



November 2007

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# Serve the Children News

## *I Will Never Be The Same* by Lu Collier

It's 5:30AM, and the wake-up bell is ringing. Soon I'll hear the children going about their morning chores, talking and singing, eating breakfast outside and having their personal devotions around the campus. It looks like it will be another beautiful sunny day here at the Ankoor Children's Home in India.



Now it's almost 8:30AM, and time to head over to the new multi-purpose hall for our morning worship together with the children and staff. There are no windows or doors yet, so the cool morning breeze comes right in. We arrive to a chorus of, "Good morning Auntie, good morning Uncle!" and sit down with Kiron in the chairs facing the kids, who are all sitting on blankets on the concrete floor, boys on one side girls on the other. Our meeting goes on in a combination of English and Marathi.

The kids love to sing and we're trying to learn their songs and the motions. Doug shares a Bible story while Kiron translates, and we have prayer together, with some of the children praying for different requests. They have seen a lot of answers to prayer.

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## *Come Hear Our Stories . . .*

Thank you for your support and prayers for the India team! Come hear all about our trip, see some great pictures and learn what Serve the Children is doing in India to change children's lives.



What:	India Team Presentation
When:	This Tuesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Time:	7PM
Where:	Praise Covenant Church 3501 S Orchard Tacoma, WA

You can help change a child's life forever! For less than many of us spend on coffee, you can help Kiron and Nalini care for a needy tribal child in India. They have room for more children, and village parents are constantly asking, "Can you take my child at Ankoor?" \$25 per month is all it takes to give a child and their family this opportunity.

### *Want to help?*

- *Start your online Christmas shopping at [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)*
- *Join the Spring Fundraiser Planning Team – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is December 18<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Interested in being on the board? We have an opening. Contact Doug for more information.*
- *Plan your vacations:  
May 8 – 22  
Liberia Mission Trip  
For Faith Seminary Students  
July 10-19  
Liberia Mission Trip  
Nov. 28 – Dec. 13  
India Mission Trip*
- *Sponsor a child.*

### **Serve the Children**

5800 Soundview Drive E-104  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
[www.servethechildren.com](http://www.servethechildren.com)  
(253) 851-1794

## *I Will Never Be The Same* Continued

After 10AM, the children all get together in a group and start walking out the gate to school, accompanied by Sanjay, the boys' staff member. Some of the older boys ride bikes to their school, which is farther away. Kiron drives the girls. Later we get together with the staff to pray. Later this afternoon we'll go with Kiron and Nalini and drive out to another one of the tribal villages where the children's families live, taking some of the kids from that village with us.

The Matang people live in the second village we visited. They are of the lowest Hindu caste. They own no land, so they work as farm or construction laborers when they can, or go to the forest and bring back wood to sell, carrying big bundles on their heads. We were warmly welcomed and served the hot sweet tea we have learned to love. We ate dinner by the light of a candle in a one room hut, sitting on a mat on the floor with the mother of the family, who cooked over a small fire on one side of the room. We were honored to be served chappati bread, rice, sauce with a little meat (which they only get once a week) and a few vegetables. This simple meal for us cost the family two whole days wages.

Another day we visited the school that the 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade children attend, a short walk down the road in Lasina. We were welcomed with flowers and had tea with the principal. The teachers enthusiastically told us how well behaved the children are and how well they study. It was great to see the Ankoor kids in their classrooms. Many of them arrived at the children's home from their villages malnourished, with lice, intestinal parasites and skin diseases. To see them now, healthy and smiling in school was really rewarding.

The parent's conference was a real highlight of our stay. Some of the families traveled 6 hours to get to the home for this weekend of meetings, fellowship and games with the kids. They really appreciate what is being done for their children here and it was wonderful to spend time with them. The language barrier was just no problem!

We have taken a ton of pictures, gotten to know many of the children. We have watched the kids eat their first ice cream ever and have a great water balloon fight. We have cried over the grinding poverty of their villages and rejoiced over the hope they now have in Christ and the future they have through education and the wonderful care and training they get here. We have seen the servant heart and love of Christ in action.

I am already looking forward to going back next year. There are many children I want to sponsor. Maui used to be my favorite place in the world, but it's been replaced by a little village in central India where needy tribal children can find hope, and there are people I love.

▪ *"This simple meal for us cost the family two whole days wages."*

▪ *"To see them now, healthy and smiling in school..."*

▪ *"We have seen the servant heart and love of Christ in action."*

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