



# KI Reporter

Second Quarter 2009

## ***Himalayan Mercy Home Opens Doors; Sustains Storm Damage***

In a remote region of Northeast India, not far from the border of Bhutan, is the newly established *Himalayan Mercy Home*, an orphanage dedicated to bringing practical help, hope, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to poverty-stricken children. A joint partnership between Kidstown International and an Indian ministry named Peniel Gospel Team brought the orphanage to life on June 5th of this year.

The district in which the home is located is very needy, as aptly described by Peniel Gospel Team director, Joseph Mammen: "Some of the villages and hills of this place are uncivilized and the people are living in illiteracy, anarchy, and superstitions. Their children do not have any hope for the future. They do not have any plans for their lives. So they need to be developed and reached with the Gospel. These places contain lots of orphans who are discarded and their plight is heartbreaking and serious."



Staff quarters & chapel at the *Himalayan Mercy Home*

It was this burden that birthed the vision of starting an orphanage in this area. After several years of prayer and waiting, that vision is now a reality. Several Kidstown donors provided the needed \$4,000 in start-up costs, and others volunteered to sponsor children who would soon be brought in. As of mid-June, 14 children now have a stable, loving, Christ-centered environment in which to live, grow, and learn.

The children come from a region along the Indian-Bhutan border, a three-hour hike from the orphanage. They belong to a people group called the *Dukpa*. The *Dukpa* are originally from Tibet but migrated south and settled in this border region. They are a very poor people, many of which suffer from lack of food. There are many widows, orphans, and semi-orphans among them. None of their children are educated. In some of their villages there is no phone or medical service, and some villagers must walk two hours to reach the nearest store. It is from here that children have been selected to live in the *Himalayan Mercy Home*. The desire of the orphanage leaders is to provide for their basic needs, to educate them, tell them about Jesus, and then one day send them back to their own people with the Gospel. Many more children are waiting to come to the *Himalayan Mercy Home*, but cannot until sponsors are found. Will you consider sponsoring one? In so doing you become an integral part of bringing help, hope, and the Gospel to these kids! If you are interested, look on page 3 of this newsletter, or on Kidstown's website ([www.kidstown.org](http://www.kidstown.org)), for eligible children. Thanks for helping in this way!



Building damage wrought by Cyclone Aila in early June

*Less than a week after the orphanage started, a cyclone ripped through the area, inflicting damage on at least one of the orphanage buildings (see photo at left). We praise God that no children were injured! The dedication of the home, scheduled for June 12th, was postponed due to the storm. The Himalayan Mercy Home is off to a bumpy start, but soon things will be back in order and once again moving forward!*

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# A Heartbreaking Experience

*Written by Chariti Smith, team member on Kidstown's trip to Romania in May, 2009.*

We had already been to three other houses in the surrounding villages that afternoon. Two were homes where some of the children in the orphanage, the Emmaus Home, had come from. It was heartbreaking to meet their families, who had given them up for various reasons, and step into the homes where they had probably been raised for the first few years of their lives before being taken in. We asked Eszter, our guide, to take us back to the hotel. She was very insistent on us seeing one last home.

When we pulled up to the house, we could hear a television was on, so we knew someone was home, but Eszter took us around the back. When we came around the corner, we heard a baby crying, and instantly my stomach started turning in knots. I started imagining the worst, but no one could prepare me for what we saw. Just looking into the doorway, I felt sick. The floor was rotting wood, stained with what looked like oil and filth. There were dirty clothes everywhere, and the minimal furniture that was there was in pretty bad shape. I couldn't even fathom spending a night there, much less live there. The walls were filthy and had a couple big holes in them, and there was no visible real kitchen or bathroom. As I stood outside, looking into this disaster of a living space, I did not, with all that was inside of me, want to go in. But I forced my feet to move, with the baby's crying still in my ears.



These three children from the Tamas family still live in the poverty-stricken living situation described in the article.

Everyone in my team had already gone in, and as I walked to the second room, I saw the crib where the baby was lying, and I heard Eszter talking. I figured she was talking to the parent, or whoever was there, but as I started looking around, I realized we were the only ones there. My worst fears were realized – the baby was alone. She stopped crying and started to look around when we got there and were taking pictures. Then, while we were standing around in complete shock, asking ourselves where the parents were, Eszter went to the front side of the house where the whole family was - grandmother, father, mother, and 4 other children. When Eszter asked why the baby had been alone, the mother claimed they couldn't hear her over the TV, but Eszter says they just don't care. The mother was all smiles. Maybe she was trying to act like she was a good mother, and that she really did care for her children. Maybe she was trying to put on a good face for our cameras. Maybe she was oblivious to her lack of care for her child, I don't know. But it made me sick. If ever there was a time I ever wondered how God could love somebody

as much as He loves little abandoned children, it was then. I was so furious with the parents, and so badly wanted to take their children away from them right then and there.

