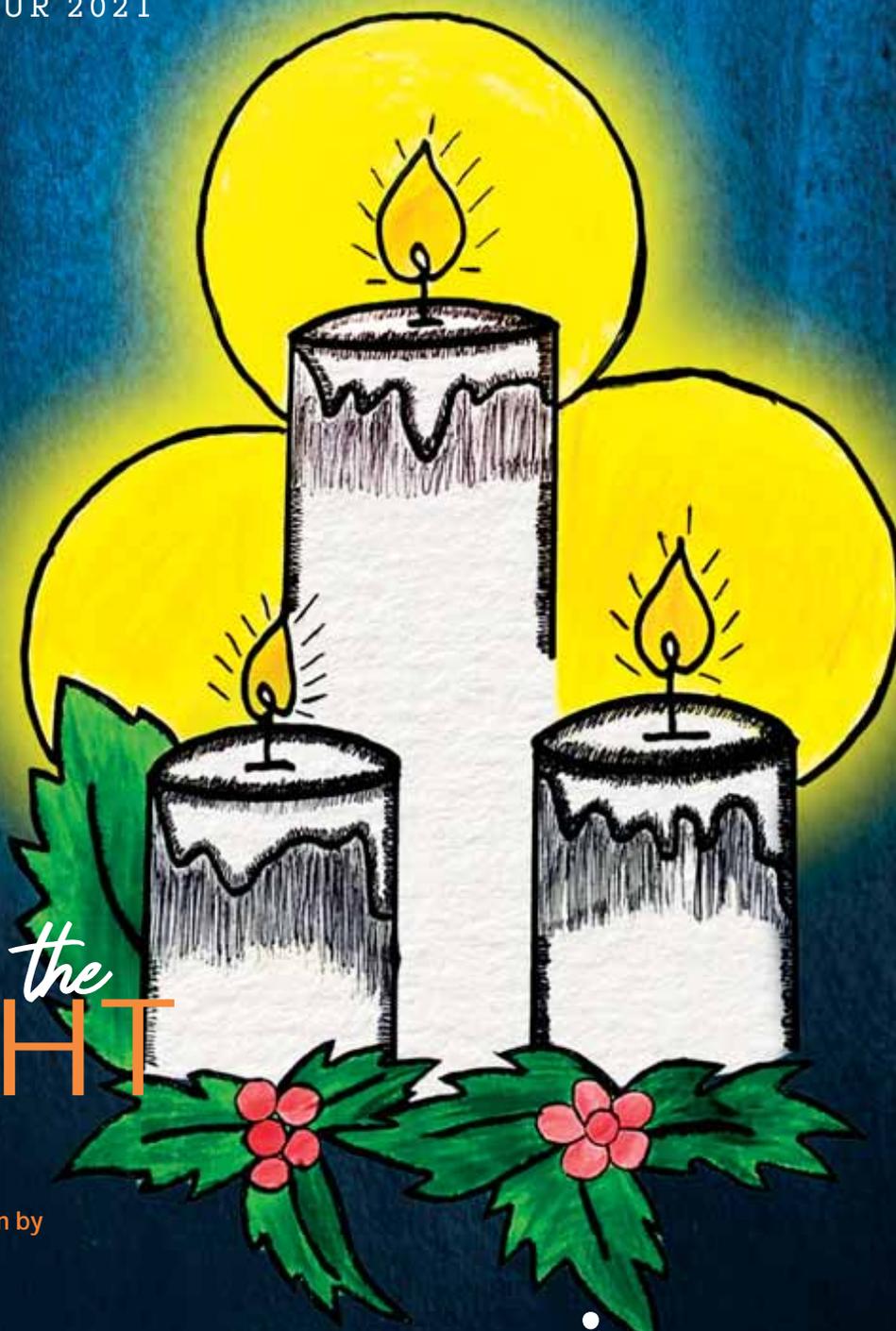


RESPONSE

ISSUE FOUR 2021



Shine the
LIGHT

Cover image drawn by
Rijana, Nepal

PAGE 2 CEO Message

PAGE 5 Water project update from Bangladesh

PAGE 6 Improving communities through Adventist Education

 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY

Three Angels Over Kathmandu
- Drawn by Asha, Nepal



DEAR SUPPORTERS

As a challenging year draws to a close, we can look back at what we have learnt as an organisation and find opportunities for Asian Aid to grow.

Despite the obstacles of 2021, this period has demonstrated to us that by working together we can achieve great results and can have a significant effect on the lives of children you are supporting.

There have been little miracles; like vulnerable children being reunited with relatives and becoming part of a family unit for the first time.

