opposed to two or three. It is extra special because of Christmas which the kids truly love and look forward to the singing, dancing, feasting, new clothes, school holidays, church services, decorations and of course making their own handmade stars.



SPONSORSHIPS AND COSTS



We are requesting a modest increase in our sponsorship rates for 2017—just \$5 per month. This is our first increase in many years, despite rising operational expenses. For \$40 per month (\$480 annually), you can make a huge difference in the life of one of the COF kids. Thank you for your generous support. If you make your contribution automatically through PayPal or a bank transfer, please remember to make the necessary changes to assure we continue to receive your needed support.

Picture: The main food staple at COF is rice. Every day requires 90 pounds of rice to feed all of the children.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your suggestions and feedback on our newsletter. Also, let us know if you want any information regarding the kids to be added in the next newsletter. We would love to hear from you. Also if you have prayer requests please send them in, the children would love to pray for you. Send them to Rosie at rosie.anand@gmail.com. You can get updates on our facebook page as well at www.facebook.com/childrenoffaithmissions.



To make a monetary donation, please make your check 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 online at www.childrenoffaithmissions.org. Our email address is: rosie.anand@gmail.com.