

# Berean Baptist Children's Home



**Berean Baptist Children's Home in Manipur, India**, began in 2006 with just three children. Over time, the number of children has steadily increased to thirty-five who are supported entirely by the home.

## Goals of the Children's Home

- Extend support to children who have lost their parents or whose parents are unable to provide for their education.
- Provide quality education to underprivileged children and guide them toward a relationship with Christ.

"With unwavering faith, we operate this children's home," says B.T. Pousiam. During the early years, the home relied on money coming from the sale of produce from his family's small farm and from the school he ran. Today the ministry includes an academy that has 22 teachers and 3 other staff, plus 630 enrolled students. (If you're wondering, that comes to about 29 students per teacher.) Of those schoolkids, 170 live at the school, including 35 who are orphans or whose parents cannot pay anything toward their room, board, and education. These costs include the uniforms that all schoolchildren in India are required to wear.

A typical day goes like this: opening assembly with prayer and a devotional from the Bible, classes that begin and end with prayer and may include Bible lessons, and prayer at the end of the day. In addition to the Christian influence at school, the boarding students spend 10–20 minutes in devotions each morning, as well as having evening devotions led by a room leader. They also attend Sunday School and

Sunday worship services and, occasionally, VBS or a student Bible seminar.

Schools in India have different levels from those in the US. Primary education has two levels: lower primary (standards 1 to 5) and upper primary (standards 6 to 8). Secondary education begins in grade 9 and goes to grade 12.



The children's home does its best for the students who board there. They are sleeping on old, worn, uncomfortable, unreliable, creaky cots that the school cannot afford to replace. A new cot costs \$100, and the school needs 60 new ones (\$600). Some of the cots do not have a mattress; the school could use 60 new mattresses at \$50 each (\$300). Although the children are fed, the quality is not up to standards due to insufficient funds for better, more nutritional food. It would cost about 35 cents per child per day to feed them well (\$12.25 for the 35 supported by the home; \$380 per month; \$4,471 per year). And, of course, all the kids need safely maintained shelter, adequate plumbing, and clothing.

**Keep reading to meet five remarkable children from this home.**



## Berean Baptist Children's Home, Manipur, India

### Ben

Schools in India have different levels from those in the US. Primary education has two levels: lower primary (standards 1 to 5) and upper primary (standards 6 to 8). Secondary education begins in grade 9 and goes to grade 12.

Ben, 12, is studying in the upper-primary 8th standard at Berean Baptist Academy. He lost his father in 2016 in a hunting accident. Ben's mother, with three sons and two daughters to care for, found it challenging to support all five children, which left her feeling helpless. So the Christians at Berean stepped in to support her eldest son.

A typical school day for Ben goes like this: Opening assembly with prayer and a devotional from the Bible. Classes that begin and end with prayer and may include Bible lessons. And a prayer at the end of the day. In addition to the Christian influence at school, he and the other boarding students spend 10–20 minutes in devotions each morning and have evening devotions led by a room leader. They also attend Sunday School and Sunday worship services and, occasionally, VBS or a student Bible seminar.

Ben couldn't receive help like this anywhere else. If it wasn't for Berean, he might go hungry and without clothes to wear, and very few people in his city would tell him about Jesus. Through Operation Care: Showing Christ to Kids in India, you can help kids like Ben!





# Christy

Christy, 13, is studying in the upper-primary 7th class. Tragically, her father took his own life in 2015, leaving behind his wife and their six children. With Christy's mother alone caring for the family and facing financial hardships, the family's situation was very challenging.

One day, a relative of Christy's family visited Berean. As a Christian evangelist, he made a heartfelt request for support for one or two of the children in Christy's family. The school examined the family's circumstances and felt compelled by God to extend their help. "We gladly accepted the request," says B.T. Pousiam, "and 'Christy' became part of our academy in 2018." He says,

"Since joining us, she has shown remarkable progress in her education. Moreover, her time spent at our academy has led to a profound transformation in her life as she embraced the Christian faith. It is truly remarkable to witness how her commitment to Christ has had a positive influence not only on her, but also on her entire family and relatives, who have now embraced Christianity. This incredible change is a testament to the power of God, and we offer our heartfelt praises to Him."

Through Berean Baptist Academy, God is showing children like Christy the love of Jesus. And He can also show His love to them through you, as you pray for them and give in whatever way you can to Operation Care.



## Berean Baptist Children's Home, Manipur, India

# Gabe

One mission of Berean Baptist Children's Home is to extend support to children who have lost their parents or whose parents are unable to provide for their education. The home seeks to provide quality education to underprivileged children and guide them toward a relationship with Christ. One of those children is Gabe.

Gabe, 11, is in the lower-primary 5th standard. He went to live at Berean Baptist Children's Home in 2016 after his father died in 2014 and his mother remarried. At first Gabe lived with his grandfather's family, but his grandfather passed away. At the children's home, Gabe has found a safe and caring environment to grow and thrive. He is learning about Jesus and how to love and follow Him.

