



# Heartland International Ministries

Spring 2020

## LOVE IN ACTION ORPHANAGE

Love in Action (LIA), an orphanage in Bangalore India, is operated by Nancy Anthony and supported by HIM. LIA currently cares for 25 children ranging in age from 3 to 19. The children are provided with a safe and loving environment, physical and medical needs, school and Christian education. Love In Action was started by Nancy's parents, Enoch and Carunia, and has been in operation for 15 years. Her mom, Carunia, was an

orphan and always dreamed of starting an orphanage to help the poor children. Since her mom's passing seven years ago, Nancy has taken the responsibility of running the school and taking care of the day-to-day needs of the children.

The daily regimen for the children includes Bible study, songs, school and chores. They are up early before school to recite scripture, have devotion and sing songs. A vegetable



garden and a children's choir have been started and many of them are learning to play musical instruments.

With the help of H.I.M. and generous donors, a roof project has been started before the rainy season. The new roof will provide a dining and study area for the children. There is still work to be done but progress is underway.

The Love In Action home is under constant threats from Hindu neighbors and the children frequently face persecution at school. Some of the children have special medical needs to address. As operating costs and medical bills continue to grow, they need prayer and financial support now more than ever.



### IN THIS ISSUE

Sharing the Gospel

Fred's Trip to Bangladesh

Agape Ministry

# ROCK STANDING



**Byron Whetstone,  
Executive Director**

**T**he news of the last few weeks has been extraordinary as our world faces historic challenges with the growing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Amid the stress and uncertainty, it's never been more critical to stay connected with one another, even as we practice social distancing to reduce transmission and keep each other healthy and safe. And there has never been a more important time to look to our Lord Jesus. Let me share a brief story with you.

I have an attorney friend who e-mailed the other day and asked how I was coping with all of the events and instructions being reported in the news. I said, "Sometimes I'm feeling up, at other times I'm feeling down, but I'm finding comfort in Jesus". He replied, "I thought you'd say something like that".

At the time of this interaction I thought very little about the brief exchange, but I have known this man for 30 years, I know his wife and I know all five of his children. I began to wonder if this brief encouragement was something to be used by God as a good work prepared beforehand. As I reflected further, I have come to realize that yes that was the intent of the words created in Christ Jesus. Well dear friends, if that off-the cuff testimony about finding comfort in the Lord Jesus can be used by God, imagine what can happen when we intentionally pray for guidance and the Lord moves us to help people across the globe with tangible good works to share.

When we are deliberate in our giving of the good given to us, this is an act of FAITH AND HOPE given to us by the Lord to do. Not because we want to brag but because God knew we would do so before it ever happened. I also think of the great King David, despite his numerous setbacks he was always in search of God's will for his life. Sometimes, we all think that God has abandoned us only to be drawn back by an instance, a circumstance or an event where suddenly we realize we have not been abandoned at all. God was using us to do good works or to reach out and care for those less fortunate than we are, which he prepared in advance for us to do. What has God called you to do that you are trying to ignore? Are you wondering if this is his will? We are all under pressure in most every part of our lives but I think we need "to do" for others the work, the giving, the support, the conversation that God has prepared already for us and already knows that we will. To God be the glory. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron Whetstone".

Byron Whetstone, Executive Director

***"For by grace  
you have been  
saved through  
faith. And this  
is not your own  
doing; it is the  
gift of God,  
'not a result of  
works, so that  
no one may  
boast.***

***<sup>10</sup>For we are his  
workmanship,  
created in Christ  
Jesus for good  
works, which  
God prepared  
beforehand,  
that we should  
walk in them."***

(Ephesians 2:8-10)



# SHARING THE GOSPEL

In northern India, Pastor Lawrence S. and his family have been serving the Lord faithfully for decades. Lawrence is completely dedicated to making the Word of God known throughout India. He holds a massive open air Christian program every year that draws crowds close to 10,000 people. For several days people gather to hear guest speakers, to worship, dance and celebrate. These open air programs are a miraculous event in India because of the intense persecution from Hindu neighbors and the government. Lawrence has gained the trust of local leaders and the police help protect the crowds. The ministry that Pastor Lawrence has built is amazing. He travels to preach and teach in house churches almost daily.

Even though his ministry is growing, he continues to do village outreach in very remote areas. The ministry visits among the slums are painful to see.

It's common for them to have severe poverty and disease. Most people are homeless or live in small huts and suffer from various diseases. They have no money to get medicine or medical help. There is little food and the small children go without clothes. He describes the first time he had been to the village Pimpi. It is in a very



thick forest and took 4 hours by motorcycle to get there. It was a hard tour through forests, mountains and narrow roads to the village. When he arrived, what he saw made him feel such sorrow for those living there. He said it was absolutely dry; there was spiritual famine everywhere he looked. There were only two believers in the village and the other tribal people are lost. They don't know who Jesus Christ is; there are no churches, pastors or schools. The people are humble, loving and very simple in the way they live. They are extremely poor and live in mud and hay houses but are very hungry for the Loving Word of God. It was a glorious opportunity to preach the Gospel. He performed the very first marriage and child dedication at the village. Please pray for his ministry, health and finances so that he may continue his tireless work of making the name of Christ known to every Indian.