Additionally, as children returned home during lockdowns, they have also reconnected with family. As a result, a proportion of both parents and children are expressing that they would like to remain at home and attend school locally rather than returning to boarding schools. We believe in the importance of a safe home, a place where with God's grace, the principles of Christianity are put into practice and passed from one generation to the next.

By working with our partners, we have been able to expand our programs

in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. This expansion includes developing programs in communities surrounding our Adventist village schools. This will ensure our enduring legacy of faith-based education remains a focus in a more family-friendly way. This will help children, their families and communities to flourish not just in faith and future prospects but in sustainable outcomes for generations to come.

The team here at Asian Aid would like to thank you, our supporters. By entrusting us and supporting our ministry, we have been able to give hope.

The power of your faith has been reflected in our partner's actions as they have expanded their role beyond education to home visits, welfare checks, food relief and now, more general COVID-19 relief. With these actions, we have seen God's love shining from the faces of your sponsored children, their families and communities as we provide

their necessities and beyond that, light where there was none.

We reflect on the real meaning of Christmas, because there is no greater gift than God giving us His Son. This means we can all walk together no matter what our earthly journey has been.

Our aim, as always, is to provide positive and meaningful change in the lives of vulnerable children, their families and communities in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

When it is safe to do so, we look forward to celebrating together again. Until then, we ask you to remember the children in your prayers.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Paul Esau, CEO

GOD'S PROVISION

17-year old Kiran is a student at one of our SDA Senior Secondary Schools. Kiran's father comes from a Hindu family. After her father married her mother, who was a Christian, he was transformed. Today they are the only Christians among their relatives and the community.



Kiran is in Grade 12 and will soon be completing her secondary education. Her plan is to become a nurse. She believes nothing

is impossible for God if we walk according to Him. She's chosen the profession of nursing to serve society, and she wants people around her to feel God's love when she cares for them. She also is grateful for parents who support providing education to young girls.

Kiran also says, "My sponsor has given me a lot of gifts, every year I receive Christmas gifts. The biggest gift for me is that they have cared for me like their own child and accepted me as a part of their family. I will forever be grateful to them."

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During lockdown in March 2020, Kiran was home from school for summer vacation. Groceries were difficult to obtain and people had no work and no money, but

Asian Aid stepped in. Kiran says, "God provided food and necessary goods for us every day. Just like Prophet Elisha's story."

Asian Aid has had a big hand behind her whole life story. Asian Aid brought her to such a wonderful school where everyone was nice to her, especially her teachers who treated her like their own. Kiran says, "Here I am not only educated mentally but also physically, socially

and spiritually."

She expresses her thanks and gratitude and says she has nothing to give back for the kindness rendered to her, except for

thanking and praying for her sponsor. She says, "Thank you for taking the time out of your life to sponsor me, your generosity does not go unappreciated."



FAILURE IS JUST A STEPPING STONE



Arbiya Banu, 17, is part of our computer training program in India. Before joining our course, Arbiya struggled with her studies and failed Year 10.

Determined to do better, she took our training course and learned computer skills while she waited to sit her exam again. Arbiya was very proactive and had a zeal for learning. She always set an example of finishing work and assignments on time.

In an employment-training program initiated by our Partner to help in identifying communities for COVID Relief, Arbiya became a volunteer. She completed all the training modules, both online and offline. She not only did well in her training but helped in reaching out to hundreds of people across the city.

Arbiya's responsibilities were

to call, verify, consolidate and update the information of the beneficiaries. She reached out to unemployed workers and assisted them in filling their applications online for government relief. While working out of her comfort zone and exploring new opportunities, Arbiya also successfully passed out of 10th grade. Now, she is on to her next adventure of beginning college education and is also looking to continue working with us in our other initiatives.

Arbiya says, "Through these programs, I was able to build my self-esteem and believe in my ability to overcome the challenges in life. I want to create a successful career for myself and support my family."

WATER FOR HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHED PROJECT

We are looking to replicate the success of our water project in another of our schools in Bangladesh.

The water project will again integrate multiple aspects in order to create positive measurable changes for the school and its surrounding community, providing subsidised, clean drinking water to families that cannot afford to buy it to ensure wide-scale health and hygiene.

In this new project, the water currently used by children in the Adventist school and families is contaminated but with your support we will create treatable water for household use and pure drinkable water.

By treating this water into clean water, 650 children will get access to pure drinking water, and around 350 families in and around the school will be able to receive clean water for drinking and daily use.

“By treating this water into clean water, 650 children will get access to pure drinking water.”



