



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Serve One Another in Love

By David Fyfe with Bruce Large, HOINA Board Members

At this time of year in America, we often hear a lot about love. When asked, a couple of our older children told us what they think about love.

According to my knowledge Mom gives us unconditional love. Even my own mother does not share this much love and affection to me. If I make a mistake mom will correct me in a smooth way and when I do good things Mom encourages me lovingly. If I get good grades in school Mom will be very proud of my achievements and shows her love with many hugs. Here, so many children do not have parents but our HOINA children don't feel that we don't have parents because Mom and Papa treat us as family. Always Mom shows us love like this and treat the HOINA children as her own. I have also heard Mom question the staff and ask them "If he is your own child would you behave the same way?" This shows how much Mom loves us and we love her.

~ Sunil



HOINA's Papa Bruce Large is in India this month. Please keep him in your prayers.

HOINA is one big family. We love one another and help each other. Our parents are Mom and Papa. Because Mom and Papa love us so much, they care for us like their own children. Staff are very good also, they treat us like their own brothers and sisters. Here we have very good facilities. Things like

food, shelter, clothes and education we do not have at our own house which we have at HOINA. We are happy to be here and love HOINA very much. HOINA also helps the surrounding neighbors. We love Mom and Papa and America. Mom spends a lot of her time with us because she loves us and Papa

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visits twice a year even though he has had surgery on both knees. So we don't feel that we don't have parents because there is Mom, Papa, and the staff that love us so much and we too love them. This is how HOINA provides love.

~ Alak

As I spoke with the children about love I couldn't help but notice that they did not speak of material possessions that the media in the U.S. would have us believe is at the heart of this holiday. At the heart of what makes HOINA work is that it is truly a HOME for these children. As I had some conversations with my York College students, they explained to me that when they talk to their parents they now correct them when someone refers to HOINA as an orphanage ... No, it is a home, and there really is a difference!

This year, I brought my largest group ever from the college with 14 students. About half of them are either nursing or in health-related fields, so we set up a couple of hospital visits for them to see what the healthcare system is like in parts of India. Without fail these visits are usually very eye-opening experience for students, and this year was no different.

The evening before our hospital



visit I attended prayer with the HOINA girls and taught them a lesson based on Matthew 22:39 – “Love your neighbor as yourself.” I began by asking them what a neighbor is and who their neighbors are here at HOINA. They had many answers that included staff, teachers, classmates, and friends. When prompted a bit they included people in the surrounding villages and even throughout India and America. When asked how God wants us to treat our neighbors, many immediately responded with “love.” After reading several passages regarding what the Bible says about how we should treat our neighbors, we discussed the fact that we find many verses about loving our neighbor. Obviously, it is very important to God. If God wants us to love our neighbors like we

love ourselves, how can we practice that? I gave them “homework” in which they had to report back to me in a couple of days to give me examples of how they practiced loving their neighbors during the course of the next few days.

Little did I know that HOINA General Manager Anand and I would be doing our own homework that next day. Upon arrival at the government hospital for our tour, we noticed a man lying on the sidewalk with a mangled, maggot-infested foot. After repeated attempts to get the man some help, we were forced to leave him only with his wound cleaned and a few warm meals. Unfortunately, he, himself, refused to stay in the hospital for the surgery he so desperately needed.

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While this story does not have a happy ending, we learned several “lessons” from the day. The first one is that although his situation is not what we would like it to be, we felt that we did everything within our ability to treat this man as we would want others to treat us. We showed this man compassion and that we cared for him and wanted to see him get medical attention. In addition this man, the staff, the hospital director, and many people who witnessed our actions saw that we cared about a man none of us knew. However, unlike the parable of the Good Samaritan, this man would not consent to receive help,

and we could do no more for him. Lastly, the day served as a reminder that although HOINA cares for abandoned, orphaned, and destitute children in India, it is not possible to provide these services to every person who is in need.

The children at HOINA are not only cared for and loved, they are also taught about how they can care for and love their neighbors. Our next theme during prayer will be “service” and what the Bible says about serving others. While the York College students are here providing service to HOINA, it is also possible for the children of HOINA to serve

their communities as well. This week the HOINA children will work side by side with our York College students to whitewash a neighboring school and “serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13).

[Editor’s Note: Please read our coming issues to see how the York College students have grown from their visit. They and Papa Bruce should all be safely home by the time you read this, and HOINA President Darlene Large will be back overseas herself. Your prayers on her behalf as the weather heats up there are much appreciated.]



Remembrances



Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts in the second half of 2012. When requesting a gift to be listed in someone’s memory or honor, please include the name and address of the individual or family so we can send them an acknowledgment.

In Honor of

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Edward Wirbicki

Don’t Remind Me!

HOINA Board Member, Richard Curry, tells this story from his last trip in November. One afternoon during a lull in the normal hectic activities of the day, Richard was sitting at the entrance to the girl’s home. One of our four- or five-year-olds quietly wcame and sat down beside him. She took his hand and started examining it. After a little while she looked up at him and said, “Uncle, you are werry old.” She then stroked his face and declared, “Uncle, you are werry, werry old.” She then took off, looking very satisfied with herself for delivering the message. Richard was left chuckling and wondering who needs to be reminded?



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February 2014

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Teens Need Sponsors Too

Our February feature child is O. Chiranjeevi, who has been unsponsored since his arrival at HOINA on June 21, 2012. Like many children in the U.S., teens are less sought after. It is not too late to make a significant change in his life. Your financial support will provide him with the care and education he needs to pursue his goals in life.

Chiranjeevi's parents were married for 15 years and had two children. Chiranjeevi was born on June 7, 1999. His father got into a fight with someone who had borrowed money from him but never paid him back. In the fight, he sustained serious head injuries which proved

fatal just three days later. Chiranjeevi's mother took the children to live with her mother. When she was suffering from cancer, a local pastor saw the family's condition and approached HOINA to admit the boy.

Chiranjeevi is studying in 8th grade. He likes rabbits, the color blue, and a game called Co-Co. You can learn more about him by corresponding with him when you sign up to be his sponsor. Simply complete the coupon above and send it with your first monthly gift of \$35 to our Brownstown, Pennsylvania office.

