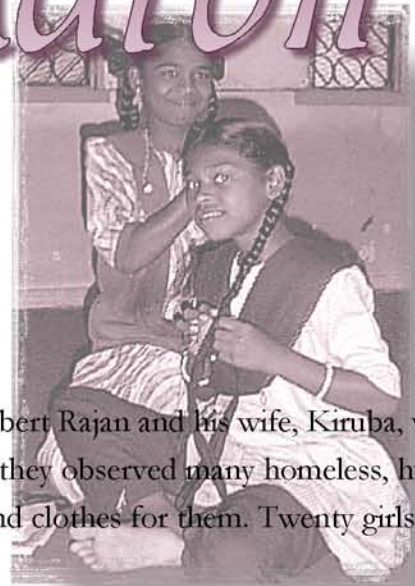


Rose of Sharon Home for Girls



The Rose of Sharon Home for Girls was started in 1978 when Mr. Albert Rajan and his wife, Kiruba, were preaching the gospel near the town of Perumalpuram in India. There they observed many homeless, hungry girls dressed in rags. Albert offered to take them in, providing food and clothes for them. Twenty girls accepted this invitation and the Rose of Sharon Home began. Albert and Kiruba have since passed away, but the vision lives on with their son, Victor, and his wife Kiruba, who now care for the 70 girls who are in the home and conduct outreaches in the surrounding villages on Saturdays.

The children live in the home for 10 to 13 years. The girls are schooled through 12th grade. Upon graduating, they are given an opportunity to go to nursing school. After receiving their degree in nursing, the home helps them get a job in a privately owned hospital, which enables them to provide for themselves. Yearly the home contacts each of the graduates and holds a one-day retreat. The day is full of fellowship and the joy of hearing how each one is doing. There are four girls graduating this year.

The girls attend a Christian school located about three miles from the home. The girls walk to and from school each day. Many of the girls are taking computer classes in their free time, and some of the older girls are attending an institute which gives sewing and typing classes.

The children are in good health. They receive periodic check-ups from a local hospital. The meals strictly follow a nutritious meal chart containing both vegetable and non-vegetable items.

The girls attend Bible classes, taught by Mrs. Kiruba Victor, every Sunday after church. Right now, they are studying the book of Joshua. Every year scripture exams are given in March with prizes for the winners.

The home does many things as a family that the girls enjoy. Every Sunday the home has its "Talent Hour" which encourages the girls to use their God-given talents. Also, they watch Christian videos together one night each month. Every year the home plans a trip to different places along the seashore for picnics and recreation.

Greatest Needs of the Home:

- * The home is in need of a larger building to accommodate the girls. There is a piece of land adjacent to the current building that the home is wanting to purchase in order to put another home on it.
- * The home also needs a van to transport the girls to and from school. The three mile walk is hard for many of the young girls.

Costs for Supplies:

- * Shoes cost \$5
- * A set of clothes cost \$10
- * A Bible costs \$3
- * A book bag costs \$9
- * School supplies for the elementary costs \$18 and the cost is \$25 for the high school.
- * School uniforms cost \$12 per set (2 sets are needed).

Information about India:

(as quoted from "Operation World" 21st Century edition)

- * The population is 80% Hindu, 12.5% Muslim, and 2.4% Christian.
- * There are 4,635 distinct people groups in India.
- * There are 407 languages spoken in India and 53 of the languages have the complete Bible.
- * Yearly income per person is \$370 (1.2% of USA).
- * There are 41 million Indians without a home.
- * India is the second largest Islamic nation with 140 million Muslims.
- * In India, nearly 400 million people are under the age of 18; more than 70 million are child laborers; 10 million are bonded laborers (a form of slavery to pay off family debts); 13 million are homeless; 2 million are street children without families and over 575,000 are child prostitutes.
- * AIDS has spread rapidly. The major source of infection is drug use.

Prayer Focus:

- * Please pray for the children of our homes and the home directors. Pray that these precious children may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, grow in their faith, and become influential in their community and country.
- * Pray for the Bible women, evangelists, and pastors (who follow up with the families of the children and share with the unreached), that many will come to know Jesus through their witness. Pray for their safety as they share in areas often hostile to Christians.

