



Since 1983

PROMISE UPDATE

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Andaman and Nicobar Islands — After Tsunami

In the aftermath of the December 2004 Tsunami, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands continue to suffer with acute water shortages and loss of livelihood among its communities. Many families living in such destitute conditions pleaded for *Children of Promise* partners, *Indian Christian Fellowship* located in Port Blair, to take and care for their children who were



Children of Tsunami brought into Calvary Children's Home

suffering the deplor-

able conditions. With hearts of compassion, our partners gathered many up in their arms and brought them to the *Calvary Childrens Home*. Soon the home went from caring for 63 to caring for 176 children. Accommodations quickly became inadequate and necessitated the setting up of a temporary shelter, awaiting the building of a new home on the property belonging to their ministry. To alleviate the water shortage problem, work is beginning on building a



One temporary facility for new children.

huge well. All of the children are now settled in their temporary home and are enrolled in nearby schools. Please share the need for new sponsors with family and friends.

“You showed us that we are someone special.”

Juan Carlos, age 12, used to swear, was belligerent, and combative, according to *El Pozo* founders and directors, Tyler and Connie Youngkin. He walked the streets day and night and his mom is a drug addict. Juan has been at *El Pozo* for about a year and recently was chosen to give his 6th grade class graduation speech, because he had the best grades and citizenship! His speech contained a message that rings from his heart to those who care for him and his peers — the home, school, and sponsors. “Thank you for instilling in us what is good and bad, because little by little, we become better. We want you to know that you have a big place in our hearts because you showed us that we are someone special.” This is an echo in the hearts of all the children we care for around the world. This is the difference that sponsors and supporters make.



Foursquare Children of Promise — Cambodia

According to Ted Olbrich, *Foursquare Children of Promise* Director, churches continue to be planted and new facilities are under construction. Two new church/orphan homes were dedicated in July and four more have been completed. There are now 1500 churches and the homes are filled with 3,400 orphans and widows.

Olbrich reports, “Our orphans keep getting married and go off to be pastors, just as they said they would. Two of our orphans will begin dental training this fall. The Cambodian orphans have an intense drive to succeed—coupled with computer training and some advanced English language ability, they can accomplish much.”

If you could encapsulate all that is happening in the program of our *Foursquare Children of Promise* partnership into one word, it would be *evolution*. It is impossible to report the magnitude of what God is doing in this small

space, but here are a few things. Eighty seven of the children attended the *Foursquare Children of Promise* musical and computer training. With only 13 computers and 25 musical keyboards (being purchased through a grant), the training had to be broken up into three study shifts. Swine production continues to expand and the rice mill is producing rice bran as a byproduct from the rice. The rice crop does not adequately meet all the needs, so some homes have started raising corn. Food shipments continue to arrive from America.

Distribution to the church/homes is never ending. The churches are also sharing surplus local production with other locations. The ‘tractor factory’ has produced several new products for the US market. Wells and water seepage ponds are being built.

Amidst all the progress, with the homes swarming with activity of an abundance of orphans and increased church growth, things wear out and there is need of constant repairs. Ted Olbrich says, “We seem to live in quiet desperation — desperate for sponsors, desperate for school uniforms (\$21,000 by next month), and desperate for repairs. It’s a good place to be. Desperation keeps me focused on the Lord and active in prayer. If I weren’t desperate, I’d be desperate to be desperate.”

Due to the number of children who have been coming into the program with positive H.I.V. tests, and the inadequate capacity of *Sisters of Charity* to care for all of the H.I.V. orphans, plans are being formulated to build a designated H.I.V. home. We received the report that one of our nine-year-old orphan girls came down with AIDS. She sweetly told her older sister and younger brother not to worry, that she was going to be with Jesus. She said it with such powerful assurance that Ted Olbrich cried when he heard her say it. She is being admitted to the *Sisters of Charity* treatment center where it is hoped that the AIDS cocktail will help bring her back to good health.



Hello from Cambodia orphans.



Rice mill — large rock had to be brought in to keep the 20 ton loads coming out of the mill from sinking.