



NEWS FROM

HOINA

HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

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Angel Across the Seas

By Dr. Solomon, Member, HOINA India Board of Trustees



The HOINA medical clinic in Perali Village wasn't fancy, but the villagers lined up to see the doctor and get referrals, or triage of injuries, or medical prescriptions for their conditions.

I want to tell you a story of a fisherman named Polayya who lived in a small, coastal village in Ramapuram near Chirala. The villagers lived in small huts made of palmyra leaves and bamboo. The whole family slept in the small space of the hut they had—the bedroom-bathroom-kitchen all rolled into one. Men were supposed to bathe outside, and women bathed after the men went out for fishing.

The only profession these villagers knew was catching fish. Those days they were not properly equipped to go into the deep seas. They used to borrow money from loan sharks, stitch their old nets, and go fishing in catamarans, a crude form of boat, having no safety measures, no motor, nor compass to guide them. Often the fishermen used to get stuck in sea storms as weather prediction was not available to them then.

One fine day, assuming it was the right time for fishing, three men ventured into the deep sea. Unfortunately, the



Awaiting treatment, villagers crowded into the small medical hut.

continued on page 2

Angel (continued)



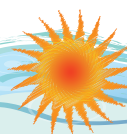
(Pictured above) HOINA Founder, Darlene Large, sits on the steps of the HOINA medical clinic in Pandurangapuram Village, which was constructed to replace our humble mud and thatch clinic. When the earthquake and tsunami of 2004 destroyed Pandurangapuram, HOINA continued, and does to this day, to feed the elderly widows left behind (pictured below). We serve a daily hot meal free of charge to them in what was our medical center property. As time went on, the village was rebuilt, and the Indian government implemented more medical facilities in the area, making our medical outreach redundant. See how our medical needs for our HOINA children are being met in next month's issue.



weather was not favorable, and they got lost at sea. In those days lighthouses were also not available to help them find their way back to the villages. While they were struggling to row back, one fisherman was hit by a big fish, maybe a shark or swordfish. It was a violent blow, and he was hit on his abdomen, making an injury that was quite deep. Polayya fell unconscious, but somehow the other fishermen brought him back to shore. The hospital did a primary care of him and helped him survive, but he then developed an incisional hernia, where all his intestines were ballooning out. He was advised to go to a higher medical center for further help. Sadly, he couldn't afford to and literally was helpless.

Back in the 1980s when Mom [HOINA Founder Darlene Large] was coming to India to provide homes for the orphaned children and provide medical care to the helpless, I used to help run a medical camp in a village called Perali, where so many helpless people were given medical help. We also ran a TB clinic and treated hundreds of patients. Crowds of people used to flock to the medical camps.

Polayya came to know about the good work HOINA was doing and approached us. He came to one medical camp. Mom was so moved seeing his plight, she arranged immediately for his medical expenses. She instructed all of us to take care of him and take him to a bigger medical center, where he was operated on and he was back to his normal self. He went back to his fishing as he was the sole bread winner for his family. When I met him some time later, he was so happy and was filled with gratitude towards Mom. He described Mom as an angel who came from the other side of the sea to save his life. He remembered her throughout his life. He is now survived by his son and still all of them remember the good deed HOINA did nearly 40 years back.



Prayer Request for India

While we are enjoying the passing of winter into spring in the U.S., our friends in India are suffering already in the sweltering heat of the tropics. Being so near the equator, our HOINA property sees a drastic switch from their coolest month of January. By mid-March this year, the temperatures were already in the 90s. April and May only get hotter. We appreciate your prayers for their strength and safety to bear the heat, no problematic droughts should the rains be late, and no mosquito-borne illness outbreaks.

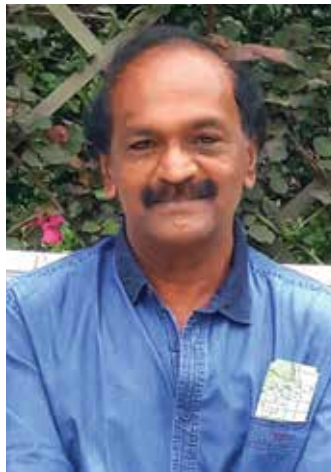
Meet Dr. Solomon

I first met mom after my medical school and finishing my internship in 1985. I heard about a lady from America who started HOINA to take care of the children who are orphaned. When I met her, I was awestruck seeing her dedication, energy, love, and compassion.

She told me to take up medical services in a small rural village called Perali where people were dying of Tuberculosis and malnutrition. I was very enthusiastic to work in rural India, where the health care situation was really bad and poverty-related problems were plentiful.

My association with HOINA began when I worked as a medical doctor in their small mud and thatch shelter attached to a small cow shed (see page 1 photos). We started our mission of healing. Seeing the results, people thronged in huge numbers to our humble facility. As HOINA made a name for itself, we would often see around 200 patients daily.

I was made a trustee to HOINA's Indian board around the year 2000 and have been serving for the last 20+ years in that capacity. I am the son of two doctors, and my wife, too, is a doctor. We are blessed with three children (all of whom are doctors), seven grandchildren, and one more on the way. My work for the Indian medical emergency service is now finished, and I am enjoying my retirement at home.



Dr. Solomon in his younger years when he used HOINA's Jeep for doing mobile medical camps in various villages. We have always been so thankful for Rotary International's help in getting us capital improvements like this beautiful vehicle.



Remembrances

Thank you to the many donors who chose to give memorial gifts through February 2022. When requesting a gift to be listed in someone's memory or honor, please include the name and address of the individual or family so we can send them an acknowledgment.

In Memory of

Bruce Large
Roy Lawrence
Ella Mae Murphy
Sampath Ranji (2)

In Honor of

Darlene Large

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:

HOINA
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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PO Box 636
Brownstown, PA 17508-0636 U.S.A.
717.355.9494
Toll-free: 877.99.HOINA (4.6462)
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April 2022 

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Teens Need Sponsors Too

With the constant changes in India during the COVID-19 Pandemic, HOINA had not been assigning children to new sponsors. Now that our students are back on our campus, we are pleased to feature Swami K., who came to HOINA just before the pandemic started (top photo). Swami's father was a truck driver, who died in 2018. Swami had just turned 12. His widowed mother was illiterate, and the only work she could get was doing daily field work. With such minimal earnings, she was unable to provide a good education for her children. She approached HOINA seeking admission for her son. Swami is now in 9th grade (bottom photo) and doing well in school. He is a fun and energetic young man, who loves playing cricket with his HOINA brothers. His goal in life is to become a policeman.

Please complete the coupon above and return it to our office with your first monthly gift of \$35 to become one of our treasured child sponsors. Thank you for your generosity!

