



PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS

AUGUST 2006

God's Own Love, in Their Own Words

How do you spell "love"? Hundreds of physically disabled persons in the city of Chennai spell it A-G-A-P-E. Why? In India, the disabled are normally rejected by society and even neglected by their own families.

But Daniel and Avitha Victor have had the vision to integrate the disabled into society, so in 1995

they founded the Agape Rehabilitation Center. Since then, Agape has provided computer training to more than 250 young men and women stricken by polio, blindness or deafness, and extended job placement assistance to more than 200.

Agape is excited about constructing a new facility that will serve 100 students, up from their current

capacity of 24 (*article overleaf*). The Victors minister to the spiritual needs of their students, too, through their parallel organization, Jesus Enables Ministries (JEMS). Many students have expressed deep gratitude for the social, economic and spiritual transformations in their lives. Here, in their own words, are examples of their thanks and their concerns.

"The daily prayers at Agape are so good and give me peace...after many years I have started sleeping well at night."

– new student at Agape's hostel



"In the beginning, God created the blind and the deaf." – a former blind student of Agape (being guided at the computer by Avitha), now employed

"Nobody invites her; even relatives don't want to have her for even a day or two. But you invite her so lovingly and take her to the Camp." Said with tears in her eyes

by the mother of a wheelchair-bound young woman who has to be helped by carrying. The young woman seldom left home until she entered Agape Rehabilitation Center.



"The persons with disabilities in Agape have bright and cheerful faces, because they have hope of the future!"

– a Tamil Nadu state official, in conversation with the Victors during the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Agape

"I wanted to attend the marriage of my own brother in [my hometown], but my family refused to come and get me for this. Even when I volunteered to try and travel alone, they barred me from coming." – a wheelchair-bound Agape student (right), almost in tears

"Oh, so it is first sin, then salvation!" exclaimed a wheelchair user, grasping the meaning of the words during devotion time at Agape's hostel.

"When my baby was startled at the bang of the door, I thanked God, for I knew He has answered our prayers in giving us a normal hearing baby girl."

– a married couple, both with hearing impairment, having been blessed with a baby after 5 years and much prayer in the JEMS Prayer Fellowship for the hearing impaired

"...last year I was working in a packaging company for a salary of 500 rupees [\$11.00] per month. I had to stand from 8 in the morning 'til 7 in the evening. I had to do this job to help my poor parents. I thought I was doomed to this fate. But God has helped me. I cannot say how thankful I am to Agape for changing my life... I am filled with joy for this opportunity to learn computers."

– a current Agape student, speaking through tears of joy

"I am thrilled that I have been included in the dance program, as this will be the first time I will be on stage."

– an Agape student who walks with a limp, practicing for the "Candle Dance" in Agape's Christmas pageant



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



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Koka: ready and waiting

Ready and Waiting: Your Future Friend

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference for God's Kingdom in this world, right now? By sponsoring a needy child in India, you will profoundly change a life! Your monthly gift of \$30 provides food, clothing, an education, basic medical care and the love of Christ to a child in desperate need. Use the enclosed envelope to start your sponsorship today. For more information, go to our website, www.indiapartners.org and click on "Sponsorship Programs," or call us toll-free. Your support will bless and transform the life of your sponsored child. Boys and girls of all ages are ready and waiting to become your friend. God bless you!

Are You a Team Player?

Go to India on 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—less than a month away for the first trip. 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, or contact India Partners.



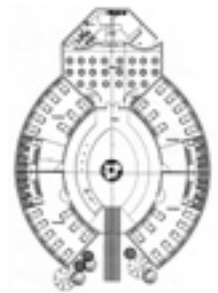
Bill and friends making eyeglasses

Agape Expansion on Track

Agape's facilities comprise two rented houses that total less than 2,000 sq. ft. This includes the classrooms, the hostel, and the Victor family's living quarters! Plans are underway for Agape to build a dedicated facility that will serve 100 day students and provide room and board to 70. Over \$100,000 of this \$605,000 project have been raised. *Your gift in any amount, designated "Agape Expansion" will help. Please give generously today. Blessings to you!*

URGENT UPDATE

In late June, the Victors learned that by December they must vacate the house where the boarding students and their own family live. Please pray for them to find suitable temporary shelter.



Agape expansion will house 70

Fall Banquets in WA and OR

You are invited to attend an India Partners' fall banquet, to be held in **Federal Way, WA on Saturday, September 30**, and in **Portland, OR on Saturday, October 21**.

Admission is free. Costs are underwritten by table sponsorships. Please consider sponsoring 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: 1-877-87-INDIA (877-874-6342).



Workplace Giving

You can make a *life-changing difference* in the lives of the needy in India, by donating to India Partners directly from your workplace. Your kindness will bless many. **Thank you for your support!**

• **Federal Employees:** If you are a federal employee, you are eligible to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. To give to India Partners through your workplace, select India Partners' CFC number, 1444.

• **State Employees (CA, FL, IL, MO, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TX, VA, WA, WI):** If you are a state employee in any of these states, consult your state's charitable campaign materials to find India Partners participant number.

• **Corporate Employees:** Designate India Partners as your charity and ask your employer to match your gift.

• **United Way Participants:** Write "India Partners" on your United Way form to designate us as your charity.

