

RESPONSE

ISSUE THREE 2022



Restoring
HOPE

PAGE 3 The Legacy of a Sponsored Child
PAGE 4 Flood Relief
PAGE 6 Pre-order our new Greeting Cards

 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY



DEAR SUPPORTERS

On behalf of the Asian Aid team, I would like to personally thank Kerryn for her 34 years of service to the children, families, and communities we support.

On behalf of the Asian Aid team, I would like to personally thank Kerryn for her 34 years of service to the children, families, and communities we support. Kerryn will be retiring in September and I'm sure you will join us in wishing her all the best in her next adventure. Kerryn shares her sponsorship experience with Asian Aid in this newsletter. We celebrated Kerryn's years of service and commitment at this year's AGM.

Bangladesh-India border region has experienced severe flooding impacting millions of people, washing away their homes, schools, and livelihoods. Our Partners continue

Additional funds have been provided to the support Adventist schools and communities to commence rebuilding schools, bridges, and their homes.

to work closely with the communities and Adventist schools that have been impacted by the floods. The Bangladesh Department of Agriculture have also reported damage to large areas of paddy crops, maize, jute, and vegetables.

Due to the severity of this situation, we have responded by providing food supplies, safe drinking water and mosquito netting to families stranded or displaced. We will help families re-establish crops and other agriculture businesses so they can get back on their feet as soon as possible. Additional funds have been provided to the support Adventist schools and communities to commence rebuilding

schools, bridges, and their homes.

Our Partners, continue to be beacons of light as they work with the schools and community centres for food relief and medical assistance.

If you would like to donate to assist us to empower these families and communities to get back on their feet and to get their children back to school, **Please donate to our Family Food Fund or Building Fund.**

We ask that you continue to pray for the children, their families, and the wider community as they begin to rebuild their lives after such an incredible loss.

Paul



KERRY PATRICK

As Kerry Patrick, our Manager of Supporter Services and Company Secretary, retires after 34 years of service, we have been reflecting together on her time as a sponsor.

Kerry and her family moved to Pappinbarra in 1985 where she was able to meet with her old friend Helen Eager. Kerry says, "Through reconnecting with Helen, we started our own Asian Aid sponsorship journey when we chose to sponsor two Indian girls Sherly and Shakila." As Kerry became steadily more involved in Asian Aid, she had the opportunity to accompany Helen on a trip to India in August 1998. On this trip, they visited schools, hospitals, students, graduates and saw the beginnings of both our special schools.

Going onto Bangalore, Kerry was excited to have the chance to have a supervised visit to meet her sponsor child, Sherly. "It was an amazing experience," she says.

Kerry has remained a child sponsor ever since, and has sponsored 15 children so far. More so, her decades of service have made her a blessing to every child in our programs in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.



Manisha Oli, 21, is a former sponsored child, who lives in one of the remotest villages in the mountains of Western Nepal.

She was selected as one of the representatives of the adolescent girls group in 2013 and later became a Child Activist in 2016. The project then supported the girls groups with basic stationeries, school bag and coaching classes to improve their performance at school and decrease school dropouts, with the aim of reducing incidences of child marriage and empowering them with school education. Manisha received additional trainings, orientations and participated in different activities organized by the project and school. She used to share her learning with her family and friends and continued her school education despite various problems in her family.

Now she has completed her school and has joined college for a Bachelor's degree. She has now transitioned from Child Activist to Child Activist Facilitator (CAF), she now

works closely with children and adolescent girls to empower them with knowledge and skills on reproductive health, child marriage, menstrual hygiene management and child rights.

She says, "I feel proud that I could share the things I learned when I was a child

activist, with the girls and children of my village." She is also engaged as secretary of the Women's Network in her village where she advocates the issues of gender based violence, child marriage, menstrual hygiene management, pelvic

organ prolapse with the stakeholders of local government. She says, "I would have dropped out of school and married early if I was not linked with this project as a representative of adolescent girls' group and a child activist. I am grateful for the project that has changed the course of my life, and through me, many others."

“I feel proud that I could share the things I learned when I was a child activist, with the girls and children of my village.”

FLOOD RELIEF

HELPS FAMILIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET



With many parts of India and Bangladesh hit by heavy floods, our team along with our partners in-country stepped in to provide much needed support to help families and children recover quickly.

Some of the regions affected included areas where our schools and projects are located, and we were able to ensure assistance where necessary.

In Bangladesh, our Partner took immediate action after the floods in the northeast. Partner staff, many who volunteered their time, sprang into action and to date have provided 350 food packages to families.

With your support, we have been able to

- Distribute food relief to 244 Adventist children's families.
- Provide food relief for 106 additional vulnerable families impacted.
- Conduct repair and maintenance in seven Adventist schools.

