India Partners

Partnering with the people of India in ministry....

March 8th is International Women's Day. Begun in 1911, it is a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In India, being born female is nothing to celebrate, as it is considered a curse to the family. Can you imagine being cursed by society just because you are a girl?

But there is hope…India Partners, and friends like you, have been involved in many activities that honor and support the women of India.

Dear Friend, March 1, 2011

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones well as we enter into the promise of spring.

This month, nations around the world will be celebrating International Women's Day on March 8th. Will you? Through the programs of India Partners, I have worked with women in India for over 24 years. I have come to admire the strength of women here and abroad that have overcome many challenges to persevere in tough times. You may know women like these, too.

I want to share with you a story of a former commercial sex worker:

Lakshmi was 13 years old when she ran away from an abusive family. She felt she was an unwanted financial burden and decided she would be better off fending for herself on the streets. After spending seven years selling her body for an abusive pimp, Lakshmi befriended counselors from an India Partners' supported safe home.

The counselors helped Lakshmi leave the trade and enter into Sharan Sthan, or 'place of refuge'. When asked about her new life, Lakshmi responded:

"With the freedom that I have gained in Christ, I want to do God's work. I want to go and speak to girls who are still trapped in prostitution. I want to let them know that the life that they live and that I lived at one point has no value. Transformation can come if you take a step of faith."

Lakshmi's story is a great testimony that with the help of people like you, we are able to reach women in hopeless situations with the love of God.

Women and girls in India – like Lakshmi – face tough obstacles:

Lowest of the low – Just being female in India puts you at risk. Did you know that a husband will set his wife on fire if she is not living up to his standards? Two thirds of deaths in India due to fire are female, ages 15-34.

Lack of employment opportunities – If a woman is employed outside the home for necessity's sake, she will usually work for only one-third the same wage as a man. In some families the men will prostitute their wives as a way to earn an income.

Spousal and child abuse – Abuse is commonplace, especially in rural areas where alcoholism is prevalent; and these practices are accepted as normal behavior.

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India Partners

India Partners is a conduit to a broad group of indigenous Christian grassroots agencies in India focused on alleviating poverty and injustice. We seek support from others who share our passion to empower change.

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India Partners is a Christian relief and development organization that helps the poor regardless of a person's religion, age, or gender. India Partners is a 501(c)(3) organization authorized to receive tax-deductible contributions as allowed by law. All contributions to India Partners are administered and disbursed under the supervision of the Board of Directors and are used where most needed unless designated for a specific project. A copy of India Partners' audited financial statement is available upon request to India Partners, PO Box 5470, Eugene, OR 97405, or by calling (541) 683-0696.

FL: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state, (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation. **NC:** Financial information about the organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (919) 733-4510. **NY:** A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained from the organization or from the NY State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. **PA:** The official registration and financial information of India Partners may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. **WA:** You may obtain additional financial information by calling the Secretary of State toll-free within the state, (800) 332-6443. **WI:** Financial statement is available.

India's future starts here

Ill treatment of widows – Many blame the wife for the untimely death of her husband. She becomes 'bad luck' to her family and is socially shunned. It is expected that once widowed, a woman will never marry again and is not welcomed at any social functions, including the weddings of her own children.

Female infanticide – Daughters are considered economic burdens because of their lack of ability to earn an income and the high cost of weddings and dowries. When a woman gives birth to a baby girl she often grieves over her misfortune, and she may neglect feeding and caring for her daughter, until the baby dies.

But, there is hope! Here are ways that India Partners is combating these obstacles, with your help:

Tailoring schools: These schools teach women a much needed and sought after skill to earn an income for themselves and their families, leading to economic empowerment.

Rescuing trafficked women and girls: We are active in assisting women and their children to leave the sex trade in the red-light districts of Mumbai. We provide schools for children of commercial sex workers and safe houses for women and children.

Health care: We offer easier access to basic health education, preventative care and medicines to help stop the cycle of disease.

Widow sponsorships: $30 per month provides food, clothing and medicines for a widow who has been abandoned by her family. Her self-esteem and dignity rises as she does not have to beg for her daily needs.

Child sponsorships: $30 per month provides food, clothing and education to girls and boys so they can grow to be healthy, educated adults.

And so much more! Let's celebrate the women of the world this month. And won't you help us continue to expand our important programs for women in India?

Please pray for our work and, if possible, send a generous gift of $20, $30, $50 or more today in the enclosed envelope so we can continue to help women like Lakshmi. Or if you prefer, give securely online at www.IndiaPartners.org.

Last year during our Spring Matching Drive we raised $11,932.29. With those funds, we were able to save and change many more lives in India. **I am asking for your help again!**

The first gifts we receive, up to $5,000, designated to our 'Where Most Needed' fund, will be matched dollar for dollar!

In addition, all gifts postmarked by April 30th will count towards matching funds from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation. Please send your generous gift today. Use the enclosed reply envelope to respond today or donate securely online now at www.IndiaPartners.org. Any size gift will help those in need in India.

Thank you for your prayers and compassion. May God Bless you and the women in your life,

Brent Hample
President

P.S. I am so thankful for you and your involvement with changing lives in India for the better. Please respond today with a gift in the mail, or go online at www.IndiaPartners.org

Here's my gift to continue helping women and girls in India!

My Donation

❑ $20 ❑ $30

❑ $50 ❑ $100

❑ Where Most Needed

$ _____

One-time Gift

❍ my check is enclosed

❍ my credit card information is at right

Monthly Gift

I pledge $_____ per month for ____ mos.

❍ from my credit card. Info above, right

❍ from my checking acct. Info below, right

Signature_____ Date _____

Credit Card (use this form, or donate online)

Please charge my donation to my Visa/MC:

Card # ☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐

Exp. Date ☐☐/☐☐

Name on Card (Print):_____

Signature_____ Date _____

Automatic Withdrawal from Checking

I hereby authorize India Partners to withdraw my gift monthly from the account indicated on the **enclosed voided check** beginning (month/year) _____/_____

Preference for withdrawal: ❍ 1st of mo. ❍ 15th of mo.

Name(s) on Check (Print):_____

Signature_____ Date _____