

Karen's Cottage



India



History: Karen's Cottage has been open since 1978 in the Jammalapalem Village, Andhra Pradesh, India. Mrs. B. S. Joseph Prasad and her husband had dedicated their lives to ministry and when they moved to Jammalapalem

Village they began reaching out to the poor and illiterate Hindus. At first they had only a small group of children join them for a snack and Bible story along with teaching of math and reading. Gradually the number increased and as she saw the need, Mrs. Joseph's heart was moved to care for the neediest children in a home. Karen's Cottage started in a thatched house. Together they worked with Children of Promise to build a home and start four churches in other poor villages. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Joseph has continued with the help of dedicated workers and her eldest son and his wife. Presently Karen's Cottage is home to the staff, 45 children and four widows who help at the home. Mrs. Prasad, Ama (mom) to all who stay at the home, is tender and loving as she cares for each child. She can be found checking or fixing the boys hair for school, preparing the butter milk for the children's breakfast, or helping to serve the children their meals. Mrs. Prasad's other son and his wife are directors of Calvary Children's Home.



Program: The children are from rural villages and usually enter the home around six years old and the goal is that they will stay at the home until they finish high school so they will be able to get a job and care for their own needs. In the area of the home there are over 500 other needy children still in need of care with over 25 living in the streets. Karen's Cottage children go to public school by bus. They wear uniforms for school. The home is near the Indian Ocean and the family



likes to take trips there. Daily they have family devotionals in the morning and in the evening a Bible study. They attend Sunday school and services and VBS programs. With the staff, the children reach out to the villages and distribute tracts and conduct Gospel prayer meetings.

Meals at the home include: rice with vegetable curry, butter milk, rice cakes, chicken and an egg once a week.

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Children of Promise International

Greatest Needs for the Home:

The home needs support to build new housing for the children, boxes (\$10) to store children's belongings and a van (\$5000) to transport the children.

Costs for home:

For school supplies \$12

For a set of clothes \$8

For a Bible \$3



Information about India:

(Quoted from "Operation World" 21st Century edition and CIA Facts Book)

- ◆ Population of India is over a billion.
- ◆ Over 600 million live in deep poverty.
- ◆ 4 million orphans.
- ◆ Millions of children work in sweatshops or are sold into slavery to pay off family debts.
- ◆ There are 407 languages spoken in India and only 53 have the complete Bible.
- ◆ Indian society is based on Hinduism, which divides everyone into different castes or classes.
- ◆ There are over 10 million blind.
- ◆ Over 300 million don't have enough to live on each day.
- ◆ 5.1 million people live with AIDS/HIV.
- ◆ India is the world's largest producer of illicit opium.

Prayer Focus:

Pray that these precious children and their families come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and grow in their faith.

Pray for the older children as they leave their home to work or are married.

Pray for guidance for the home directors and staff of the home as they raise the children in the Word.



Testimony of Praise:

Lakshmi who has lived in Karen's cottage writes the following: "My father's health is not in proper condition. I and my family were Hindus. After coming to Karen's cottage I believed and accepted Jesus as my Savior. After some time my parents also converted and knew the true Lord. My eyes were not well. Our home mother took me to the hospital and I had treatment. Our home mother treats all the home children with love and care. My future aim is to serve as a teacher or lecturer along with our Lord. After 10th class I want to go to college. We pray for all the sponsors. This is my witness."