

February 2023

AN UPDATE FROM BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Dear Friend,

God sets the *lonely* in families. This is a translation of the first line of Psalm 68:6 that has been very close to my heart when I think about the ministry we have.

"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families."
Psalm 68: 5-6a

God is a protector of the most vulnerable in our world. He not only cares about their physical safety, but He created a system designed to provide for the social and emotional needs of the vulnerable – family. As a result, our ministry has always focused on the care of the family unit. Sometimes this is family of origin, extended family or community, and even a new forever family.

As we think about showing our love to family and friends at Valentine's season, we realize that showing love is about so much more than candy, cards, and flowers. Although those are nice, love involves action. I want to share with you some loving actions that have had a tremendous impact on our ministry to children.



At a conference in December about orphan care, I was challenged beyond thinking in terms of a child's immediate needs. Our speaker's challenge was, "Who will this child spend Christmas with in 20 years? **Who will the grandparents be to this child's children?**"

The first children we ever took into care in our new sponsorship program (Hearts of Compassion) live in Nepal. Meet Sugam and Binod below:

Sugam was abandoned by his parents at a young age and was living with his grandmother when we met him and brought him to our home. Sugam's grandma and relatives were addicted to drugs, and he had even resorted to stealing food from the neighbors as a result of a lack of supervision and a shortage of food. Additionally, he wasn't properly accustomed to, or able to go attend school until he moved into our Shiloh Family Home. Now, he is an 11-year-old 1st grader. He is receiving proper education

and care. He is practicing his faith along with the other children. He attends Sunday school regularly and reads his Bible, learning more about our Savior who is taking care of him. He loves to spend time playing football (soccer), skating, and skipping. He has significantly improved in his studies.

Binod is 7 years old and attends kindergarten. His father had passed away and his mother was unable to care for him. His grandparents took him in but were unable to provide him with food or education. He was begging for food, going door to door, and did not have a change of clothes. We found him in this condition and welcomed him to our family home. He has since been in our home, eating well and going to an English-medium school. He has made good progress in his studies and is starting to learn more about Jesus, attending church regularly, and praying to his Lord God who has created him. According to his home parents, he is a very calm and genuine person who loves to play badminton, football, and swim.



We thank you for your prayers and gifts. Both children were in dangerous situations and alone. When I learned about them, they lived too far from any of our other homes for them to receive care. I did not know what to do, but I knew these children desperately needed a loving home. I contacted a few friends of BCH and shared the children's stories. Their responses – "I will sponsor these children each month." And so, they have. **This was the beginning of Hearts of Compassion!** As a result of that support, a family can provide care for these precious children. The children are no longer alone; they have become part of a family, just like God says in Psalm 68:6. "God places the solitary (lonely) in families."

As everything around us becomes heart shaped and pink or red, I ask you to show love through a love gift. Your support means that children like Binod and Sugam never have to go back to being alone.

With Love,

Linda Brooks

Linda

P.S. Consider giving in honor or memory of someone you love. If you provide the information on the card enclosed, we would be happy to send them a note about your thoughtfulness! You can also read more about children in our care at www.bch-hearts.org who could benefit from your monthly sponsorship.



*Hearts of Compassion gifts are pooled according to IRS regulations and to ensure care is provided to all children according to their needs, regardless of their sponsorship. At the time of this letter, Binod and Sugam are still available to be sponsored since our goal is to provide 10 financial and prayer supporters for each child. If you have questions about sponsorship, please contact Debby@bch-hearts.org. Thank you!