



Dear Friends,

Christmas Greetings to you from your big family at Children of Faith (COF). God has been so good to us and has showered upon us countless blessings this year. We have experienced His divine protection, provision, grace and abundance yet again, in amazing ways.

It is a joy to work with the children, and watch them grow, as they transform into beautiful children inside and out. They are showing very distinct qualities like helpfulness to others, readiness to volunteer, and a willingness to give and share with community; they are radiating God's love. This quarter, in particular, we were blessed with participating in many celebrations including Children's Day, Teacher's Day and many Christmas programs.

It was also nice to visit with many supporters during my recent trip to the US. Anand and I are once again humbled by your hospitality, generosity, love, encouragement and support, as well as by seeing how God is continuously adding enthusiastic supporters to the COF community. We are blessed to have you all in our lives.

Thank you very much for all you do for the children and this ministry. We pray that God would bless you this Christmas season with His love and mercy. The children, staff and both of us love you so very much! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessings,

*Rosie and Anand*

### CHILDREN'S DAY

School students all over India eagerly await Children's Day, which is held on November 14th of every year. This is the same for our children. They were all dressed up and participated in a variety of events, including sports competitions and cultural events.



As part of the festivities, we were visited by a group of local schoolchildren, ages pre-school to 2nd grade, who brought many treats for the children. The visiting students had a great time, as our children took good care of them and pampered them. The directors and teachers of the visiting school noticed that our children were very active, helpful, cheerful and talented. They added that they don't look like the stereotype of "orphanage kids," but present themselves like high class children.



### GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS

We have recently hosted a series of inspections from the Government. The COF Children's Home was required to meet several new licensing and certification requirements. Everyone who visited us was very happy to see how well the children are cared for and the good state of our facilities. We have now received all the needed certifications.

## NEW STAFF

We were able to hire three new staff members this quarter to support COF's accounting, boys' management and media. They are truly God given and have already fallen in love with the children.



Vijay, one of our first children at COF, has lived with us for the past 13 years and is now in junior college. Vijay's writing was chosen for printing by the Seeds of Empowerment's 1001 Stories Program. His book is now in the process of being published.



## HOPE ACADEMY UPDATE

Hope Academy is partnering with Nucleos to enhance the educational tools available to our staff and students. Below is the first paragraph from the [Nucleos press release](#).

### Nucleos and Hope Academy Announce eLearning Collaboration

#### Edu Apps and Learning Management System for Primary & Secondary Students

October 17, 2017 11:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. & VISAKHAPATNAM, India--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Nucleos Incorporated announces the establishment of a collaboration with Hope Academy for the development and deployment of an eLearning solution for use in their educational facility in Visakhapatnam, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. Nucleos will be working with Hope Academy's educational staff to craft a comprehensive local-cloud learning system to address the needs of the primary and secondary grade level students.

Additionally we are just finalizing our plans to begin site preparation work for Hope Academy in January or February 2018. The work will include grading, stream bed and road improvements, drilling a water well, and boundary wall construction.

## CONNECTIONS & PARTNERS

God has been adding many remarkable people to the Children of Faith community. We are blessed to now be partners with New Life Church, Alamo, CA, and also to be able to share our story and sign up child sponsors at Crossroads Church, Temecula, CA.

We have also been blessed by the ongoing connection with Stanford University and have benefited from their educational tools, training and tips. Earlier this year Stanford University sent a graduate to conduct workshops on story writing.

## CHILD HIGHLIGHT—KUSUMA



Kusuma is one of our new children at COF. She comes from a very poor family that was struggling to survive economically. Her father has heart problems and is very sick, but Kusuma getting the opportunity to live and pursue her education here

has brought him happiness. Kusuma is beautiful and petite, and has a charming smile and personality. She reminds us of a young Vasavi, who left early this year after getting married. In very little time, Kusuma has proven that she will succeed and have a very good future. She is in 2nd grade, and one of her favorite things at COF is the swing set.

