

December 2014



Let me introduce you to Jayaseela, who resides at the Kancheepuram Home. We are asking you to pray for her. Jayaseela's mother committed suicide. Since her father had abandoned the family, she is now a full orphan. Suicide in India is such a problem, maybe ten times the rate as America. It is a reminder as to how hard life is in India, and without the hope of Christ, what hope is there?



This is a photo of the Patna Mercy Home girls in their new winter uniform (we also purchased coats, gloves and hats). This purchase was made possible by one church who sent a gift just for extra clothing....we are so thankful and praise God for His abundant gift through all of you! Patna is in Bihar State (for Bob Seger fans, such as me, it is near Katmandu, Nepal) and January and February temperatures are in the 30's and 40's. This

may not sound too cold to us in the Midwest, but imagine having no heat in any of the buildings (the girl homes and schools).

We have asked for your special prayers at Christmas time for the children. Pray that all our children would realize the true meaning of Christmas this year. Hindu people are very aware that Christmas is a big holiday for Christians, but they compare it to one of their Hindu festivals, and fail to see the significance of a real event in history. We want our children to see that it is more than a time for lights and presents, kind of like we here want that for our own children.

I promised an explanation of why we have as much turnover in children as we do. Tom Curry has provided us with the following explanation of the current situation:

*As to reasons they leave the home, this year the state gov't of Hope Home implemented major reforms to its oversight of homes for children, mainly to reduce child trafficking, which is a major problem in India. The gov't is requiring all homes to have only children from their own district (like our county). This meant during the summer break, many of our children were transferred to homes in the counties where their relatives reside. We do worry about our children who went to other homes, as many of these homes do not give near Hope Home quality care.*

*They also leave the home as their family situation improves. For many this is good, as maybe a widow mother who could not care for children would get married. For some it is not good, as the family realizes the child is old enough for child labor and demands they leave the home to work in places like brick factories. If relatives demand the child leave, there is nothing we can legally do. If you resist, they bring the entire village in protest threatening to burn the buildings. As you can see, there are many things that you can continue to pray about for our former children.*

Our prayer for all of you is that you would have a fulfilling Christmas season that moves in slow motion, allowing you to enjoy it for what it is....a celebration of the birth of God's greatest gift to us, for us to enjoy and for us to share with all of the rest of the world!

Merry Christmas,

Dave

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