The Tamas house was the topic of conversation for the rest of the trip. We would try to talk about other things, but it would always come up. We got to meet their siblings (who lived in the Emmaus Home orphanage) the next day, and the difference was amazing and very encouraging. Obviously they were clean, and well fed, but the looks in their eyes... they had hope, joy, life! Even through their smiles and joy, I could see the emotional and physical scars. One of the girls, Katalin, had come back from visiting her parents with a nail in her arm, and her arm was broken. Not sure if it was from abuse or neglect - there are no supervised visits in Romania! How do people have 10 kids and can't take care of any one of them? I just don't understand.

On arriving home, I went to my grandparent's church on Mother's Day. The pastor's wife spoke about mothers, and I tried to hold back tears through the whole service. My grandma asked if the sermon made me miss my mom, but to be honest, all I could think about was the children I had seen who didn't have good mothers, and wonder when the time would be when I will be privileged enough to stand in as their mother. I couldn't care less if I had children of my own if it would mean the orphans in Romania would look to me as the mother they never had. Only in God's timing....

Five of the Tamas children are fortunate to live in the Emmaus Home where they receive love, care, and an education.



## Rotary Clubs Help Purchase Van for Romanian Orphanage

Over the past year, five Tacoma (Washington) area Rotary clubs partnered with Kidstown and contributed \$17,000 to help purchase a van for the Emmaus Home orphanage in Bogata, Romania. This VW van will help Emmaus' 43 children to have a better life. It is encouraging to see all of these clubs work together to meet this significant need. Kidstown extends its sincere thanks to the Rotary clubs of South Hill Puyallup, Puyallup Downtown, Tacoma North, Tacoma #8, and Tacoma Narrows!

This 17-passenger VW van was delivered to the Emmaus Home on May 5th, 2009.



### Sponsors needed for kids in India!\*



**Dojam Dukpa** is 8 years old. Her mother is dead, little is known about her father, and although she is 8, she has not yet been to school. At the orphanage she will have the opportunity to go to school.



**Karma Dukpa** is 6 years old. His father is deaf and mute, and little is known about his mother. At the orphanage he will have the opportunity to learn, develop normally, and hear about Jesus.



**Solomi Uraou** is 5 years old. Her mother is mentally ill and little is known about her dad. At the Himalayan Mercy Home she will be alleviated of the suffering caused by poverty.



**Sandya Ekka** is 5 years old. Her father is dead and little is known about her mother. The leaders and staff at the Himalayan Mercy Home will reach out to Sandya and help her to become all that God has designed her to be.



**Kenjom Dukpa** is 4 years old. She is a semi-orphan, meaning that one of her parents is dead. Little is known about the other. At the Himalayan Mercy Home she will receive the love and care she so desperately needs.

*Sponsor one of these children today at [www.kidstown.org](http://www.kidstown.org)*

\*These children, once they are sponsored, will come to live in the Himalayan Mercy Home (see page 1 of this newsletter).

## Girls from Orphanage Help Start a Church

Kola is a bright 17-year old who lives in the Sarah Children's Home in India. Although so young, she has experienced much heartbreak and struggle. Before coming to the Sarah Home, she lived in poverty, her father was an alcoholic, and her mother committed suicide. After a failed attempt with a blended family, Kola came to live in the Sarah Home orphanage. Here her life is different because she is cared for, loved, and nurtured in the ways of God.

Kola is studying to become a nurse. After she finishes her training she desires to go back to her village, to help those who suffer, and to be a witness for Christ.

Her faith in Christ, however, is already bearing fruit. Due to her shining example, and the examples of a few other girls from the Sarah Home, a church has been started in a place about 10 minutes away from Kola's village. Moved by the care the girls received and by the visible difference that Christ had made in their lives, the parents of these girls accepted an invitation to come to the church. They wanted to see for themselves what it was that caused this life-transforming difference in their children. At first four people came to the church, but now there are 35 coming! This stunning growth is due in part to the parents' sharing with their friends about the incredible difference they have witnessed in the lives of their kids. So, because of Kola and a few other girls from the Sarah Home, a church now exists in a Hindu community - a place where no church previously existed. These girls are the church planters, and people are coming to Christ because of them!



(From left) Kola, Lakshmi Salla, Lakshmi Kola, and Saritha helped to start a church in a Hindu community. The difference Christ made in their lives was the key!

## *Kidstown Essentials*

*Kidstown was formed in 1996 in response to the desperate need to help orphans in Romania. Initially helping 35 children in one orphanage, Kidstown now strives to provide long-term support to nearly 500 children living in 20 Christian orphanages in Romania, India, and Nepal.*

*Kidstown endeavors to link individuals, schools, churches, and businesses to children in Kidstown-supported orphanages. Sponsors provide financial support which helps to meet the basic needs of their sponsored child as well as the needs of the other children in the orphanage. Sponsors are encouraged to befriend their child through letters, cards, and photos. Sponsors are also encouraged to pray for their child, especially that they will come to salvation, grow in their faith, and that one day they will share the Gospel with their own people.*

*Kidstown is registered in Washington as a charitable organization and is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity. Kidstown is an affiliate member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and has an independent auditor review its finances on a yearly basis. A copy of the most recent financial statement is available upon request. 100% of sponsorship donations are sent overseas.*

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A higher purpose.*