



Dear Friends,

Christmas and New Year greetings to you from your COF family. Our hearts are filled with gratitude towards the Lord for all His goodness and grace that He has showered on us this year. The children remained healthy, have done exceedingly well in school and have displayed strong attributes of responsibility and caring for each other.

Although our nest is never empty, it is sad when the older children move on and leave the facility for higher education, careers or marriage. We are joyful that they all are doing well, but we miss them. One of the highlights of the year was when a group of older children paid a surprise visit for Rosie's birthday. My heart knew no bounds of joy. The children, who played on our laps, are all grown up and look so tall and handsome with beards and trendy haircuts. All of the children who came back said the happiest time of their lives was when they lived at COF and they miss their big family. Moments like these boost our energy and commitment to serve, and to be the best parents to these precious children and many more to come.

We are very thankful to all our friends and supporters for being behind us and enabling us to do what we are doing. We are able to make an impact in the lives of these precious ones only because of your love, encouragement and generosity. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Blessings,

*Rosie and Anand*

### ROSIE'S AND ANAND'S VISIT

Rosie and Anand were fortunate to make an extended visit to the US this past autumn. During their stay, the Hope Academy Team held a retreat to plan ahead and reflect on the progress that has been made from the start. Rosie was also able to attend a COF board meeting in person. They were able to meet many supporters, and speak at New Life church

and WPC. The growing interest and support towards the children and Hope Academy has been encouraging. Rosie also visited Lord of Life Church in Chicago and discussed their ongoing commitment to Children of Faith. In addition, while in Chicago, Rosie explored a possible new church connection. Anand loved shopping at his favorite store, Office Max, for office supplies and stationery for the children.



Hope Academy Team Retreat

### SCHOOL PROJECTS WEEK

During projects week, the children displayed a high level of understanding of their lessons. They had to present on a specific topic with visuals. Ramesh, our mathematics teacher, was very proud of his students, including Lokesh and Naveen, who built a "Geometric City" demonstrating various shapes. All students did very well in their presentations.





## CHILD HIGHLIGHT—DAVID



David has been in the children's home for six years. He comes from a very poor family, and a village where there are no schools or facilities. He embraced the opportunity to study here, and while once a shy kid, he is now very outgoing and is often the life of our parties.

When asked what he was thankful for, he said, "When I broke my arm badly after a fall from a tree (4 years ago), God helped me during the surgery and now I can still swing the bat and play cricket well, and I can also dance all I want. Everyday I'm thankful."

## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

It has become our tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving with a chicken dinner, curried potatoes, rice and Indian sweets. The favorite part is when the kids raise hands and share what they are thankful for. We do this couple of times a year. Below are few of their answers: "I am thankful..."

Suguna (age 7): "For this family and that I get new clothes and good things."

Siva (age 13): "For the bus so we can go to church, and the park and beach."

Jeebon (age 15): "For the earth, all of creation and the universe."

Ramyasree (age 7): "For all our sponsors."

Naveen (age 9): "I got to go to the cricket stadium and watch real cricket."

Sridevi (age 16): "I get to study in a good air-conditioned junior college campus."

Vijay (age 17): "This year was special as I was able to write three songs, and had my story book published."

Anjali (age 15): "That I learned how to knit, and I can use the cap I made this winter."

Shantivardhan (age 10): "For the staff who take care of us 24 hours each day."

Vishnu (age 9): "Many people around us were sick with bad fevers but God protected us."

Avinash (age 16): "For my 10th grade scores and that I'm going to technical school."

Paul Victor (age 8): "For the supporters who are working hard for the school project."

## VISIT TO A CRICKET MATCH

All the children were invited to watch the finals match of the Vizag Super 20 Cricket Tournament in a real cricket stadium! The children brought in more excitement to the event with their cheers and drumming. At the closing ceremony, the children performed dances amongst the crowd of cricket players, organizers, spectators, and the distinguished politicians who were the chief guests.



## PRAISES

- We had a safe and blessed year in 2018.
- We received a grant for musical instruments and sound equipment.
- Anand and Rosie were able to visit the US together.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Hope Academy project. After the Mid-Summer Update was posted on the website, additional bureaucratic obstacles have arisen, but Anand is knocking them down, one by one. Please see the latest blog at [www.hopeacademyindia.com](http://www.hopeacademyindia.com) for additional insights.
- Need for music teachers.

## NOTE FROM A RECENT VISITOR

We were happy to have a visit from Amar Singh, his wife and sister, who have been supporting Children of Faith for over a decade. This is what Amar had to say after the visit.



*"Just to say we are impressed would be an understatement—we are HUGELY impressed. All the children are clean and neatly dressed in their uniforms, look happy and well fed, cheerful and friendly. There is a big emphasis on respecting and helping each other, like a family, with many of the older children helping the younger ones with responsibilities.*

*When we visited the classrooms, the children were totally ready and eager to show us their school notebooks, recite poems or multiplication tables, sing a song or act a bit, and speak with us. The handwriting we saw was wonderfully neat, and it is evident that the teachers are engaging the kids well in class. All the children who finished 10th grade are now enrolled in junior college, which is a great achievement. (My sister, who is a retired teacher in India, says the school is doing much better than she expected, and seems to be as good as or better than many other schools). The results are heartwarming, and we wish Rosie and Anand and their "family" happiness and continued success, both at COFM and in Hope Academy. We will certainly continue our support and personal involvement.*

## ANNUAL BEACH DAY

The children always look forward to their annual beach day. The bus now enables the children to go to the beach and parks more often. With two buses, 120 children, staff, and lots of food and snacks, we headed to the beach. Once again there was joy all around with the giggles of the children louder than the crashing waves. The children always behave very well, which makes it easy to take them anywhere.



## COF LOVES BIRTHDAYS

The children are always delighted to celebrate birthdays. In the past we've also had a few supporters fly in to celebrate their big days. Rosie recently celebrated her birthday and the children had many sweet surprises for her. She sure felt spoiled, loved and blessed.

Also, some donors have provided a \$100 donation which allows the children to celebrate your birthday (or anniversary) with a special event which includes providing a chicken dinner, fruit, cake and snacks for all of them.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The children learned new songs, dances and skits, and performed in three major events during the Christmas season, one of which had 2000 people in attendance. As usual, they amazed audiences with their confident performances. Each of the children also received a gift of new clothes that they look forward to getting every year at this time.



## REMEMBERING MELINDA

Melinda McClure went to be with the Lord on November 16th. She was a supporter of COF from the start and a prayer warrior for our mission. She will be greatly missed. Rosie was able to visit Melinda several times during her recent US visit, and she was also the last person to whom Melinda spoke. Melinda not only had a very special relationship with Rosie, but also was personally known by many of the children and staff. She visited India several times. Her final visit three years ago came after being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer two years prior. She desired to return one more time, and the children and many supporters prayed hard for this, and God allowed it to occur. We have this and many other memories of Melinda which we will cherish.

## SUPPORT US WITH AMAZONSMILE

When shopping at Amazon.com in 2019, you can support Children of Faith through AmazonSmile, because 0.5% of most purchases will be donated to COF! Signing up is easy and just takes a minute.

Visit AmazonSmile at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and select Children of Faith to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your account will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation. You'll log in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), instead of Amazon.com to take advantage of this new feature. Here is the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/32-0281925>

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your suggestions and feedback regarding the 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).*