We are currently working with the local Union to assess seven Adventist flood affected schools. Damage includes classroom floors that have had mud up to six inches in height and furniture damage. The toilets have been blocked and become inappropriate to use.

To restart classes, the massive clean-up has

begun. Mud of that magnitude doesn't just include classrooms but also the playgrounds. There is some major construction work required still for damaged floors, replacement of some windows and doors in classrooms, fencing and gates, improvements to sewage for toilets, and the playgrounds leveled up. In addition, road access to some of the schools will need to be cleared. We are anticipating reopening of school within the next few weeks.

Former sponsored child, who now heads our Partner in Bangladesh, Shohag says, "All gratitude and thankfulness goes to Asian Aid for the quick response to the flood-affected children, their families, and poor communities. We are grateful to the generous donors who have donated money and appeal again to donors so we can continue to work on repairing these schools."

“We are currently working with the local Union to assess seven Adventist flood affected schools.”



22-year-old Milon is doing his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in one of our Adventist colleges in Bangladesh. He loves to play football in his free time. His ambition is to be an accountant in a renowned international company.

He comes from the western part of Bangladesh from a poor family. His father is a farmer who works for a meagre daily wage on other owners' farmlands, and his mother is a homemaker.

After completing his school education in an Adventist school near his village, Milon enrolled for BBA at his college although it is quite far from his home - it takes almost a day to travel from his home from college. According to Milon, "Even though it's far from my home I am happy that I can get an Adventist education." He loves his college very much. He loves the environment of the college and the education quality. He said,



After completing the third and final phase of this project we revisited to see the lasting impact

Sandhya is part of the women's self-help group which began almost five years ago and which still runs today even after our exit. She also is an alumni of our tailoring skill program. Her husband lost his job and was at home just before COVID hit, and Sandhya was able to take care of her family with the salary she received from stitching



MILON'S ADVENTIST EDUCATION GIVES HIM A SOLID START TO LIFE

"I love my college because we've qualified teachers, equipped library and more over we get the best study environment in our college."

Coming up to this level was not easy for him. It was really difficult for his father to manage his educational costs, but still he decided to send his son to school. He believed that this education system will change their fate through his son. After a few years of struggle, Milon began receiving sponsorship through Asian Aid.

He says, "I am one of the luckiest boys

because that I am receiving sponsorship from Asian Aid from my childhood. I am so thankful to my sponsor for supporting me. If you didn't support me then I would not be able to come to this college to study."

He adds, "From my childhood I saw my parents struggling. Sometimes they shared their food with us because there wasn't enough food for that meal. I can still remember those days. Now, as I am studying, I will give my parents a better life so that they can have a beautiful life in their old age."

WOMEN'S SELF HELP GROUP STILL THRIVING AFTER PROJECT EXIT

Through three project phases and over nine years, Asian Aid along with our in-country partner in India ran various intervention, development and educational programs in one of the larger urban slums in Chennai, India.

products. With that money, she was even able to pay the savings amount for the self-help group when others struggled. She also has an industrial machine at home with which she stitches blouses and kurtas for others. Soon after, her husband passed away leaving her behind with her little son. Her world shattered and she felt helpless.

She says, "Your team stood by me and supported me with love and support. They say we should never forget those who stand by us when we are down and I love that I have people that look out for me. I now work harder and have become more confident than how I was years back. COVID and my husband's death

has changed my life but being part of this group has sustained me."

This self-help group has been running successfully for over five years and has strong women who stand by each other. They run on their own, and have learnt to manage loans and group meetings. The leader Suganya is an inspiring woman herself and runs the show with vigor. She has a catering business plan which if works out will give employment opportunities for fellow group members. When many other groups are dissolving, this group is an inspiration to their community and a statement to the lasting impact of your support.



Want to add a special touch to your Christmas gifts, birthday wishes or any other special occasion this year? For just \$15 you can purchase our new greeting cards, with all profits going towards empowering children, their families and communities in the developing world. Each box contains ten cards. The purchase of this product is not tax deductible.



I WOULD LIKE TO PRE-ORDER _____

BOX(ES) OF GREETING CARDS

I WILL PAY BY

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2. FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
3. CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

 **POST TO** PO BOX 333 Wauchope,
NSW 2446, Australia

Our projects in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh are gaining momentum and we look forward to your continued support.

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.

FAMILY 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.



MEET-THE-NEED



In these uncertain times, unforeseen needs are constantly arising, including building renovations, new education programs to fight poverty, trafficking, new school resources and health assistance. When you donate to our Meet-The-Need fund, you allow us to quickly assist our children, families and communities when they need it most. We know circumstances change quickly so thank you for helping us meet the most pressing needs.



I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (Please write project name below)

- A regular donation of _____ a month
- A one-off donation of _____
- A one-off donation of _____ to Family Food Fund

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

1. CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
2. FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
3. CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

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All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