## PRAISES

- Our new staff members.
- Rosie's productive trip to the US.
- The children have been healthy and are doing well in school.
- Rosie's mother's health has improved and the psoriatic arthritis is manageable.
- Money for a new bus has been raised.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- To reach our fundraising target so that we can break ground for Hope Academy during the first half of 2018.
- The health of Melinda McClure, a good friend and long-time supporter of COF.
- The children to remain healthy during the winter season.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Graders and junior college students as they prepare for their exams in early March.
- A need for two dogs, for site security.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The children are all in festive spirit and have enthusiastically made their own stars, decorated trees and lit up the place. Their faces lit up too when they all got new clothes. They volunteered in a Christmas event held in the community and helped with the decorations. Over 1500 people attended the event. Our children participated in the choir and performed skits and dances very brilliantly. Many said that our children's performances were the best, and that they made the event very colorful and more successful.



## A RECENT VISITOR

In September, Jenny Gonser—a junior at the University of Washington who previously travelled to COF with the 2014 LOPC mission team—visited again for a little over a week. Although her trip was brief, she squeezed in many activities, classes, and projects. She brought letters for all of the kids from students and leaders who went on the recent LOPC mission trip to COF in July of this year. Each student and staff member also added their own colorful handprint to a huge tree mural, a week long project that turned out to be very successful.



## HOPE FOR INDIA CLUB

Two Lamorinda Area high schools, in California, now have student clubs to support Children of Faith and Hope Academy. These clubs, both called "Hope for India," were formed by high school students who visited COF this past summer.

These clubs support us in two ways: (1) the high school students exchange "pen pal" letters with the children. This helps the children in India with their English reading and writing, and (2) the clubs conduct fundraising activities, with money raised going toward the building of Hope Academy. Helping fund Hope Academy is a natural fit for a local high school club!

The turnout for the clubs has been great, and Rosie was able to visit each club when she was here last fall. She spoke about the daily life of the children at COF and shared plans for a school that will educate COF's children, as well as hundreds of others in their community. Look for more news about the activities of these clubs in future newsletters.

Club member Riana Buchman says, *"By creating the Hope for India Club, we're able to remember the joy we experienced throughout our two weeks in Visakhapatnam and allow others to get involved."*



## OPERATING A VERY BIG HOME

The full operating cost for the Children's Home and school is about \$1000 per child, per year, or about twice the amount of the annual child sponsorship donation.

Our biggest cost is food. Rice, chicken, fruits, vegetables and other groceries to feed our large family of over a 100 is about \$30,000 annually. Our cost to employ staff and teachers is relatively low at about \$22,500. Then we have utilities, school supplies, clothing, maintenance, medical, transportation, and various other miscellaneous costs that round out our operating expenses. We do everything we can to get the most out of the generous gifts we receive.



## COOKING CLASS FUNDRAISER

During Rosie's recent visit to California she shared some of her Indian Cooking secrets at two cooking classes. These classes were graciously hosted by COF supporters, and attended by other supporters and friends. While sipping mango lassis, the students chopped, stirred, mixed and garnished. They then sat down and enjoyed the dishes they had made. Guests donated \$200 each to join the fun and the proceeds from the classes will help Children of Faith buy a bus to transport the children to church and around the community. The classes were very popular, so look for similar opportunities on a future visit by Rosie.



## WE LOVE BIRTHDAYS

We had a huge birthday party for Aakanksh, who just turned one. He is the son of staff members, Naidu and Satya. The couple arranged a delicious feast for the children and invited over 150 relatives and friends. It was a fun evening filled with laughter and smiles. We also celebrated birthdays of a few sponsors who provided for us to share in celebrating their special day. If you would like our children to celebrate and pray for you on your birthdays, anniversaries or special days, let us know.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your suggestions and feedback on our newsletter. We would love to hear from you. Also, if you have prayer requests, please send them to us; the children would love to pray for you. Send them to Rosie at [rosie.anand@gmail.com](mailto:rosie.anand@gmail.com).



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](http://www.childrenoffaithmissions.org)  
Our email address is: [rosie.anand@gmail.com](mailto:rosie.anand@gmail.com).