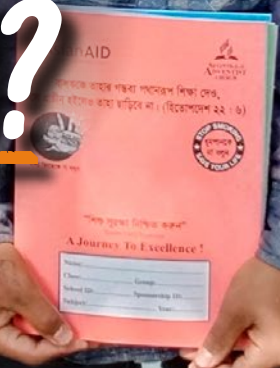
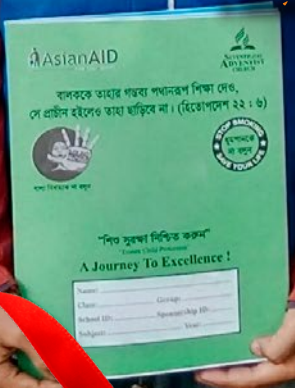


RESPONSE



A GIFT OR A GIVEN?



**INSIDE
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ISSUE**

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

As we approach the end of another year, **we want to take a moment to express our gratitude to you**, our supporters.



It has been a year filled with hope and progress that wouldn't have been possible without your unwavering support. From the entire Asian Aid family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 2023 year has been an incredibly engaging and rewarding one for Asian Aid. We are excited to share with you some of the impact stories and successes your contributions have made possible for the vulnerable children in our programs.

Our new projects in remote India have gained momentum and are making an amazing impact on the community we are supporting by providing more children access to education through the Adventist school. The Computer on Wheels initiative has now made access to IT equipment a reality for the children in the program.

We would also like to share with you, later in this newsletter, the sustainable impact we have had in a village in South India where we are transitioning out our program operations. It is a joy to see the Adventist school and community thriving independently. The entire community continues to benefit from the education and livelihood interventions we initiated.

In Bangladesh and Nepal, our Adventist schools and after-school sports programs and computer training continue to be safe spaces for children to learn. Through your support, we have been able to train and equip more teachers with child-friendly

teaching methods.

The Women's Health Project in Nepal continues to expand and phase two of our Water Project in Bangladesh has led to improved health outcomes for women and children through our programs.

When you give to Asian Aid you are making a difference, your contributions pave the way for academic and holistic success for children who otherwise are at risk of harm and do not have the resources to reach their God-given potential. For the children we support, the basic life essentials - food, water, school, healthcare - are not a given. They should be!

In our 50+ years, Asian Aid has been breaking this cycle in many communities. We are committed to continuing this mission in more and more communities with you.

As the holiday season approaches, we kindly request you consider giving this Christmas so that for at least one child – these basic necessities are NO LONGER A GIFT, BUT A GIVEN. That will make a huge difference to them now, and for their future.

Once again, THANK YOU and may God continue to bless you and your family this holiday season.





Jamuna, 14, studies in Grade 8 in Nepal. Jamuna's family are dependent on agriculture and labour for their livelihood.

Most of the people in her community are from the marginalised sections of society and are forced to go to India to earn a living. It is no surprise then that many young children drop out of school. However, the reasons for these dropouts will surprise you.

One of the reasons for the high dropout rates is that children are unable to buy the stationery required to attend school. Parents have very low incomes and do not prioritise school essentials, resulting in more irregularity of children at school. As they grow older, many of them leave their education behind to work, while many girls end up marrying early.

Jamuna faced the same issues, and along with other children in her family, she discontinued her studies. Their income was just not enough for food and other essentials.

In an effort to decrease school dropouts due to migration to India and child marriage, our project selected 100 underprivileged children from various schools, and Jamuna was one of them. In November 2022, Jamuna participated in our first project meeting, where she showed interest in continuing to come to school. Through the project, she received five chickens and takes good care of them. She reared them and sold them for a good price, which helped her and her family to manage some expenses for her school.



- **102 children had their birth registration completed last quarter.** Birth registration is an important process that provides legal identity to children and establishes their rights provided by the state
- **Reduced number of children (5% of total students of class 8, 9 and 10) dropped out of school**
- **Reduced number of children (23) went to India for wage labour**
- **83% of girls in our project schools attended school during their monthly period**
- **108 out of 228 (47%) girls graduated with at least 'C' grade in their school leaving exams**
- **80% of girls in our project schools are able to study at home for at least two hours a day**
- **3 schools have girl-friendly toilet facilities** with water and sanitary pad disposal facilities
- **8 complaints were lodged** against child marriage
- **124 adolescent girls** have access to adolescent-friendly health services
- **117 women attended 8 ante-natal care visits**
- **77 women gave birth in birthing centres**
- **20 women received silicon ring pessary service**
- **15 women and girls abandoned menstrual huts (chhaupadi)** and stayed safely at home during their menstruation period.



