

SEPTEMBER 2018



Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone from India! Through God's grace and your prayers, we are all doing very well. The children surely have made us proud this quarter through their hard work and accomplishments in school. We praise God for the difference between now and the days when we had to send our children to various public and private schools, all of which failed to engage and inspire our students. It gives us tremendous joy to see the steady improvement over the last 5 years. They are not only getting good scores, but are also gaining good intellectual and problem solving skills.

We are proud to see them grow physically, too, getting healthier and stronger. They are now becoming more resourceful, learning to help out with chores around the campus and in the office.

You have been instrumental in helping the children succeed. Thanks for your commitment, prayers and generous support for the children. We all love you very much and are praying for you.

Blessings,

Rosie and Anand

Rosie's Visit

Rosie's May trip to the US went very well. Once again, we were filled with gratitude and were encouraged by the growing support for the children and the construction of Hope Academy. We are blessed to have so many churches praying fervently for the children and for God to continue to guide us. It was a joy to attend and represent India in the opening ceremony of the women's conference of New Life Church, Alamo, in which over 500 women participated. When I return to India, my suitcases are often loaded with chocolates, candy, balloons, stickers and glitter pens for the children. But of all the things I bring back to COF, what the children look forward to the most are the letters from their sponsors and their pen pals.





OFF TO COLLEGE!

The 10th graders have done extremely well and have all passed with flying colors. They have been enrolled in one of the top junior colleges in the area. It is an air-conditioned campus and the children are super thrilled about it. They go to college six days a week and are working very hard. Likitha scored the highest on her 10th grade exams and says, "I never thought I would go to school and be the top of my class. All my family and villagers are stunned by this. I am so glad to get this opportunity. I want to get the same kind of results in junior college too."



BACK TO SCHOOL

The new academic year has started with a lot of planning by the teachers and enthusiasm from the children. The teachers have been very encouraged by the children's performance. The new school calendar is filled with lots of fun and engaging ways to learn, and also a sports week that is coming up in November. The new academic year is always fun for the children as they get new textbooks, notebooks, uniforms and shoes.



GROWING BONDS

One of our favorite things to do is to watch the way the children interact with one other. We love the growing bonds and relationships, and the care for each other that they display. The children are helping each other with their homework and chores. Shown in the picture in the next column is Praveen Paul who is in grade 4, and Charan who is in grade 5. They are always seen hanging out together and playing cricket, and always sit next to each other during devotions or dinner time.



The girls are very much into doing each other's hair, painting fingernails and toenails, and trying on each other's clothes. Vaishnavi and Pooja are best friends and were wearing the same kind of hairstyle for a fun Friday night party. They, like all girls, can chat for hours. When Pooja wasn't feeling well, Vaishnavi brought in food and medicine to Pooja's bed and took care of her.



CHILD HIGHLIGHT—PAUL VICTOR



Paul Victor is 7 years old and studying in grade 3. He has been at COF for a year now, and is one of our youngest children. He comes from a very poor family in the tribal villages, where there are no facilities or resources. Paul loves standing up in front of the group and reciting a memory verse or a rhyme, enjoys watching TV and just

running around. He always sports a wide smile, which looks especially cute with his missing tooth. He loves motorcycles and cars and wanted a picture on one. Paul said, "Daddy, when I ride a motorcycle for real, I will wear my helmet. My teacher told me in class about driving safely on the roads."

MOMMY — CAN WE KEEP THEM?

Many children are into things that move. They love all kinds of bugs, butterflies, squirrels, rabbits, pigeons, dogs and hens. They love to take care of their pets and feed them daily. They also want to make everything their pet. The monsoon season has been full of beautiful butterflies, and the children love butterfly watching. The boys found a cute puppy and wanted to keep her. Sparky, the puppy, somehow ended up in the girls' dorm though.









PRAISES

- 10th graders passed exams with excellent scores and received admission to good junior colleges.
- All our children did well in the past school year and moved up to the next grade.
- God's protection of all of the children during the hot summer months.
- Receiving the building permit for Hope Academy after a long wait.
- COF was one of the few Children's Homes that passed a national audit.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Hope Academy construction. Learn more at www.hopeacademyindia.com.
- The health of one of our long-time and passionate sponsors, Melinda McClure.
- Continued protection and good health of the children and staff during monsoon season.
- A music teacher for the children.
- Additional Board members for the Hope Academy US Board.
- Rosie's upcoming US trip at end of October.

SUMMER AND MONSOON SEASON

God has continued to give us protection through the hot summer months. Now—as we face the monsoons—we rely on Him again. It is only the power of God that keeps all safe and healthy. Many people in our state and our neighboring states have been sick, suffering with viral and dengue fevers. But miraculously our children have been healthy and have not had any significant health issues. Of course, they have to constantly be reminded to stay hydrated. It has been very green all around us due to lots of rain.



RAIN OR SHINE - IT'S GAME TIME!

The children always look forward to their "games hour." The children in other schools have long school hours, plus significant travel time and private tutoring after school. It is a blessing that the children at COF have lots of time to play and relax, in addition to studying hard. The children love to be outdoors, and enjoy playing all kinds of games including hopscotch, kabbadi (Indian game), tag, cricket, throw ball and many others.



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

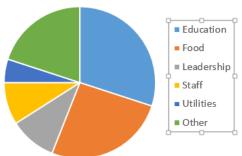
One of our strengths is a hard-working and passionate Board of Directors that works very diligently on behalf of us and the children. Our newest addition to the board is Steve Ahonen.

Steve has been a supporter of Children of Faith for 15 years. Steve says: "It is my privilege to serve on the board of Children of Faith Missions. After retiring from 38 years of work in the Pittsburg Unified School District where I served as an elementary teacher, football coach, high school principal, elementary school principal and a district level administrator, I am now the Director of Hope Academy for Dyslexics in Concord. I think that it is wonderful that the name of my school is the same as Hope Academy in India that is being built in Vizag".



HOW ARE DONATIONS USED?

It takes a little over \$1,000 to house, clothe, feed and educate each child. Education and food are the two top expenses.



"Education" in this chart includes not only the operational costs of the COF school, but also the cost of junior college for the older children. Many of the children have two sponsorships, one for general care including housing, clothing and feeding, and one for education.

This is only the operating budget, which excludes any major maintenance or capital expenditures for the facility. Last year we spent over \$50,000 US, to build out the 3rd floor of the boys' dorm and purchasing a bus to transport our children to various activities.

INSPECTION/AUDIT GOOD NEWS

Recently we had government officials from the Child Welfare Committee come and perform a social audit and detailed inspection of our facility. This is being done for all the Child Care Institutions throughout India as directed by the Supreme Court and the Juvenile Justice Act. We fully passed the audit. The officials were very pleased, saying our facilities and how we operate are excellent. They did give us a few recommendations for further improvement.

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.





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.