



NEWS FROM
HOINA
HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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No Such Thing as a Coincidence



Saying grace.

*By Bruce D. Large
HOINA Board Member*

[Editor's Note: HOINA Papa Bruce Large returned to HOINA in early February this year. He is now safely home again. This report captures his take on Hud Hud's assault on our little corner of India.]

For those who prayed for my recent trip overseas, I thank you. I can say that the trip from St. Louis to India was uneventful except for the weather delay. Any of you who are required to do any amount of air travel now know that there is no such thing as a good trip anymore. The standard is

bad and goes downhill from there. To generate a little sympathy for myself, I will say only that I ended up in a coach class middle seat for a non-stop 16-hour flight from Newark, NJ to Mumbai, India.

Cyclone Hud Hud which occurred in October, 2014, has been well reported in previous

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newsletters by HOINA Board Director, Richard Curry, and others. I want to present the story in a different light, or as Paul Harvey used to say, “Now, for the rest of the story.”

In September of 2014, several weeks before my wife Darlene Large’s return to the United States from her last trip overseas, the HOINA General Manager, Pastor Anand asked Mom to buy a chain saw for HOINA. She politely, but firmly, told him that we had no use for a chain saw, that we had no one who knew how to properly use a chain saw, and that they could be very dangerous when used by unskilled hands. Anand persisted in his pleading for the chain saw. He finally played his trump card when he said, “Mom, have I ever asked for anything before?” She admitted that he had not, so she relented and made the purchase. *God’s providence number 1.*

The chain saw purchase was made one month before the cyclone hit and only a few days before she returned to the U. S. Visak took a direct hit from Cyclone Hud Hud with sustained winds between 130

and 140 MPH. While small in size, the cyclone was powerful. The three districts affected by Hud Hud had a population of over two million people. The Emergency Management Personnel deployed by the state and federal government did a magnificent job of preparation, warning, and evacuation of people from the path of danger with the result that only three lives were lost in Visak, and less than 50 overall from the storm. *God’s providence number 2.* But now for the rest of the story.

HOINA Board Director, Richard Curry, had planned his trip to Germany and India several months earlier. His plan was to visit a former student, now a friend, working in Germany for a period of time and then continue on to HOINA for a visit of about a month. Hud Hud struck while Richard was in Germany. All flights into the city of Visak were cancelled because the terminal building was destroyed. Richard’s friend was able to get the flight itinerary changed from Visak to Hyderabad, and arranged land transportation from

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Papa Bruce Large sharing some grandfatherly wisdom with the HOINA girls.

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Hyderabad to the HOINA homes northwest of Visak. Richard arrived at HOINA just two days after Hud Hud to find the campus still reeling from the effects of the storm. ***God's providence number 3.***

While his journey was less than ideal, he arrived on campus to find a good news/bad news situation. The good news was that a brand new chain saw was on property. The bad news was that no one at HOINA had the training to operate it. This is where ***God's providence number 4*** appears. Richard has the knowledge and experience to operate a chain saw safely, and he trained our staff in safe handling.

Our local contractor had a back hoe/front loader already present on the property for our construction that has been interminably delayed. HOINA had over 150 children and staff—ready, willing, and able—to supply needed manpower for the massive clean-up effort of removing 291 downed trees and other debris left by the cyclone. It would not have been possible to move the cleared trees without the use of heavy equipment or so many hands to do the work. ***God's providence number 5.***

While you consider the time required to restore electric service after Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina in the U.S., marvel with me that HOINA's electricity was

fully restored within barely two weeks. This entailed running new lines and poles, as well as installation of a new transformer. In the meantime water was supplied from our old, original dug well. Without electricity we could not pump water from our deep bore well. How grateful we were to have that old well. ***God's providence number 6.***

Lastly, we truly believe that ***God's providence*** was apparent when we endured a Category 4 tropical hurricane with 200 children, 35 staff people, a foot of water in the courtyards of the homes for the children, debris flying everywhere, and no one receiving so much as a scratch. In case you were counting, that's ***number 7.***

Some people would shake their heads in amazement and say, "Wow, what a coincidence." I say "No coincidence: these are all the miracles of ***God's providence***."

Providence comes from the Latin roots of *Pro*, meaning "forward" and *Vident*, a form of "to see." Isn't that just what God's providence is? His seeing the future before we do? Knowing what we need before we even know to ask? How good Jesus is to us.

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These boys all lost their sponsors in 2014. Would you consider filling the gap and donating \$35/month to feed, clothe, house, educate, and keep healthy one of these young men?

HOINA Sponsor and Contribution Coupon



Name: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

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Account Number (on your mailing label): _____

Mail coupon to: **HOINA**
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Brownstown, PA 17508-0636



APRIL 2015

All donations are tax deductible.

I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one).
Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the
HOINA General Fund.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor/memory of
(circle one)

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Child Sponsorship Needed



Vanapalli Shanmukhanatha's parents were married in 2004. His mother was in 10th grade when the arranged marriage took place. The parents are close relatives. This boy's father was a truck driver and an alcoholic. He had a stroke, was paralyzed, and died in January 2009. His wife was pregnant with Shanmukhanatha at the time. When she went to the doctor for a prenatal check, she found out that she had HIV. Shanmukhanatha was born without HIV on March 6, 2006, but his mother could not take care of him in her sick condition. She approached HOINA in June of 2014, seeking admission for her son.

Shanmukhanatha's favorite color is blue, and he enjoys playing cricket. Who wouldn't like elephants living in India? They're his favorite animal. He hopes to be a doctor when he is older.

Would you like to make a difference in this young man's life? Please complete the coupon above. Thank you for giving a child hope.