# NEW STORIES START HERE WITH FRED'S

I am so deeply grateful for those who take the time to read, ponder, and care for the ministry God has given us. We live by faith and in constant awe of God and His Word. *Psalm 34:3 - Oh magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.* Yes, we are in this calling together!

After many months of preparation, planning, logistics, and messy mysteries, I left on January 7th for Bangladesh. I was determined to somehow plant the seed and make a spiritual impact with the Rohingya refugees driven out of Burma. I had many practical tools like flip chart pictures, visuals, wordless books, solar powered Bible stories and music devices in their native language. We had created sim cards and zip drives with everything possible in the Rohingya language.

I was completely consumed with this huge mission in India, Nepal and Bangladesh! I connected with team workers and Christian leaders in these countries to work together on reaching the Rohingya people! Our Bangladesh partners, Sanga and Binod, were waiting our arrival to help us move on to Cox's Bazar. The Rohingya community in Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp is where more than 900,000 refugees live in crowded sprawling settlements after fleeing Myanmar's violent



ethnic cleansing campaign in 2017. It is presently the largest refugee camp in the world with only a small number of known Christian believers among this persecuted Muslim group. The affects were astonishing as we tried to encourage and empower some of the lowest of the low in these despicable refugee conditions!

The HIM office created an "official" letter/document that was a lifesaver as we faced high

security roadblocks. The security guards called the commanding officer who came to our vehicle looking like a five star general! He stared at me then stared at the document, paused, and then waved us forward and let us go through! PTL! I doubt if he could even read the document written in English!

There are very few known believers among these refugees and the ones that are there have been severely persecuted both by their own people and the Bangladesh/Burma authorities. We have been able to establish strong relations and connections with these precious believers; trapped as refugees and persecuted Christians. There was also a group of approximately 200 Rohingya refugees in Delhi that I was able to meet with and with the leaders in their church.

We had many divine appointments where we were able to plant the seeds and resources to influence these





# HEART AND MISSION TRIP TO BANGLADESH



seriously UNREACHED people. Of course, the international humanitarian aid agencies have given this area physical help. But nothing, nothing spiritual! To give them the presence of God or hope of eternal life was amazing! There were so many moments where God was at work.

In one little dirty makeshift tea shop, we stopped to mingle with the Rohingya people hanging around. Of course a foreigner is rarely seen sitting in a tea shop! This drew a curious group of people while I was having fun with the children. We pulled out our solar device full of scriptures and music in their language and began to play it. They

were shocked and so excited to hear something so new in their language! Remember, these are people who have never heard of Jesus before. There were two little brothers running the tea shop, they were probably 10 and 12 years old!!

*Psalm 34:3 - Oh  
magnify the Lord with  
me and let us exalt his  
name together.*

When it was time to leave, I paid for the tea. When the two brothers opened their little cash box, I put the solar radio device

with all the music and Bible stories in the box. The little boys just glowed and stared at me as I shut the box giving them a signal to keep it private! Yes, a real 007 moment!

There are so many more stories! Please pray that I can write and communicate more about these things, by the grace of God. But we know eternity will tell the whole story. HIM cannot do these things and be involved with practical relationships and partners without your prayers and help. We are believing God to raise up spiritual and eternal givers/donors to help us maintain and follow up on so many of these opportunities and open doors for HIM.



# AGAPE MINISTRY SHARES GOD'S

Three years ago, after meeting Fred Kornis, Suraraj became a Partner and Leader Servant (PALS) of H.I.M in India. He oversees a ministry called Agape Ministry that shares God's love through education and sharing the Gospel. The ministry is planting churches and running several children's ministries in Odisha and on the border of Andhra Pradesh. He recognizes that by God's grace the Lord has been using him for the last five years to do the mighty work of the Lord.

Suraraj works with two pastors on the Church Planting Ministry and three teachers in the Children Centers. They have planted three house Churches so far. He needs regular support

for this ministry so the pastors and teachers can continue to work. The three Children Centers are located in different places, two in Odisha and one in Andhra Pradesh. The centers are all about helping poor children with tutorial classes and most importantly teaching them about the Bible.

Agape Ministry also ministers to the people with leprosy. Right now there are 17 leprosy patients in a colony separated from their family and kept separate by Government. Suraraj and his ministry visits them and encourages them to come to the Lord. Occasionally they are able to help those with leprosy with household items or grocery items when they have the money.



Suraraj feels strongly about his purpose of communicating with women and villagers to carry on God's work. It is very difficult to go directly and



*The Children Centers are all about helping poor children with tutorial classes and most importantly teaching them about the Bible.*



# LOVE TO THREE CHILDREN CENTERS



share the gospel to any village in India, especially in these difficult times. His approach of running the Children Centers and holding holiday activities are very essential to sharing and building friendships with them. This has had great results in the villages he is in.

For the last five years Suraraj

has not had regular support for his ministry. His prayer and our prayer is that the Lord will open the doors of regular support for his ministry so that he may carry on the task which the Lord has given him to do. Suraraj would like to open a few more Children Centers in Hindu villages to extend the work of God.





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- Donate \$120** – A sewing machine for someone to earn a steady income.
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- Donate \$10** – A Bible given to someone in a developing country.

We are a network solely built on the donations of generous people like you. At H.I.M., we steward the gifts we've been given to better communities across the globe. Every little bit helps. **Here are examples of how your donations help those who need it most:**

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE