

RESPONSE

ISSUE THREE 2021



PAGE 2 CEO MESSAGE
PAGE 5 ADVENTIST EDUCATION HELPED SAROJINI
PAGE 6 WE ARE ON THE MOVE

 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY



DEAR SUPPORTERS

If there were a story of humble and unassuming beginnings, it is the story of Asian Aid. Asian Aid's story all began with a woman named Maisie Fook who responded to children in need.

Upon Masie Fook's retirement, Helen Eager continued to serve this calling. Today, the Asian Aid team continues our mission.

As a Child Focused Organisation, we aim to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to protect, nurture and support their children and young people as they grow and develop.

This year we are proud to celebrate 55 years of support. We have assisted to empower over 50,000 children through faith-based education throughout Asia, and our current focus is within India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

As a Supporting Ministry church

organisation, we see our Adventist Schools as providing beacons of light in their communities. Your support has provided life changing opportunities to many sponsored children, who are now serving God in their own communities, as pastors, doctors, nurses and teachers. They now contribute to our next generation "Library of Leaders". This enduring legacy is because you have put your trust in us.

Our Mission is to give hope, by fostering and creating permanent change in the lives of disadvantaged children and their

communities.

Throughout COVID-19 we have remained focussed on our mission but also ensuring

we have kept 'eyes on the child'. We have incorporated the following:

- Ensure the children are safe at home, through welfare checks.
- Provide food security to not just the children but also their families through our Family Food Fund.
- Ensure that where possible, children continue to learn.
- Provide additional support for children who have been unable to learn through our No Child Left Behind campaign.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We ask that you join us and remember the children, their families and partners in your prayers.

Paul Esau, CEO

“Our Mission is to give hope, by fostering and creating permanent change in the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities.”

RAJU BHANDARI

FOUND SAFETY IN OUR
ADVENTIST SCHOOL



Raju Bhandari comes from the northern part of Nepal, near the Tibetan border. Raju's mother died when he was four, and his brother was only two.

His father left both of them under the care of his older brother and went to India. His uncle was kind enough to bring both the boys to Kathmandu, where the family started a small tea shop in a rented room, just in front of our Adventist school in Kathmandu.

He and his brother spent their days washing the dishes in the shop. They both used to look longingly at the school gate, when other children came in happily, laughing, holding their parents' /friends' hands.

They used to watch the school assembly, sometimes climbing the wall, or peeking through the holes! Washing dishes in the cold freezing water in winter turned their hands almost black. When our Partner

staff saw Raju's small hands washing dishes bigger than his size, they asked him to join school. Raju was overjoyed for the support all those years..

When he was in Grade 9, he decided to quit studying and went to work as a labourer unloading goods. He returned in a few weeks, and said that he would never leave the circle of safety he had found in our Adventist school. He described his experience of seeing boys where he worked drinking, doing drugs and fighting, and encouraged all the students in the hostel to stay in

“Raju said that he would never leave the circle of safety he had found in our Adventist school.”

school.

Raju is now working towards a Master's degree in education. He is now a teacher in another of our Adventist schools in Nepal, and has been a great asset. When he was doing his studies, he was asked if he still needed some support from his sponsor. He

replied, "Not anymore, instead, I must help my sponsor now, if possible!" He is happily married now, and is ever grateful to his sponsor for the support for all these years.

All the students and teachers have a special respect and regards for Raju, and especially enjoy the interesting sermons he shares with the children. In August, he will have a child of his own, and the circle of safety and blessing will carry on.

ONLINE

LEARNING IN

Bangladesh



Suma is a lovely little girl. Her father works in maintenance and her mother is a cook. Suma is in grade four at one of our Adventist Pre-Seminary primary schools.



“Suma is very caring of others and wants to continue her studies and become a nurse in the future.”

Due to COVID-19, she has not had physical classes but has been learning online with her teachers' guidance. She loves to learn about new things. She studies hard and loves her Adventist school.

Besides her studies, she helps her mum with household chores like sweeping, as well as washing and cutting vegetables. They live in a rented, single room house. She is very diligent in both her studies and at home. Her little sister, Rima, is in kindy. Suma helps her study and also helps take care of her so her mum can work as a cook.

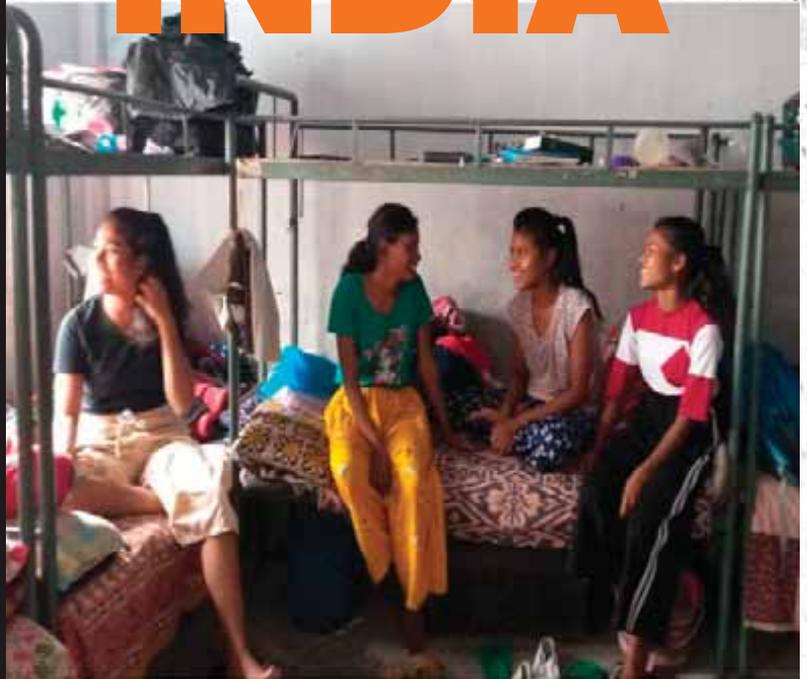
Suma's parents appreciated the family's food packages and financial assistance during COVID-19 lockdown. They are so thankful to their sponsor and Asian Aid.

Suma is very caring of others and wants to continue her studies and become a nurse in the future. Through supporters like you, we can help turn her dreams, and others, into reality.

KIRAN:

“God provided food and necessary goods for us every day. Just like Prophet Elisha’s story. The biggest gift for me is that they (my sponsor) have cared for me like their own child and accepted me as a part of their family. I will forever be grateful to them. Here I’m not only educated mentally but also physically, socially and spiritually. Thank you for taking the time out of your life to sponsor me, your generosity has not gone unappreciated.”

INDIA



Sarojini is in Grade 9 at one of our Seventh-Day Adventist English Schools in India. She is a good student, and works hard to score good results in her final exam.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION

HELPED SAROJINI

Her favourite subject is biology. She enjoys dancing and acting. When she completes her studies she wants to be a nurse and serve in her village because they do not have a hospital.

After completing her 8th grade exams in March 2020, she had gone home for holidays when lockdown hit. Her family lives in a simple mud-walled thatched-roof house in a remote village in North-east India. Her father, a farmer, does not produce enough for the family to survive so supplements his income as a daily wage labourer. Sarojini’s mother is a housewife but also works as a labourer when required.

During lockdown, Sarojini’s sister, who studies at another boarding school, was stuck at school and her

mother who was away working couldn’t return home. They were all worried and struggled to meet basic necessities.

Her God-send was her Adventist school whose teachers provided both mental and spiritual support. “During the pandemic the school was very concerned about our education as well as our well-being, and started online classes,” Sarojini says. Despite poor internet connection, she was diligent in attending the online classes. “I missed school and boarding-life,” she recalls.

She adds, “I thank my loving sponsor from the bottom of my heart for all the help I have been receiving. I cannot pay back anything to my sponsor for their selfless sacrifice for me.”

"It has been a great privilege for us since 1972 to support many wonderful children through Asian Aid, and they in turn being a blessing in their area of service for God - " the ripple effect" for God's honour and glory. Thank you Asian Aid, May God continue to bless your work."

*David and Yonnie Willis
Donor for 49 years*



FROM OUR DONORS



"It has been a pleasure working with Asian Aid to educate young people and help women in Nepal."
*Calvyn & Dawn Townend
Donor for 47 years*



"It has been a privilege for me to be able to provide and see them leave primary school and go on to further education."
*Audrey Fischer
Donor for 48 years*



WE ARE ON THE MOVE

We love sharing our mission. We have recently completed chapel services at Blue Hills and Kempsey, popping in to visit the Adventist Op-shop in Lismore while we were there. We were also privileged to share worship at Wahroonga.



Avondale University College of Nursing, Sydney Adventist Hospital Campus - 2nd March, 2021



Kempsey Adventist School Primary Chapel - 28th May, 2021



Blue Hills Adventist School Primary and High School Chapel - 27th April, 2021



Grey Nomads Super Sunday - 9th May, 2021

We are heading to Brisbane in September and Melbourne in October. If you would like us to visit your Church or School, contact the office on (61) 02 6586 4250 or contact@asianaid.org.au.



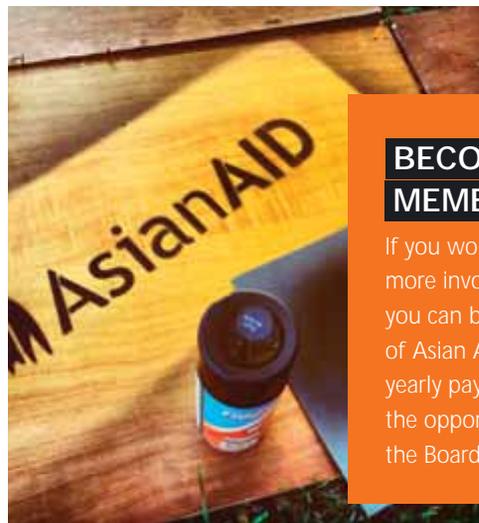
UPCOMING EVENTS

- North Pine Adventist School Chapel
7th September 2021
- Rosewood Seventh – Day Adventist Church Service
11th September 2021
- Border Christian School Chapel
14th October, 2021
- Lilydale Adventist School Anniversary
16th October, 2021



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

Creating or updating your Will gives you peace of mind now and for the future. After providing for your family, friends and church, you may consider leaving a bequest in your Will to Asian Aid, knowing your legacy will influence future generations and continue to fulfil God's plan for those in need.



BECOME A MEMBER

If you would like to become more involved in our work, you can become a Member of Asian Aid. For a small yearly payment, you have the opportunity to vote for the Board.

WITH THE WORLD CHANGING SO RAPIDLY AND THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN ALONG WITH IT, WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO CHANNEL FUNDS TO WHERE THE NEED IS MOST REQUIRED, AND WHERE OUR CHILDREN WOULD BE BEST BENEFITTED.

COVID RELIEF

You will have no doubt been saddened by the recent news of how India and Nepal have been impacted by the fourth wave of COVID-19. So unfortunately with many schools being closed and communities going back into lockdown again, we want to mitigate the risks to our sponsored children, their families and communities. Your support will help our Partners ensure learning resources are available for students across our program, and allow our community-based programs to operate in a COVID-safe way.



FOOD FUND

Our Family Food Fund provided food security for families struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. Moving forward, we are incorporating into our Programs tools to improve nutritional outcomes for children and their families. Your support of \$40 per month will help improve diets and create sustainable options for families across all our Programs.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

You can help us increase the quality of life of children that attend our Adventist schools by improving their school and families' circumstances. Your donations go to improving educational resources, establishing child clubs, raising child rights awareness, teacher training and livelihood training for parents so children and the wider community are benefitted.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

We are excited to see our children returning to schools, but in many instances additional support for both a child and their family may be required because they have been identified from our welfare checks as being at a higher risk of not returning to school post-COVID. You can help us to ensure that no child loses their chance of an education.

