



# PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS

JULY 2006

## From Tragedy to Hope in Kanuru

**T**he Untouchable fishermen in Kanuru village were wary of the weather the evening of April 12, 2005. It was very windy, and the tide was going far out to sea. The strong winds snapped some villagers' thatched huts off their foundations. The frightened families abandoned their huts, went to Kanuru's reinforced concrete church, and held a prayer meeting.

While they were praying, they heard a *crack!* and the roof began to sag and cave in. The lights went out. People screamed in the sudden darkness and made their way to the church's door. Thankfully, no one died, though eight people were injured.

The next day, church elders visited the victims. Workers removed the remains of the collapsed roof.

**K**anuru is a poor, low caste fishing village. The villagers' church and only school had been built over the past few years through the generosity of India Partners donors. When their church roof collapsed, the villagers could not afford to replace it. To this day, the church has remained four bare walls and piles of rubble.

Although the church building escaped total destruction, and

the congregation survived the church roof's collapse, fatal tragedy nevertheless found its way to Kanuru.

In January '06, a 5-year-old girl named Parvathi, the daughter of a faithful family in the church, was bitten by a poisonous snake that lay hidden among the floor stones piled up around the church. By the time she had arrived at a hospital, she had died.



The once and future sanctuary in Kanuru

When Pastor Babu, Director of Orphans Faith Home, heard the news, he was distraught. Through India Partners' support, Orphans Faith Home had built the church and shepherded the congregation.

Pastor Babu and his wife visited the deceased girl's family to comfort them. The entire village was so sad.

Feeling the little girl's death was partly his fault, Babu resolved to rebuild the villagers' church roof.



What is the future of these two Kanuru boys?

Babu went to the owners of the local cement and steel works. He explained how the church had been without a roof due to lack of funds, and

how a little girl had needlessly lost her life there. The shop owners were moved with compassion. They offered to provide their steel and cement on four months' credit. Babu wrote to India Partners' Executive Director Brent Hample, "I am so thankful for this great encouragement and blessing from the shop owners. Brother, please pray and find some sponsors for this great need.... Our church is fasting and praying for this special need."

Please pray and give generously. To rebuild the roof costs \$6,600, so if 200 people give \$33 each, or 100 people donate \$66 each, or 50 people provide \$132 each, then the church will again be a place of joy.

*Please join us to provide a safe place of worship for the people of Kanuru. Your prayers and gifts will bring them renewed hope. God bless you.*



## India Partners

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### Mission Statement:

Partnering with the people of India in ministry by cultivating relationships, sharing resources, and encouraging self-sufficiency, through the compassion and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

India Partners is a Christian international development and relief organization committed to supporting self-help ministry projects in India.

We believe in helping the people of India help themselves, with God's grace. All are served regardless of caste, religion, gender or creed.

Activities include orphanages, schools, literacy programs, church support, Bible training, disaster relief, vocational training, medical ministry, livestock loans and agricultural projects.

India Partners also manages short-term teams, speakers and sponsorship programs.

India Partners pledges to use your gifts in the most efficient way possible to help suffering people, and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our annual report and independently audited financial statements are available upon request.

India Partners is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax-deductible according to law.

Tax ID#: 93-1164757



Member of the Association of Evangelical Relief & Development Organizations



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## Working in India's Harvest Fields

[Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." *Matthew 9:38*

God has called Vijayamma and her husband as harvest workers to the village of Kanuru [article overleaf]. Vijayamma became a Christian about 15 years ago and was led to share the Gospel with the fisherwomen of her area. When she began her training and ministry, her husband was opposed to her work. Over time, however, he not only changed his mind, but he joined her. Now they minister together in the local fishing villages along the Bay of Bengal coast. Slowly they formed a congregation of about ten people. As they went from place to place, more and more people joined, until they had built a congregation of about 80 people.



Vijayamma: called to the harvest at Kanuru

*Vijayamma—along with other pastors and evangelists like her—is awaiting a sponsor like you to support her as she shows Jesus' love to those around her.* India Partners sponsors pastors because we believe in helping the poor in India holistically: in body, mind *and* spirit. When you give to your own church, you are supporting your local pastor. *Now we are asking that you support another worker in the harvest field.* Most poor fishing village families cannot fully support a pastor/evangelist from their own meager incomes. *But you can help. Your contribution of \$30 per month for a shared sponsorship, or \$60 per month for a full sponsorship, will help Vijayamma feed her family so she can work for the Lord of the harvest.*

For more information about our sponsorship programs for children, teachers, widows and pastors/evangelists, just call us or go to our website, [www.indiapartners.org](http://www.indiapartners.org). To sponsor now, please use the enclosed reply envelope. Thank you!

## Time to Get on Board



Flying this summer? To donate your frequent flyer miles to India Partners just call us: 1-888-870-9085. Thanks!

Go to India! Join an India Partners volunteer team. Our next two teams are set for Nov. 29–Dec. 13, 2006, and Jan. 2–15, 2007. Application deadlines are three months before departure. You will share the love of Christ with the poor of India and assist our partner organizations with their ministries. Our teams are coordinated jointly with DELTA Ministries International. To apply, or for more information, call Brian Stark: 1-800-533-5822, email him: [brians@deltaministries.com](mailto:brians@deltaministries.com), or contact India Partners.

## Fall Banquets in the Pacific Northwest

You are warmly invited to attend an India Partners' fall banquet, to be held in Federal Way, Washington on Saturday, September 30, and in Portland, Oregon on Saturday, October 21. These evenings of food, fellowship and inspiring speakers provide you and your friends an opportunity to learn first-hand about the ministries of India Partners.

Admission is free. Costs are underwritten by table sponsorships. Would you sponsor a table at one of these events? Tables in Federal Way are \$500; those in Portland are \$400. To sponsor a table, or for more information, call us toll-free: 1-888-870-9085. Thank you!

## Compassion & Miracles



In our newest video, we share heart-warming stories of compassion and miracles that transform the lives of an orphan boy, a disabled woman, a volunteer team, and an entire hungry village. The video also relates the history of India Partners, beginning from correspondence between an Indian pastor and an American supporter in the 1970s, to a church's child sponsorship program in the 1980s, to a nonprofit organization in the 1990s. To receive your complimentary DVD, just use the enclosed reply envelope, or contact us via phone or email.