COMPLETION OF THE CHILD FOCUSED SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT (CFSD) PROJECT IN SOUTH INDIA

We are pleased to be able to **phase out our CFSD project linked to an SDA school** in a community in South India this year.

We thank our donors who have supported this project where we were able to contribute to ensuring children in that and neighboring communities accessed quality education and economic opportunities while contributing towards the development of their community.

The project (2017-2023) focused on education, gender equality and community development in line with the larger Sustainable Development Goals outlined by the United Nations.

Community Development

After initial assessments, we were able to create opportunities for individuals to generate sustainable sources of income, to in turn enhance economic stability, reduce poverty, and promote self-reliance. Income generating activities helped parents afford quality education for their children, which resulted in reduced dropout rates, especially of girls. The project activities were designed in response to the needs of the community with community members actively involved in the implementation process. This Child Focused School Development project serves as a shining example of how targeted interventions and dedicated efforts can bring about lasting positive change in the lives of children and their communities.

School and Teacher Development

We were able to create a conducive and effective learning environment for students by renovating and maintaining school buildings, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, playgrounds, and other facilities necessary to inspire the students. Their academic performance improved as you helped provide them with the necessary tools and resources to succeed. We were also able to equip teachers with additional resources to effectively engage students, promote critical thinking and create a dynamic learning environment.

140 children in the school, which is the only English medium school in the whole area, were directly benefitted. This translates to over 120 families as well as over 100 children from neighbouring villages. There has been an increase in overall school enrolment with an improved gender ratio.



A GIFT OR A GIVEN?





Child-Focused Development

Through regular health and hygiene awareness programs for children, we were able to educate and empower many children with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain good health and hygiene practices such as proper handwashing techniques, dental care, nutrition and exercise.

The creation of regular child clubs and community groups became a key platform where children learnt about their rights and were able to engage in social settings, develop important life skills and foster their overall growth and development.

Our community learning centres offered a safe and inclusive space where children from the community could access educational opportunities and feel supported in their academic development. The centres fostered a love of lifelong learning by bridging educational gaps and providing equal opportunities for children who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or marginalised communities.



MEET LYNDEN

Lynden joined the team at Asian Aid as the **Marketing and Communications Manager**. Lynden brings great enthusiasm and a complimentary skillset which includes strategic and operational plans, with over 15 years of professional experience in industry leading corporate roles and business units.

Asian Aid makes a big difference in the lives of those we serve. So when the opportunity came up to be part of the team, my heart lit up. This team is small in size yet mighty in purpose and impact. I have personally experienced the power of changing a child's life previously when I was part of a team that visited Thailand to help address and prevent human trafficking. So I am so grateful to be able to align 'role and soul' by being part of the Asian Aid cause.

The best part of this job has got to be the people that I have the privilege of working with. When you meet them you just know that there is so much heart, kindness and conviction flowing through their veins. They have all been so kind and welcoming to me. Thank you to the team!

Yesterday I wrote my first "thank you" card to a donor who has helped change a child's life. What a privilege! Can you believe that I have the joy of finding people to help others each day, and also the privilege of saying 'thank you' to those who are able to give? This is some life we are living.

I enjoy spending my free time playing, creating and connecting deeply with others. I love to learn and have been reading a lot these past few years. I'll play pretty much any sport if you invite me, although I'm a pretty lacklustre swimmer. And then there is music.....oooh yes.....

Everything motivates me haha. Life. Love. God. Spirit. Creativity. I am just grateful to

STAFF
PROFILE



be alive.

I am passionate about life-changing and life-giving experiences. The stuff that gives you goosebumps and makes the hairs on your arms stand up. I see it when people have powerful insights or experiences and I love being part of those moments.

And the best part of my life - my family - they are beautiful. I love them so much. My wife, Amanda, is daily evidence that miracles are real - I am so blessed to have found her and to walk with her in this life. She is my soulmate and simply exquisite inside and out. Phew! My eyes and heart light up just thinking about her. We have 3 amazing children in our family (Jayden, Georgia and Taylah). Each is as unique and life-giving as the leaves on the trees. They are creative, courageous and caring. I am so grateful for how they have opened my eyes to the fullness of the human experience. If they ever read this, well, "I love you...heaps!"



