PARTNERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF INDIA PARTNERS FEBRUARY 2008

Blanketing Them With Love

Does a random act of kindness toward you cause you to cry? When someone offers you their help, is your heart filled with a joy so deep you can barely put it into words? Are you hard pressed to think of another instance in your entire life where someone has given you something so precious, even if it is small?

Somi Reddy can say yes to all of these questions, and all it took was a person giving him a winter blanket for free. Older, impoverished and unable to stand, Somi's first response to the gift was to have it taken away since he had no money to pay for a blanket. When he was told the blanket was a free gift, he began to cry and said that he had never had anyone display such compassion and caring for someone like him.

Every year, Living Sacrifice Ministries (LSM), located in Andhra Pradesh, India, distributes blankets to those in need. Some of the recipients are homeless, some live in huts with no door to keep out the cold, and some simply have no blankets at all. They are often sick, blind, elderly or disabled in some way, and unable to protect themselves from the bone-chilling cold of the winter months. Motivated by love, LSM's blanket distribution ministry seeks to cover such people with blankets to provide them with warmth.

This man, like Somi, was touched by the simple gift of a warm blanket

But more importantly, their hope is to cover these people with the love of Christ and warm their hearts.

Take a moment to consider the feelings you experience when someone does something nice for you: the gratitude for their generosity, the sense of wonder at their selflessness, the desire to know what prompted the other person to show you such kindness. Think of how good it made you feel to experience such charity and kindness. Now think of how wonderful it would be for poor people in India to be able to feel this warmth you have felt.

You can help. Though half the world away, you can cover people like Somi with your kindness. You can warm their hearts and minds as they see the love of Christ in action. LSM wants to bring warmth and hope to the countless people in India who are without blankets—will you help?

Forty dollars ($40) will cover five people with their own, brand new, warm blankets. Maybe you can help even more people, or maybe fewer. Whatever your donation, you will know that *your* gift helped another human being on this earth keep warm at night. And that person will know that someone cared enough about them to keep them warm. May God bless you and the recipients of your gift or pledge. Thank you!

Yes, I'll blanket people like Somi with warmth and love!

❍ Blanketing Them With Love – LSM Blankets ❍ Where Most Needed ❍ Other _____

❑ $16 (2 blankets) ❑ $40 (5 blankets) ❑ $80 (10 blankets) ❑ $200 (25 blankets) ❑ Other $_____

One-time Gift

❑ Enclosed is my gift
- ❍ check is enclosed
- ❍ credit card information below

Credit Card

Please charge my donation to my Visa/MC:

Card # ☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐

Exp. Date ☐☐/☐☐

Name on Card (Print):_____

Signature_____Date_____

Or donate online at www.indiapartners.org

Pledge

❑ I pledge $_____ per month for _____ mos.
- ❍ from my credit card. Information below, left.
- ❍ from my checking account. Information below, right.

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 _____

India Partners
P.O. Box 5470
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Toll-free: 877-87-INDIA
(877-874-6342)
Phone: (541) 683-0696

www.indiapartners.org
info@indiapartners.org

Mission Statement:
Partnering with the people of India in ministry by cultivating relationships, sharing resources, and encouraging self-sufficiency, through the compassion and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

India Partners is a Christian international development and relief organization committed to supporting self-help ministry projects in India.

We believe in helping the people of India help themselves, with God's grace. All are served regardless of caste, religion, gender or creed.

Activities include orphanages, schools, literacy programs, church support, Bible training, disaster relief, vocational training, medical ministry, microloans and agricultural projects.

India Partners also manages volunteer teams and a child sponsorship program.

India Partners pledges to use your gifts in the most efficient way possible to help suffering people, and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our annual report and independently audited financial statements are available upon request.

India Partners is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax-deductible according to law.

Tax ID#: 93-1164757

AERDO
Member of the Association of Evangelical Relief & Development Organizations

ECFA MEMBER
A higher standard
A higher purpose

Board of Directors:
Michael Gerlicher, Brent Hample
James Krueger, Susan Paiement
Dean Rees, Steve Stirling
Milt Watson, M.D.

Staff:
Brent Hample, President/CEO
Donna Glass, Regional Representative
Joseph Fancher, Communications Officer
Brian Palmer, Office Administrator

Your Skills in God's Service

Next Team to India Set for Summer 2008
Team Members are Blessed in Helping Others

Read our mission statement, at left. (Go ahead, it's short!) Did you catch the three ways that together we partner with the people of India in ministry? Our volunteer teams partner in those same ways: **cultivating relationships, sharing resources, and encouraging self-sufficiency.**

New volunteer teams are being formed for 2008 and beyond, and we urge you to consider joining one. Let's look at how you can use ***your*** talents in each of these ways.

Cultivating Relationships

Team members return from their trips having planted friendships that may last a lifetime: "I will never forget the amazing believers that I met in India," writes 2006 team alumna Shae Hastings. "I remember one in particular named Kamala* who was being persecuted by her family because she decided to follow Jesus. I thought of myself in her position and I was in awe of her spirit, bravery and overall faith."

> **"I was so impressed with the dignity of these people in the face of so much poverty and chaos. It was their ability to find the good in such a difficult existence that impressed me the most.**
> **"We have so much and still complain. We are afraid that the price of gas will go up. They are afraid of being thrown out of their homes or washed away in the next monsoon."**
> **—2007 team alumnus Mike Brown**

Sharing Resources

India Partners team activities are tailored around the skills of those who join each team. Whatever your background and training, you are welcome to join a team. You'll likely make good use of your skills, but moreover, you'll be blessed by sharing your love of Christ with those you meet.

As team leader Donna Glass writes, "Each team has gone to serve, to share Christ's love, to be his hands and serve. Yet, each time, ***we*** have been served. For me, witnessing their joy and peace in worship (even in a thatched 'prayer shed' on a dirt floor), sharing communion, laughing together, were all testimonies of faith that encouraged me."

Elementary teachers Sally Brown and Mary share a love of teaching—and the love of Christ

Encouraging Self-sufficiency

Whether it is providing sewing machines to tailoring school graduates, agricultural microloans to farmers, or an education to children who would otherwise be on the streets, self-sufficiency is what India Partners is all about. 2007 team alumna Sally Brown recalls, "I frequently think about the children we met and spent time with at Orphans Faith Home. Their big beautiful eyes, engaging smiles, and sweet spirits were amazing. We pray for them daily. We know that they are well cared for and are being given hope for a bright future."

So? Go!

Our next team is set for June 29–July 12, 2008 (information below), with more teams being planned. Details, including photos and letters from past teams, are available on our website. For more information, send an email to teams@indiapartners.org or return the form below.

* name changed

India Partners
PO Box 5470
Eugene OR 97405
toll-free 877-87-INDIA

Partnering with the people of India in ministry by cultivating relationships, sharing resources, and encouraging self-sufficiency through the compassion and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Fund Drive Yields Record Participation

We did it together! 130 donors contributed a total of $78,699 for our Holiday Matching Fund Drive, held from November 1 through December 31, 2007. Your contributions will help the poor of India in new ways in 2008, while sustaining and strengthening current projects. We are thankful for each and every gift—and giver.

❑ Please send me more information about the next team to India

Serve Orphans and Villagers

June 29-July 12, 2008
Registration deadline: March 29, 2008
Cost: approx. $3,200 plus airfare to Los Angeles or San Francisco

The team will visit the Orphans Faith Home, one of our partner organizations. There you will minister to children, Dalit villages and churches through a variety of activities that may include eyeglass clinics, first-aid/CPR training, leadership training or building cooking stoves. (Specific team activities will be tailored to the talents and gifts of the team members.)