

# RESPONSE

Issue **THREE** 2024



## THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

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 **AsianAID**  
Give Hope TODAY





## DEAR SUPPORTERS

Education has the power to help a child reach their God-given potential. **When a child goes to school, they develop skills and gain knowledge to transform their lives, breaking the cycle of poverty now and for the future.**

**W**ithout your support, thousands of deserving children would miss out on this precious gift. Thank you for your generosity and compassion!

I love seeing firsthand when I visit, or hearing from partners about children who are now safe from early marriage, human trafficking and child labour and who can pursue their dreams because they go to school. Last financial year\* alone, you helped sponsor 3,135 children and young adults by partnering with Asian Aid. In addition to enabling these children to gain academic, life and leadership skills, your support also kept them safe and healthy, while training teachers, building and maintaining classrooms, helping parents provide for their families and strengthening communities.

I am humbled by the stories of many adults - once sponsored children - who are now using their skills to improve their own lives, to contribute to their families and to help others in their communities. You will also be inspired when you read about teachers, who were once sponsored children, giving back to their schools in this newsletter. Their stories are a testament to the enduring impact that your support makes in the lives of many. Hope that comes full circle is the best kind of hope.

With your help, we are delivering quality education in a variety of settings so that as many children as possible can have access to it. Learning is happening:

- In big, small, near and remote classrooms
- At children clubs
- Through excursions and experiences
- In sport fields

- At after-school tutoring sessions
- In libraries
- At school and community gardens
- At cultural days and celebrations
- At Pathfinder events
- At community centres
- At homes, as parents value their children's education more.

My prayer is that together, we can continue to help even more children reach their God-given potential through the gift of education. **Thank you once again for being the hands and feet of Jesus to thousands of children in need.**

\*April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

# Deserving of HOPE



The children in our sponsorship program are all different. Some are young preschools; others young adults. Some are day students; others are boarders. Some like music; others like sport.

But they are all the same when it comes to showing resilience, dreaming big despite challenging circumstances and doing their best now so they can positively contribute to their families and communities one day soon. They are all deserving of hope!

## Meet Anushka, Tummim and Urim, 11-year-old triplets from Bangladesh.

Coming from a poor, rural village, the triplets nearly missed out on going to school when their father became sick and the family – grandparents, parents and children – struggled to make ends meet.

When their parents applied to the school for help, they were worried that not all three of their children would receive support. But all three have been studying together since 2020 thanks to their sponsors.

“I want to thank my sponsor for being by my side during this growing-up period. I also want to thank my sponsor who lessened my family’s burden and provided a wonderful school for us to study at,” says Anushka.

Anushka’s favourite thing about school is that she can study together with her brothers because, in her own words, “They are not only my brothers, but also my friends. Tummim is ingenious and active, and Urim is quiet and reluctant. I adore them. We play together during free time at school.”

For children like the triplets, sponsorship transforms theirs and the lives of their families too.



## Thirteen-year-old Arati from Nepal started life in challenging circumstances.

With her parents going to prison when she was just three years old, Arati was left stranded and alone.

It was then that she found a new home, safety, education and hope thanks to support from her sponsor, and the love she received from her home parents, teachers and friends.

Now in Year 7, Arati enjoys studying, playing with her friends and singing. “When I play games with my friends, I don’t mind winning or losing; I play for fun,”



she says.

Arati is determined to be a teacher when she grows up because she wants to help other children to gain knowledge and to learn good values so that society becomes a better place.

A brighter future is within reach for children who are safe, educated and empowered like Arati.



# HOPE *comes* FULL CIRCLE

Those deciding to become teachers are often inspired by their own experiences – a teacher who believed in them, a moment of learning that shifted their perspective, or a desire to make a difference in the world. For five Asian Aid former sponsored students, becoming teachers is a response to a calling to provide opportunities and support to disadvantaged children.



Ms Eloni

Mrs Narmi

## INDIA



**In India, Ms Eloni and Mrs Narmi** are grateful for the opportunities they received and embraced to study as sponsored children at the same school they are now teaching. Mrs Narmi attended the school from kindergarten to Year 12. She remembers well how excited she was to be sponsored and go to school. Ms Eloni also feels thankful for the support she received as a child. “I would like to thank

my sponsors who allowed me to study at this school. And because of their help, I could complete my course.”

Both have high hopes for what they might be able to achieve now. They wanted to become teachers to help guide other children through

“I would like to thank my sponsors who allowed me to study at this school. And because of their help, I could complete my course.”

education - and now they can. “We want all the community children, those who are not fortunate, to get help and

an education. We’ll make sure that they can get an education,” says Mrs Narmi. “We hope more children will come here and learn about our true God,” says Ms Eloni.





