



Since 1983



Benjamin Rajan praying for Tsunami victims. Poor health prevented him from standing.



## He Fought the Good Fight of Faith

Benjamin Rajan, *Children of Promise's* Regional Director in Tamil Nadu, India since 1986, was a man of faith who, through suffering and persecution, had a tireless passion for orphans and widows, reaching the unreached with the Gospel, and serving the poorest of the poor. His ministry with *Children of Promise*, along with his wife Greetha, brought many people of India to the saving knowledge of God's redeeming grace through Jesus Christ. He was very

active in overseeing children's homes, free schools, and widow programs as well as medical clinics and a Bible woman ministry in the state of Tamil Nadu. He also planted many churches and disciplined pastors and evangelists to carry on the work of the Kingdom of God. In the children's homes, he knew that a vital part of their daily life was to nourish them in the Word of God so that they, too, would shed the light and love of Jesus to others, winning souls for Jesus Christ. He persevered to the end, fighting the good fight of faith, to the day he breathed his last breath on December 31, 2005. We honor Benjamin for his many years of service to bring truth and light to the people of India and provide oversight care for the orphans, widows, and destitute children.

## Finding Hope in Venezuela

Over 40% of the population of Venezuela is under the age of 17 and 60% of the population lives in poverty, of which 28% is in extreme poverty. One million children in Venezuela are undocumented and lack access to school and an education. Another 460,000 are orphaned and 21% of children under five have malnutrition to some level (*statistics from UNCEF and the US Labor department website*).

The children at ABANSA's "Mi Refugio" homes (where *Children of Promise* provides a sponsorship program) are a testimony of what God's love can do in Venezuela. The homes of ABANSA have been caring for abandoned, abused, and orphaned children for over 20 years. They receive children from the children's services and care for them for days and months—and for some, ABANSA becomes their permanent home and new family.



Five young siblings who lived in the streets with their mother, who had suffered from mental infirmities, entered the home in 2001 with severe malnutrition and needing much care. The younger children were unable to walk. All of the children were delayed physically and emotionally because of the lack of care and nutrition. Now they are happy, all attending school, and growing with the care of the house parents and missionaries of ABANSA.



One of the five siblings who came to the home with severe malnutrition (pictured at left when she arrived and today at right).



A little angel, at left, entered the home at the age of 10 months. When she entered the program she did nothing, just laid in the crib. She is now a happy two year old, full of joy and ready to explore everything within her reach. Please pray that she is able to get surgery soon to correct her vision problems.

Kathie Fagel, Sponsorship and Mission Specialist for *Children of Promise*, and her three young daughters had the privilege of spending the Christmas holiday with ABANSA children. Even at the age of 6 and 8, her daughters—Mercedes, Ruby, and Shauna—were affected by what they saw and learned at the homes. While at the homes they helped with the



Mercedes with her new friend in one of the ABANSA homes.

babies, played with the toddlers, and washed dishes. As a family they are praying about returning in the future as a missionary family. In the meantime, together they have started giving up soft drinks and some treats to sponsor the little angel above who is cared for in one of the homes in Venezuela. Kathie's girls

are our youngest volunteers. They like to help mom by volunteering at the office in any way they can. They help sort mailings by zip code, sort clothes in the storage area, and box supplies to be sent overseas.



Shauna helping watch and care for children, loving every minute.

Ruby and some of her new ABANSA friends had a delightful time with face painting. They are a work of art—not only portrayed on their



faces, but in their hearts—as God gently guides them through new experiences and learning new cultures and different ways of life. If you would like to travel overseas and volunteer your time at a home, please contact Kathie at [kathie.fagel@promise.org](mailto:kathie.fagel@promise.org) or call the *Children of Promise* headquarters at 888 6 ORPHAN.

← Ruby on left and ABANSA child on right.