

theOrphan

With Love from Lynne & Ratnam

June 2005

Uma & Srinu & Shoba



Uma, 11, Shoba, 8, and Srinu, 4, are AIDS orphans. Both of their parents died of AIDS leaving them to be cared for by their elderly, widowed grandmother in a wretched slum. There are actually 5 siblings in the family. Agape took in 3 of the 5 children. Ganesh, a 12 year old boy, and his 15 year old sister were left behind because they were the only bread winners in the family, and someone had to stay behind to take care of the grandmother. The sister needs to help the grandmother (who uses a walker) tend to things like carrying the water from the hand pump, getting firewood, cooking and washing the clothes which is done by hand! The two

manage to make a small amount of money by selling small idol rings (for your finger) along with other idol trinkets in front of Hindu temples.

Srinu is 4 years old and he is **HIV positive**. He's a very affectionate, loving, full of life little boy. When he came to the orphanage his two ears were filled with a greenish colored pus-like discharge. Chronic ear infections are common in HIV positive children. Uma, his older sister said, "He always has that." The stench that emanated from his ear was unbearable. My husband, being a physician, was able to prescribe some antibiotics and now Srinu has been free from ear infections for 2 months. Srinu will live a more comfortable life at the orphanage no doubt with just simple medications. In addition, he will receive clean, healthy nutritional food, hygienic living conditions, boiled water, and LOVE! - all of which were not available in the slum where he was living.





Uma is 11 and she is HIV negative. On her 3rd day at the hostel, Uma threw away all the idol rings she was wearing. The day before, my husband had mentioned he thought it would be best for us to tell Uma to get rid of the idol rings. After some discussion, we decided that it would be more powerful and glorious if she threw them away herself, and that for a time, we would remain silent. The following day we noticed she wasn't wearing the rings. Venu, one of our 11 year olds who was from a Hindu background prior to coming to Agape, told her those idols were not real gods because there is only one true God named Jesus, and she should throw the rings away. So she simply threw them away!

Uma's transformation didn't stop there. A few days later I cut several inches of Uma's hair. Her hair was a bit scraggy looking, obviously very thin and broken at the ends from poor nutrition. Immediately after I finished cutting her hair, she took the scissors from me. She held the scissors up to a small nose ring she was wearing, and with a nod gestured as to whether she should cut it off. I shook my head in approval and off it came.

Shoba for the most part looks like an ordinary 8 year old. However Shoba, like her 11 year old sister Uma, has never been to school a day in their lives until Agape. Shoba's days were spent wandering the streets searching for plastic bags, old clothes, and cardboard along the roadside and in the dumpsters. These are items that might fetch a few rupees on the recycling market. She was what we call a rag picker and not unlike so many other children living in the slums of India. Shoba has now gone from a tough slum girl with a truck driver mouth, to a pleasant little girl who is now studying in the first grade. She now has the opportunity for a brighter future.



Mail In Donations

Agape International
C/o Kim Ogden, COO
PO Box 918
Sudbury, MA 01776
(978) 443-3180

Please indicate if this check is for
Lynne's support or the Orphanage on
the memo section.

Online Donations

Go to www.agapeintl.org and click
on Donate Now. On-line donations
are handled by Network for Good a
non-profit designed to receive
donations for other non-profits. Their
site is very secure they are affiliated
with Time Warner & the Red Cross
use them.

Agape International Contacts

Founder & Executive Director:

Lynne Voggu

Lynne & Ratnam Voggu
Batchu Residency flat #501
10-3-148/1 East Marredpally
Secunderabad 500026
Andhra Pradesh India

lynne@agapeintl.org
ratnam@agapeintl.org

Agape International COO

Kim Ogden
kimjogden@aol.com

(978) 443-3180

www.agapeintl.org