# NEPAL

In Nepal, a former Asian Aid-sponsored student is now a teacher at a remote village school. When he was a student himself, **Mr Sachin** initially struggled with school, but he persevered, completing his Teaching degree in 2022. Now, as a teacher, he can relate to students who find studying difficult, coming up with new ways to support them.

Mr Sachin brings his A-game not only to the classroom but also on the soccer field. Over the years, as a sponsored child, he has represented his alma mater in different sports, but has particularly excelled in soccer. In 2017, he represented Nepal in the under-16 Soccer Tournament in Malaysia. In

**Mr Sachin's students are learning skills inside the classroom and on the soccer field.**

2018, he was chosen to participate in an international soccer training camp in Russia. And in 2023, he made Nepal's inaugural soccer team for the Homeless

World Cup held in California. His students have much to learn from Mr Sachin inside the classroom and on the soccer field.



# BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, two other former sponsored students have returned as teachers to their old school too.

**Miss Dipisha** graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education and is now the school's Head of Kindergarten. A compassionate and dedicated leader, she is busy training other kindergarten teachers at the school because she wants to enable her team to provide quality learning experiences and a fun and creative environment, ensuring classrooms continue to be beacons of hope for the current students.

"It has actually been a long-time

dream for the school to offer students the opportunity to participate in music," says **Mr David** when talking about his return to teach guitar, keyboard, and vocals to students from Year 1 to Year 7 at the same school where he also studied as a sponsored child once. As someone who understands firsthand that students who come to the school are from different backgrounds, he adjusts his teaching to better meet the students' needs. "I go to class keeping students' strengths and weaknesses in mind: 'Which level is he or she in?' I try to teach them at their own level."



# The Journey OF CHILD UPDATES

There is nothing better than knowing you are making a real difference in the life of a deserving child, their family and community. **Child updates are important for you to stay connected to your sponsored child. But have you ever wondered what it takes for the updates to get to you?**

## 1 THE THEME

WE CHOOSE A THEME FOR THE UPDATE.

Education, health, family, interests, future goals and more.



## 2 PARTNER PREPARATION

PARTNERS RECEIVE THEME-SPECIFIC INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND TRAINING.



## 3 CHILD VISITS

PARTNER STAFF VISIT EACH CHILD.

They check the child's health, school attendance and grades, their family situation and more. Activity sheets make the talks fun for younger children. At times, children may create artwork for their sponsors.



## 4 TRAVEL CHALLENGES

VISITING THE CHILDREN CAN INVOLVE LONG, DANGEROUS TRAVEL.

Our sponsored children are in hundreds of schools. In some cases, it may take up to two days in trains and buses to reach rural and remote schools. And if a particular child is not at school on that day, a second visit is organised. Road closures from the monsoon, school closures from bad weather and political or social unrest make travel challenging.



## 5 INFORMATION UPLOAD

PARTNER STAFF UPLOAD CHILD PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO OUR DATABASE.

Without internet connection at remote locations, this often happens when staff are back in the office.



## 7 FINAL STEPS

We check all photos and information to ensure everything is complete and ready for each sponsor.



## 6 REPORT DESIGN

WE DESIGN A TEMPLATE SO YOU CAN PRINT AND KEEP THE UPDATES.

## 8 DELIVERED

WE EMAIL OR POST CHILD UPDATES TO SPONSORS.

*Thank you for changing a child's life.*



The journey of the child updates getting to you is longer and more involved than depicted here, but we hope that even this simplified version provides a good overview of the process.

If you have ideas about what you would like to see in future child updates\*, please email us at [contact@asianaid.org.au](mailto:contact@asianaid.org.au), or call us on **(+61) 02 6586 4250** with your suggestions.

\* 2025 onwards.

# Your Incredible IMPACT 2023-2024

**3,135** CHILDREN SPONSORED

**6,530** CHILDREN RECEIVED MEDICAL CARE

**5,540** GIRLS AND WOMEN ATTENDED FREE HEALTH CAMPS

**805** PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROVIDED FOR THEIR FAMILIES

These are just some of the numbers that tell the story of the transformational impact that you made during the last financial year\*.

**To discover the full impact of your support, please read our 2023-2024 Annual Report.**

Each number and story in the report is about a changed life who has produced ripple effects to improve the lives of others too, thanks to your generosity, compassion and commitment.