Our plan is to build two different water treatment plants. The first treatment plant will remove iron, arsenic, bacteria, and manganese to provide water for washing, cleaning, taking showers, toilet use, and cooking. The second treatment plant will remove all contaminated substances and provide pure drinking water.

We are hoping with your support, we will be able to achieve this, and over time create a self-sustainable outcome.

IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

THROUGH ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH



We have been working with several of our Adventist village schools this year to expand our programs for not just the children but also their families and the communities in which they live.

As a result, our Communities with Adventist Schools program has grown to include another three schools.

In Bangladesh, our Partner is ready to commence a number of project activities with the schools after the lockdown. The project team has been meeting with local government officers in order to ensure a smooth execution of our activities.

As classes are yet to reopen in-person at some schools, the teachers are preparing work and assignments for the children to work on from home. The children gather in small

groups at the school so the teachers can distribute home-learning packs and explain the work they need to complete. The project teams have also been in contact with children and their families.

In India, the situation is similar. Teachers and school heads regularly contact the children and their families, with some even visiting their homes for welfare checks. These home

visits turn out to be critical in ensuring the family focuses on keeping their children in school.

In these communities, we are aiming for quality education and adult literacy, as

well as child clubs, awareness on women and child rights, livelihood training, and healthcare. In the long-term, this means:

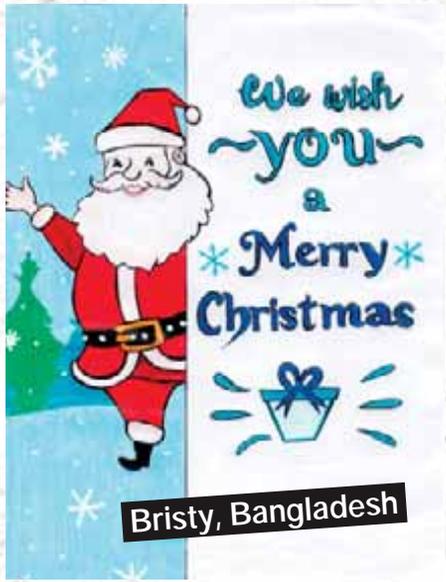
- Better nutrition and care at home.
- Better healthcare will improve parents' ability to work, in turn easing financial burdens.
- Increasing incomes will enable parents to manage their own educational expenses and continue higher education.
- This will lead to increased attendance at school.
- The school in-turn will be able to build expertise and financial capacity to manage their own budgets, provide better facilities for the children and become self-supporting.

“Our Communities with Adventist Schools program has grown to include another three schools.”

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FROM OUR CHILDREN...

Due to extended lockdowns, mail continues to be inconsistent in the developing world but here are some examples of Christmas drawings by the children.



Bristy, Bangladesh



Tumpa, Bangladesh



Nina, Nepal

By: Nina



Mingnama, Bangladesh



Suchithra, India



Deepa, Nepal



Dipa, Bangladesh



Noyomi, Bangladesh



Yashwanth, India

As we celebrate hope and family this Christmas, our aim is to provide positive and meaningful change in the lives of vulnerable children, their families and communities in India, Bangladesh and Nepal in the coming year. Your continued contribution will help us.

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL

As we begin to look at how we return children to school when it is safe to do so, we want to focus on how we can improve our school environments, increase teacher training and support materials. We would like to see students return to a better environment than they had when they left.



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.



SPONSOR A CHILD

We currently have children under our care and because of the current situation impacting on all of us, **WE NOW HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 455 CHILDREN WHO NEED SUPPORT.** As the economic conditions worsen we expect this issue to increase. Here are just three examples of why these children need your help.



ANUSKA DIA
BBO1846 - \$55

Anuska is four years old, and is a passionate student at one of our Adventist schools in Bangladesh. Due to COVID lockdown she has been attending online classes from home. Her father earns a meagre wage as a daily labourer in a workshop, and so Anuska needs extra support to continue her education.



GOUROV BORMON
BBO1844 - \$55

Gourov, who is in Kindergarten, is a dedicated student who does all his homework on time and is always regular in attendance. He has a loving family and his father works hard as a textile labourer to support them. A sponsor will help not only Gourov to stay in school, but also improve education for other children like him.



RAJANI
HIO1437 - \$55

10-year-old Ranjani is currently attending one of the village schools Asian Aid is working with, but still does not have a sponsor. She wants to become a teacher, and sponsoring her means she can work towards her dream in a wholesome manner, while her family and community benefit too.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

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 #BackToSchool

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

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

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

YOUR DETAILS



Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



POST TO

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NSW 2446, Australia

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.

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

For more information, visit www.asianaid.org.au
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