



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • Summer 2015

Blessings in the Face of Despair

By Darlene Large
HOINA President

Many years ago I attended a Christian conference in California. An eighth-grade Mexican boy liked my Indian saree that I wore that day. He took my hand and led me to a seat next to his family. While I tried to listen to the pastor speak, I found I was unable to follow everything he said in his rapid Spanish. After a while I found myself thinking and wondering about various words from the Bible that he mentioned. My ears perked up when he mentioned the word *Cristo*, or Christ. I found myself thinking *I wonder what the word Christ means for me.*

I leaned back in my seat and looked up at the ceiling of the church, where I saw the letters in the word suspended in the air. They were written vertically. The *C* was unusually large. The word next to it was *compassion*. The *H* was for *holiness*; the *R*, for *righteousness*. *I* stood for "I AM" and *S* was for *steadfast Savior*; while *T* represented *truth* and *trust*. I was amazed. These words are so meaningful to me. In Bible study they appear often in God's Word. As I think back over the years and the work God has called

me to do for Him, I am humbled.

In the early 1980s, when we were doing work with leprosy patients, I made a friend in the leprosy colony (pictured with me below). Her nose was almost gone, and she had mere stumps where fingers should have been. Each time I entered the colony and she saw me, her smile would light up her face as sunshine displaces the early morning darkness. When I gave her a hug, tears would steal silently down her face, then down mine. I was unable to stop them. I thought

about the day when I was diagnosed

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Although many of us assign leprosy to the annals of ancient history, it is still present in our modern world. While India has more than its fair share of the terrible disease, there are approximately 200 cases diagnosed in the US each year, as well. Currently, antibiotics and other medications help treat the disease, but sadly, the stigma assigned to those patients exists. Being a leprosy patient can be a lonely life.



Blessings (continued)

with my health problem. I knew why she was crying: chronic illness is a lonely thing.

Now I say, "Here I am, Lord, with Multiple Sclerosis, and the neurologist tells me that the seven years of seizures left so much scar tissue across my brain that it looks like I am wearing a crocheted hat." Not many years ago, a doctor asked, "How are you able to walk, see, speak and hear, Madam? It is not possible. If I showed these films to my colleagues, they would never think that these films belonged to you." I pointed to heaven. He agreed. "I accept, Madam," he said and smiled. I left his office, praising and thanking God for all He has done for me.

My board members in India say I may look like a foreigner, but inside, I am an Indian mother. Mother's Day this year found me answering telephone calls and emails from a

number of our HOINA children. One of them works for a cable television station in India. He had just arrived in Newark, N.J. on an assignment. He arrived at 6:00 A.M. Sundar was so excited and announced that Jesus had timed his visit so he would arrive on Mother's Day. He always has perfect timing. After wishing me a happy day and saying, "I love you, Mom," he hung up. An hour or two later, two more HOINA grads called me to wish me the same.

To all of you who have become family to a HOINA boy or girl, I say God bless you and thank you. The children love your letters and photos that you send. They love you and so do I. They are wonderful and have begged me to remember to ask you to come and visit one day. You are more than welcome. We have a guest house on the property. Together, you and I, our HOINA volunteers, our

staff in India, our USA board, and our Indian board have saved over 4000 children. Some of those children are now saving other orphans. We've been quite a team.

In 1971 when I was given this heavenly assignment, I wondered how I would ever do it. I learned that the Lord does not give you a job to do unless He has planned how you will do it. He has a plan for your life just as He had a plan for mine. I know that if you ask Him for wisdom, He will grant it. Trust His leading to provide the direction you need.

Before I close this month, I have one more request. In May, our General Manager, Mr. Anand called me. The police had brought us an 11-year-old girl. Satyawatchee has lost both of her parents. Her aunt put this orphan girl in a home, where they beat her badly as she worked as

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Our HOINA girls playing jacks.

Blessings (continued)

their servant; so she ran away. When the police brought her to our campus, she was delighted. She announced to the staff that Jesus brought her there, and she loved everything about HOINA.

As we always do, the staff took her for a medical checkup. The doctor told them that she was HIV positive. Anand said when he prayed for her, he wept. He realized that the man where she worked as a servant had abused and molested her. Nevertheless, she could not stay with us because she would be a danger to our other 200 children. What did the *T* in Christ mean? It was truth. The truth is that Satyawatchee needs love and healing. Will you join me in praying for her and her future?

Darlene

We are grateful that the deadly heatwave that had plagued India has passed so that our playground can be put to proper use once again. The Indian government delayed the start of the school year due to the dangerous conditions. Now the monsoons have arrived, and with them, "cooler" weather in the 80's and 90's. (Everything is relative.) Please pray for HOINA President Darlene Large as she will be in India by the time this reaches you. We expect her back in the US in mid-autumn.



Become a HOINA Sponsor

This month we feature a sweet girl for sponsorship, born January 26, 2006. K. Siva Mani's parents were married in 1999. Her father worked as a truck driver. They had two girls. After the girls' father died in a traffic accident, their mother was so distraught she could not care for her children.

Siva Mani came to HOINA last summer, and she still awaits a sponsor. Would you like to support her for \$35/month? Your gift will care for all of her physical needs—food, clothing, a loving home, her school expenses, and medical care. You'll be providing for her emotional and spiritual needs, also, because she will remain a member of the HOINA family with sisters to live with who love her.

Siva Mani likes the color green, playing Chutes & Ladders, and she loves tigers, which are native to her area. She hopes her schooling will allow her to be a policewoman when she is older.

If you would like to support Siva Mani, please complete the coupon on page four and send it to our office with your first monthly donation. To simplify your giving, HOINA is able to take auto-debits from your checking account. Please contact our office for details.



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

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Summer 2015

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

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HOINA General Fund.

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

(please give name and address of person): _____

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Our social media presence is expanding! In addition to our Facebook page, you can now follow us with Instagram and Twitter. Please **like, follow, tag, and share** our organization to help us gain more awareness. As always, look to our formal website **www.hoina.org** for more information on our children and sponsorship.



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