MEL

TRAINING FOR PARTNER STAFF

All Asian Aid partners engaged in an online Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) training workshop that will help them with project design and monitoring.



This was facilitated by Steve Fisher from Community Works as a professional online forum involving four sessions over four weeks with over 35 participants representing our six partners. The aim of the online training was for partners to have an improved understanding of theories behind and practical applications for MEL. Key learning outcomes focused on the following identified priority areas in MEL:

- Development of MEL plans, as component of project proposal.
- Design and use of SMART indicators for project purpose, output, and activity levels.
- Methods for data collection to match indicators.
- Tools designed to encourage community participation in MEL.



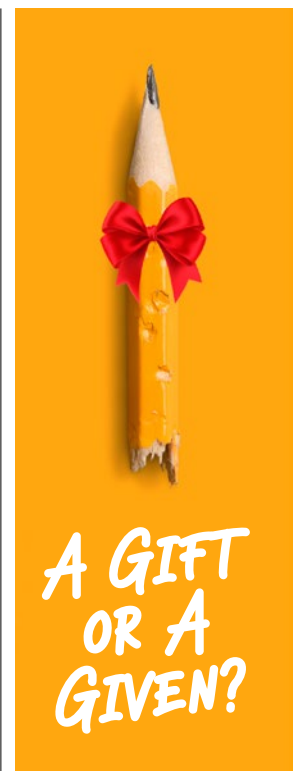
ASIAN AID AT BIG CAMP

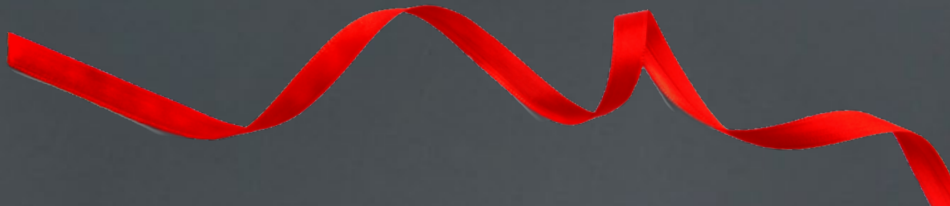
Both Ineka and Tiane attended the South Queensland Big camp in September. Thank you to those who took the time to stop in and say hello and to ask any questions. It was lovely to see you there and share a bit more about our Walk a Day with Me campaign.



ASIAN AID OP SHOP COMING SOON!

We are opening a new Op Shop in Wauchope. Thanks to everyone who have generously donated. We hope to open soon. If you want more details, are keen to help, or would like an invite to the opening, call us and ask to speak to Ineka or Tiane.





**SHOULD DRINKING WATER BE A GIFT?
SHOULD FOOD BE A GIFT? MEDICINES?
SANITARY NAPKINS? SCHOOL BOOKS?
A TOILET?...**

**SOME THINGS
SHOULD NOT HAVE
TO BE SO RARE AND
DIFFICULT TO ACCESS
THAT RECEIVING
THEM WOULD BE
LIKE GETTING A GIFT.**

**THESE SHOULD
BE A GIVEN.
NOT A GIFT.**

Help us make life's essentials
a given, not a gift. Donate
now through our website.



A GIVEN NOT A GIFT

JOIN OUR EFFORTS
TO MAKE BASIC LIFE
NECESSITIES IN THE
COMMUNITIES WE WORK
IN, THE NORM, THE
STANDARD, A GIVEN.

- \$5 turns a mid-day meal into a given for a week for one child
- \$20 turns uniforms and books into a given for a year for one child
- \$50 turns regular eye and health check-ups into a given for one child
- \$25 to plant trees and a kitchen garden at home makes healthy food a given for one family
- \$50 to buy a goat turns a sustainable income into a given for one family
- \$120 to help one mother learn a skill like tailoring and make financial independence for her a given
- \$100 to make one more safe school a given
- \$150 to help children learn about and solve the issues they face in our community, making child rights a given
- \$700 to make good healthcare for women and girls in our remote communities a given

I am giving to the GIVEN NOT A GIFT campaign

- A regular donation of _____ a month
- A one-off donation of _____

Towards _____

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 _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

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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Or you can also take a photo of your filled-in form and send the image to us by scanning the QR code.