



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • Summer 2014

Candles in a Dark World

By Darlene Large, HOINA President

When I was a little girl, we lived in a small apartment in a town called Glassport, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When the weather was cold, my mother would light a fire in the fireplace and read us stories from our favorite book, *Wings of Flame* by Joseph B. Egan (John C. Winston Company, Chicago, 1929). My younger sister Letti and I loved those stories. If Mom was busy, our Aunt Honey would read to us. The words on the front cover of my book have long since faded away, the pages are torn, and the book has words scribbled in the margins. Nevertheless, the stories are still meaningful to me some 70 years later.

One of those stories was called "The Light That Would Not Blow Out." I've retyped it here as the book is now out of print.

There was once a candle that would not blow out. It stood in the dark in a very windy place, throwing its feeble light over a highway where men and women struggled along through all kinds of misery. It had burned there so long that its sides were heavily coated with white wax that had run down and hardened. Now and then, as the throng passed, eyes were lifted gratefully to the light and, now and then, also, tired lips said a still prayer for him who had lit the light. But every once in a while someone left the crowd, bent over the light, puffed up his cheeks, and tried to blow the light out. At such times the flame bent backward and sputtered and gasped as a man struggling for breath, but not once did it lose its brightness nor release its hold on the black wick that fed it.

One day three very evil spirits came where



Recent high school graduate Upendra

the light stood. They all loved darkness, for the deeds they did needed the darkness to hide them from the eyes of men. "This will not do," said the leader of the three. "If this light is allowed to shine, others will be lighted also, and the road will no longer yield us a living. I will blow the light out." Whereupon, the leader of the three bent over the candle and blew with all his might. To his surprise the flame bent over beneath his breath but sprang

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David Sheppard, left and Pavan.

erect again as soon as its force had passed. Blow as he would, the flame continued to burn as happily as before.

“Let me try,” said the second spirit. Whereupon, he cupped his hands together and inclosed the flame and tried to smother it. At once the flame burned with increasing brightness and the heat that it gave off made the spirit cry out in pain and jerk his hands away.

“Let me try,” said the third spirit. With that, he pulled off his coat and threw it over the candle. Instantly, the coat burst into flames and fell down in ashes.

“That must be a good candle, indeed,” cried the people in the crowd. “Let us fashion candles of the same kind, light them from this one, and carry them along with us.” So saying, they drove off the evil spirits, made candles out of the wax that had hardened on the sides of the lighted one, and passed joyously on. And as the years passed, more and more people made candles and carried them until the dark road was lighted as though by a whole heaven of little stars.

Wings of Flame is full of stories about the doings of princesses and kings, about being the best we can be in life, and about helping others to succeed. As I look back over my life, I see how I battled one problem after the other. While I felt discouraged many times, I kept on pressing on. Over the years I have taught Native American, Venezuelan, and Mexican children, children from all over North America, and finally the children in India in our HOINA schools and hostels. While it was never easy, it has been gratifying. When problems arose, I, like the candles in the story, would press on and not let anyone blow out my flame. I am constantly encouraged to see the same kind of strength in the HOINA children.

The beginning of June saw the start of a new school year in India. We are proud to announce that K. Upendra (pictured on page one) has graduated from high school with the third highest marks in his state for his age bracket. His final exam score was 984 out of a possible 1000 points. This fantastic feat follows many struggles in his early life. Upendra’s father was an autorickshaw driver and struggled with T.B. for many years. Later, he and his wife both became ill with HIV/AIDS. Upendra tells stories of times when there was not much food to eat in the house since his mother was a housewife and had no paying job after her husband passed away. Through it all, Upendra worked hard to do well in school and was eventually brought to HOINA by a pastor, who ministered to the family through their trials. As an orphan, Upendra was shy and quiet, but he always studied hard and worked at whatever job his teachers or our staff needed him to do. He wanted to succeed. His gift is singing and always Upendra is willing to sing and to encourage his brothers in HOINA to do the same. We are very proud of this “candle.” We know that wherever he goes in life, he will be lighting the way for others and brightening his part

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Sorrow in Life Brings Brothers to our Doorstep



Pedapudi Sekhar



Pedapudi Srinu

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Tragic tale follows. Please use discretion if allowing your children to read this sponsorship article.]

If you read our cover article, you'll read about our latest success story, K. Upendra. Our graduates make us proud, and there are always children on our waiting list. As graduates leave us to go into the world, we are hoping to bring new orphaned children in. This month we would like to feature two brothers for you to consider supporting.

Big brother Pedapudi Sekhar was born on July 6, 2003, and his little brother Srinu was born on August 20, 2004. Their parents married in 2000 while their father was a barber. One day, his wife became upset after an argument and committed suicide by burning herself with

kerosene. The boys' father tried to rescue her, but he suffered severe burns. The mother died that day, and their father just three days later. The boys' grandparents were unable to care for the boys and approached HOINA for their admission.

These two boys have been with us in India since last summer, but we have not found sponsors for them. Might you be that special someone? Your monthly gift of \$30 will provide food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care for either of these boys. As school will be starting soon, maybe you could present this project to a class you belong to. You could band together to fund the monthly gift.

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of the world.

Many thanks to all of you who help us light the flame of love in our children. God will always be there to help keep their flame alive and glowing for others to follow.

Today, I think of the HOINA children and of how they have lit up the roads that they have traveled. One is the kindest and sweetest of nurses, another goes out on weekends in his city and feeds the

homeless and brings them blankets while others come back to HOINA to help their younger and newer HOINA brothers and sisters. The children work hard in their studies to become successful and to go out and make the world a better place for others.

Building Update

Please know that the Nesbit Ranji School is being built and will be a beautiful building when it is completed. We have had some early rains which are interfering with the construction but our staff say it will be okay as they are hoping to get it under roof before the worst of the monsoons begin.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:
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Summer 2014

All donations are tax deductible.

I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one).
Here is my first monthly gift of \$30.

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

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

(please give name and address of person): _____

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Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial and honorary gifts in the first half of 2014. 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

George Bright
Norma Cross
Al & Kathy Large
Amy Mowbray
Stan Norton Family

Gautam Ranji
Madeline H. Robinson
Donald Semon Family
Steve Semon Family

In Memory of

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Linda Campitelle Henderson
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John Kennel
Ella May Murphy
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Susan Nuckols (3)
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