



PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS

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The Best Christmas Gift

by Joseph Fancher

A colorful interlocking gear set is the first Christmas gift that I can remember as a young child. I can still picture that marvelous toy to this day. And I remember the considerable sacrifice my parents made when they bought me a brand new cello in my eighth grade. Now, my wife and I in turn have the joy of seeing the happy smiles on our children's faces when they open their gifts on Christmas Day. Let's face it: for many of us, our childhood Christmas was all about gifts, gifts, and more gifts—and, oh yes, the story of the baby Jesus.

For many of the children at Orphans Faith Home (OFH), though, Christmas is very different. They have had it tougher than we can possibly imagine. Take Mary, for example.

Mary, now 12, came from a Christian family. Her father, in fact, was the pastor in their village. Mary's simple life turned tragic. Her mother contracted cancer and died. Then her father also passed away. Shaken, Mary was sent to live with relatives. Like Mary's parents, they owned little. Totally unlike her parents, they told Mary she had to steal people's belongings and bring the items back to them to resell. Can you imagine yourself in Mary's sandals? I can't. One day, this young girl ran away from those relatives, not knowing where she was headed. That night she ended up with a beggar woman, so Mary stayed with her. As Mary's parents had taught her, she prayed to God for help.

However, Mary's relatives eventually found her begging at a local railway station. They took her away to a different village and put her in the "care" of different family members. At



"Thank you, India Partners, for Christmas"

this point, Mary had had as much as she could take. She actually planned to take her own life. That's how bad it was for little Mary.

The day she was about to end her life was the very day that she heard a loudspeaker inviting the kids in that village to OFH's local "Christmas for Street Children." She decided to go. Once she got there, the local pastor, Gnana, shared the story of Jesus' birth, and how Herod, the local king, tried to hunt down and kill the baby Jesus. This story hit home for Mary. Pastor Gnana invited the orphans and beggar children like Mary to trust in Jesus, who would help them become good children, and show them true fatherly and motherly love (which

many were yearning for). Pastor Gnana's words reached Mary's young heart. She and 14 other children went forward to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Afterwards, Mary went up to the pastor and told him her story. Gnana was shocked and saddened. He said to this new Christian, "It is all God's plan in your life, my child. Now you are saved. You are in the protection of your Heavenly Father."

Gnana and his family were so moved by the plight of this orphaned girl that they took her into their own home. Says Pastor Gnana, we are raising her "for the glory of God."

As a child, I received wonderful gifts. As parents, my wife and I like to surprise our own kids with special things. But Mary received the inestimable gift of Jesus' love, through a caring pastor and OFH's "Christmas for Street Children" program. What a gift they gave!



Christmas for Street Children now reaches hundreds of children in many towns and villages

Please use the tear-off form below to support this project and provide small gifts, big smiles—and eternal hope—for more children at Christmas. Thank you!

Here's my next gift!

\$30 \$60 \$125 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Where Most Needed Christmas for Street Children Other _____

I would like to sponsor a friend in India for \$30/mo.

Note: for teachers and pastors, shared sponsorships are \$30/mo; full sponsorships are \$60/mo.

child widow teacher pastor

I'm enclosing a check payable to India Partners.

I authorize India Partners to withdraw my gift of \$_____ per month, beginning ____/____/____, from the account on the **enclosed voided check**.

Withdrawal on: 1st of the month 15th of the month

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand I can have my automatic withdrawal stopped at any time.





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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Take Advantage of IRA Rollover Opportunities

Because of the stock market boom of the 1990s, many taxpayers have unexpectedly large Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Many people have more than sufficient funds to retire comfortably and do not need all of the money in their IRAs. Until very recently, the tax law acted as a disincentive for donating IRA assets, but thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, taxpayers age 70-1/2 or older can make tax-free distributions to India Partners

or another charity from traditional or Roth IRAs up to \$100,000 for 2006 and \$100,000 for 2007. Under these new rules, taxpayers can transfer IRA funds directly to India Partners without incurring income tax on the transfer. The donor may claim a charitable deduction only to the extent that the IRA was funded with after-tax dollars. For more information, consult your tax advisor, or call Brent at India Partners toll-free 1-877-87-INDIA (877-874-6342).

Holiday Matching Fund Drive

Through the support of generous donors, India Partners is pleased to announce our annual Holiday Matching Fund Drive. *Your gifts to our Where Most Needed fund received between November 1 and December 31, 2006, will be doubled!* Have you considered giving to the ministries of India Partners, but have waited for the right time? **This is the time!** Your donation of \$30 is doubled to \$60; \$60 becomes \$120! *Please give generously today. God bless you.*

Your matching gifts must be received in India Partners' offices by December 31, 2006. Thank you!

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.



Imagine groups of four kids, sitting in circles outdoors.

Now imagine one child in every group getting up to work in the fields or even beg in the streets while the other three go to school. You've pictured India, where 24% of children still do not attend elementary school, and where only six in ten complete the fifth grade. How can we help improve this situation?

You can help by sponsoring a child for \$30/month. Your sponsorship ensures that that child stays in school. Or picture this: a teacher is able to work in her classroom in village India—precisely because you

Sponsor 29 Kids – Or One Teacher!



are supporting her livelihood. You are sponsoring the teacher of *many* children!

What an impact your sponsorship will have. Just return the tear-off form below or go online to sponsor a teacher now. A full

teacher sponsorship is \$60/month, or a shared sponsorship is \$30/month: it's your choice. We will send you information and a photo of your teacher. Join those who help teachers like Mary (photo), an English teacher at Hample School. Her students are getting a solid, Christian education, so their futures look bright. Invest in many children by investing in a teacher! Thank you.



India Partners

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.

I would like to use my credit card to help:

Visa MasterCard

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Amount: \$ _____

Card No. _____



Or you may donate securely online using your Visa, MasterCard or Amex at www.indiapartners.org

I have included India Partners in my will

I am interested in:

- Joining a **volunteer team** to India
- India Partners' **Charitable Gift Annuities**
- Inviting a **speaker** to my church or club
- Learning more about being an **Advocate**
- Receiving India Partners' **prayer letter:**
 - via email via surface mail
- The **free biography** of Dr. Iris Paul, *Pioneering on the Pinda*
- The **free DVD** on India Partners' ministries