

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.