But many kids at Berean don't have a good place to sleep. They sleep on cots and bunks that are getting very old, and many don't have mattresses. This means the beds are uncomfortable and very creaky. Through Operation Care, you can help kids like Gabe have a good night's sleep so they can do well in their studies. For \$50, a child could have a new mattress. And \$100 will provide a new bed. Will you help Gabe and his friends at Berean?



*Names have been changed for protection of the children.*



## Berean Baptist Children's Home, Manipur, India

### Grace

Berean Baptist Children's Home in Manipur, India, began in 2006 with just three children. Over time, the number of children has steadily increased. Thirty-five children are now supported entirely by the home because their families have no way of taking care of them.

Meet Grace, 13, one of those thirty-five. She is studying in the upper-primary 7th standard at Berean. Sadly, her father got malaria and passed away in 2010. Additionally, her mother has faced physical challenges, leaving her in a helpless state.

One day, Grace's grandmother visited Berean and tearfully requested support for her granddaughter. "After carefully considering their family's situation and feeling deep sympathy for them, we decided to accept the request," says B.T. Pousiam. "'Grace' is now a part of our home."

Many kids like Grace have been helped through Berean Baptist Children's Home. Where they live, they probably wouldn't hear about Jesus any other way, and they would go without food or clothing that they need. Will you consider helping these children through Operation Care: Showing Christ to Kids in India?





## Berean Baptist Children's Home, Manipur, India

### Kyle

Kyle, 10, is studying in the lower-primary 3rd standard at Berean Baptist Academy. He has lived at Berean Baptist Children's Home most of his life.

Within a year of his mother's death in 2013, his father left him and joined an underground militant group, and he has not returned home since. For a while, Kyle was under the care of his uncle's family, but due to their financial crisis, his uncle approached Berean Baptist Children's Home, seeking support. "After learning about their family's situation and carefully considering it," shares B.T. Pousiam, "we decided to accept the request and provide a home for 'Kyle.' Currently, he is being cared for in our home."

Now Kyle can receive the food, clothing, and shelter that he needs. Most important, he hears about Jesus' love and sees it shown through the kind people in the home every day. Through Operation Care, you can help Berean continue to help children like Kyle.



# Helping Kids through a Prison Ministry

**Prasad lives in Andhra Pradesh, India,** where he is the mission director for the New Life Regular Baptist Society. He and others minister in a women's prison, to the women and their children (age eight and younger). The reasons children live with their mothers vary: it could be due to their mothers' poverty or because conditions would be worse in other living situations (e.g., abuse).

The government provides for the women and their children; but the food, shelter, and education are inadequate. For example, the government supplies only textbooks, not any other books; kids eat the same prison food as their mothers, but no nutritional snacks are provided; and the government education does not meet standards and provides no moral education.

Additionally, the prisons are at about 117 percent capacity. This overcrowding can result in poor hygiene, poor healthcare, and violence. Due to underfunding for prisons, many prisoners have to sleep on the floor. And with other unsanitary conditions, disease is a constant threat. But there is little hope, for women have limited access to healthcare or legal representation. Meanwhile, their children are often treated like prisoners.

These circumstances can be dire for children. In addition to the lack of proper food and care and the limited educational opportunities, the experience of living in a confined and often stressful environment can have a lasting psychological impact on children, affecting their mental health and emotional well-being. Limited opportunities for recreational and play activities can hamper their normal development as children. Further, they may face social isolation, as they lack interaction with children outside the prison and may get a bad reputation due to their circumstances. Growing up in such an environment can impact children's future opportunities, potentially leading to a cycle of poverty and criminal involvement.

Yet there is a bright spot in all these dark and depressing circumstances! The government has given permission for a special education service and Sunday School service, although only two outsiders are allowed to enter the prison at a time.

Every week, Brother Prasad's ministry partners conduct a three-hour Sunday School service. Prasad says, "We are getting good results from our Sunday School ministry, . . . transforming their lives in a good way and [motivating] them to know our Lord's love." Many kids have been saved through the Sunday services. After Sunday School, each child receives a box of nutritional food.



During the week, the Christians minister through "educational coaching," as Prasad explains, giving "proper education and guidance to the children."

Then, every year at Christmas, they distribute clothing, blankets, and school needs. But in the past two years, due to lack of funds, they could only afford clothing.

The needs are great and include blankets for 256 children at \$17 each (\$4,352); books, bags, and stationery, plus food, clothing, shoes, sweaters, and geometry boxes for all 256 kids; complete Bibles in the Telugu language at \$7 each (\$1,792); snack boxes (which include a plate and food) at \$12 each (\$3,072).

Additionally, Prasad and the ministry coordinators need a used vehicle as permanent transportation, which will allow them to get a permanent pass to the prison. They will no longer have to spend time being checked at the gate, which takes time away from their ministry.



Continue reading to meet six of the children ministered to by Prasad and his team.



## Helping Kids through a Prison Ministry

### Aria

Aria is growing up in jail. She went there when her mother was arrested for financial fraud and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Aria could live with her father, but he does not make enough money to support her.

In the jail school, Aria is now studying her 5th standard, or school grade. She is a good student and could go far in the future if she receives the right kind of help.