✉ [contact@asianaid.org.au](mailto:contact@asianaid.org.au) to receive a printed copy in the mail. \*April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



Scan/click this QR code to read the report online



## HOPE Travels

Distance Between Schools

As the chapel program ended, Year 9 students at the Tweed Valley Adventist College - their hearts touched by the plight of children overseas - already knew they wanted to help.

Through stories and videos shared by Asian Aid staff, the students had just 'walked a day' in the life of children in Bangladesh; children with limited access to everyday school necessities like clean water, notebooks, pens and sporting equipment. So, the Tweed College students got busy fundraising to provide some of the school necessities. They raised more than \$1,600 that, when spent in Bangladesh, went a long way to buy stationary, library books and sporting equipment for the children there.

And when our team travelled to Bangladesh earlier this year, we went to three remote village schools – one so remote we could only get there by boat - to hand out the special gifts to the

students there. Their excitement became ours because, on that day, hope travelled a long distance to bring joy to Bangladeshi children and purpose to Australian students.



To watch their joy, scan/click this QR code for a short video.

From multi-days to sponsoring children, from chapel presentations to staff worships, from special days to community events, at Asian Aid we are thankful for the support of many Adventist schools in Australia. And we continue to provide opportunities back to schools to re-ignite a sense of service in the hearts

and minds of their students.

If your school would like to partner with Asian Aid in ways that meet your needs, please contact Tiane at [contact@asianaid.org.au](mailto:contact@asianaid.org.au) or on (+61) 02 6586 4250.

## THANK YOU, ASIAN AID BOARD

New and reappointed board directors bring a wealth of expertise, strategic oversight, accountability and heart to Asian Aid.

"We're incredibly blessed to have such dedicated and passionate directors who generously volunteer their time and expertise to the Asian Aid board. **Their wisdom, strategic guidance and unwavering commitment not only help us stay true to our mission and values, but also ensure we operate with integrity and effectiveness.** 'Thank you' doesn't quite capture the depth of our appreciation for the invaluable role each board member plays.

We truly couldn't transform the lives of children, their families and communities without you," says Paul Esau, Asian Aid CEO.

Scan/click this QR code to find out more about our board directors.





# SPONSOR A CHILD Today

Every child matters immensely to God. Made in His image, each one loved, gifted and unique, children are our most important treasure. **When you sponsor a child in poverty, you DO MORE than change the individual child's life.** You also help transform their school, family and community so that they, in turn, can best nurture their children.



**ANISH**

**A21825 (\$55)**

Five-year-old Anish from Nepal may live in poverty now, but that doesn't stop him from dreaming of being an engineer someday. With his mother unable to work because of a disability, Anish and his family live on the meagre income that his father earns as a day labourer. Anish likes going to school and playing soccer with his friends. Your sponsorship will help Anish stay in school and help his family break the cycle of poverty.



**ENIYA**

**A21916 (\$55)**

Five-year-old Eniya from India wants to become a nurse when she grows up to help people, like her mother, who are sick. Despite her father's efforts to provide for his family by selling vegetables in the markets, the family struggles to make ends meet. Eniya loves going to pre-kindy, singing, playing outside and watching cartoons. Your sponsorship will help Eniya go to 'big' school and improve her family circumstances.



**NILOY**

**A21618 (\$55)**

Eight-year-old Niloy from Bangladesh may be only in Year 2, but he already likes school so much, he wants to be a teacher when he grows up. Curious and attentive, he is the first to participate in class and enjoys playing soccer with his friends, reading and gardening. Niloy lives with his aunty because both of his parents have passed away. Your sponsorship will help Niloy grow, learn and develop to his full potential.

**I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR** (child's name) \_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE GRADUATION FUND.** Your donation will help children continue their education even when their current supporters can no longer assist.

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  My choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ONE-OFF DONATION  MONTHLY DONATION

**I WILL GIVE MY SPONSORSHIP AND/OR 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please send me details about making a Gift in my Will to Asian Aid.

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid, please tick this box.

This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible in Australia. Personal information is collected to process donations, issue tax receipts and send updates about your support.

**MY DETAILS**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ID \_\_\_\_\_

(if already a supporter)

**WAYS TO DONATE TO ASIAN AID**

**asianaid.org.au**

**MAIL** your completed form to:  
PO Box 333 Wauchope  
NSW 2446 Australia

**CALL** (+61) 02 6586 4250

For more information, visit [www.asianaid.org.au](http://www.asianaid.org.au)  
call (+61) 02 6586 4250 or email [contact@asianaid.org.au](mailto:contact@asianaid.org.au)