Aria and her mother have been transformed by the love of Jesus Christ because people come to the jail and teach them. Both regularly attend Sunday worship services, and Aria is active in and helps with the Sunday School services in jail.

Aria and her mother praise God for His Son, Jesus Christ, Who was faithful to God's plan and died on a cross to take the punishment for their sin.

Will you help the people who go into the prison and share Jesus' love with kids like Aria and their mothers?





# Blake

Like most boys his age, Blake enjoys playing soccer, which in India is called football. Blake goes to school in jail, where he lives with his mother, who is serving a nine-year sentence for robbery. Blake's father died due to a health problem, so Blake must live with his mother in jail. We Americans would say that Blake is in the fifth grade.

The government of India allows children under eight years old to live with their mothers in prison if they have no other place to live. But the food, shelter, and education in prisons are poor. While the government supplies textbooks, it does not provide any other books for the children to read. Kids eat the same prison food as their mothers, and no nutritional snacks are provided.

Blake's situation could be dire, but Christians are trying to help Blake. When the Christians visit the jail, Blake attends Sunday School, and his mother regularly attends the Sunday worship service. The Christians bring nutritional food and provide teaching on right and wrong. They help with school during the week. Most important, they are teaching Blake about Jesus Christ; they are showcasing Christ's character.

You can help kids like Blake continue to receive food and learn about Jesus! For \$7, a child can have a Bible, and a gift of \$12 could provide a hungry boy or girl with a box of food. They will see that someone cared like Jesus. That means a lot to them!





## Helping Kids through a Prison Ministry

### Luke

Luke is studying upper-primary 6th standard, or what we would call sixth grade. He is an active student. Luke lives in prison with his mother. She was arrested for financial fraud and sent to prison for five years. Luke cannot live with his father, who has a disability and makes a living through begging.

The prison where Luke lives has too many prisoners and children. This overcrowding can result in poor hygiene, poor healthcare, and violence. Due to a lack of money for prisons, many prisoners have to sleep on the floor. And with other unsanitary conditions, disease is a constant threat. Meanwhile, children like Luke are often treated like prisoners.

But each Sunday, Luke and his mother have something to look forward to: Christians come to the prison and hold Sunday School and a worship service. Every week, Prasad or his ministry partners conduct a three-hour Sunday School service. Prasad says, "We are getting good results from our Sunday School ministry, . . . transforming their lives in a good way and [motivating] them to know our Lord's love." Many kids have been saved through the Sunday services. After Sunday School, each child receives a snack box. And at Christmas, each receives a gift, like a blanket or clothes. The Christian team also visit during the week to help the students with their schoolwork.

Luke and his mother are grateful to the Christians who pray for, teach, love, and care for them. What these Christians do is important, but they couldn't do it without support from others. You can be one of those others, just by giving to Operation Care.





# Marie

Marie comes from a bad home situation. Her father is an alcoholic, who wastes his money on alcohol. He didn't bring any money or food or other necessities home for his wife and children. So his wife began smuggling drugs. She was caught and must spend twelve years in prison.

Marie is studying the lower-primary 5th standard. Marie likes to keep active, and she is talented in drawing, says Prasad. He lives in Andhra Pradesh, India, where he is the mission director for the New Life Regular Baptist Society. He and others minister in the women's prison where Marie lives with her mother. Prasad and his friends teach Sunday School when they visit on Sundays.

Marie loves to sing at Sunday School. Both she and her mother also attend the worship service every Sunday. The Christian team bring in food for the children and teach them the Bible and about Jesus Christ, Who came to save sinners. Marie and her mother are thankful for these loving followers of Jesus Christ.





# Paige

Paige has suffered all her life with a recurring infection. Every month she needs a lot of money to buy medication. Although her father works as a steward in a small hotel, he cannot care for Paige at home because of her health problems. So Paige lives in jail with her mother, who was arrested in a robbery case and given a prison sentence of nine years.

At the jail school, Paige is studying upper-primary 6th standard and attends Sunday worship services with her mother. Paige also attends Sunday School and learns about Jesus' love, holiness, compassion, humility, faithfulness, and more. She also learns the difference between right and wrong. Pray for Paige, that God would heal her body and keep her strong while she and her mother are in jail. Thank God with her that Prasad and his team bring healthy snacks to give to the children on Sundays.

You can help the team continue to feed children and teach them about Jesus' love just by giving to Operation Care!



# Robert

Robert has had a difficult time in his young life. His father died in an accident. Then he and his mother were homeless and lived in a tent for a while. Sadly, his mother broke the law and was arrested. She must spend ten years in prison. In jail school, Robert is studying lower-primary 4th standard.



Robert and his mother regularly attend the jail worship service. If they trust Jesus as their Savior, they will become part of God's family. That's extra important for them, because they have no living relatives. They need Jesus' love and compassion. They need yours too.

Will you help by praying for Robert and his mother? If you are able, please give to Operation Care: Showing Christ to Kids in India to help children like Robert have better food, blankets, clothes, and school supplies, and—best of all—to learn the good news about Jesus Christ.

