

# Sonlight Curriculum Ltd.

*The way you wish you'd been taught. Guaranteed.<sup>SM</sup>*

27 August 2008

Dear Friend,

Have you ever wanted to make a significant difference in the life of another person—say, a downtrodden mother who doesn't know what to do for her children?

Last August, John and I attended a special graduation ceremony in India. We met a group of women who were demonstrating, in public, the fact that they had learned to read and write. Many of these women had come to know Jesus in the process of learning to read.

What a precious memory to meet these Indian women who recently experienced the joy of freedom—freedom from two forms of bondage: bondage to illiteracy and bondage to demons.

As Christians, we know the joy of leading our children to the Lord. As homeschoolers, we know the immense value of teaching our children to read. In many Indian families, however, because neither the mom nor dad is literate; they see no benefit in teaching their children to read. In other families, while they send their sons to school, they refuse to “waste” the money to educate their daughters. Because of this, there are nearly 200 million women in India who cannot read and write.

These women, then, are trapped in lives of degrading labor and social invisibility. They cannot read bus signs to take their children to the doctor. Dishonest vendors steal from them at the market (as they don't know their numbers to make change). And without the skills needed to get a decent job, many endure back-breaking labor. They pass this life on to their children.

Beyond the chains of illiteracy, they also experience spiritual slavery. Of India's more than one billion people, nearly 830 million Hindus worship idols. Superstition and witchcraft hold India's rural villages in an iron grip. There is no forgiveness. No joy.

It is with these things in mind that John and I have sent you the enclosed “rice bag,” a symbol and reminder of a simple but effective practice of poor Indian Christians.

Among India's poor, to give even a handful of rice is to give a truly sacrificial gift. But that is exactly what many poor Christian families in India do. Before each meal, the mother scoops up a handful of rice and sets it aside in a bag. (The one we have sent you is a smaller version.) When the family's bag is full, they bring it to their church as a gift for the Lord.

Instead of rice, John and I would like to ask you and your family members to collect your loose change ... for eight weeks. We'd like then, for you to combine it with the loose change from thousands of other Sonlight families to fund Bible-based literacy training for Indian women. Since the literacy program uses material based on the Bible, and uses believers as teachers, many of the students come to follow Christ as well. What may God do through us? We wonder ...



One of half a dozen women who demonstrated their prowess, the woman on the left is reading a selection from her reader. The room, jammed with over 100 women and children, was lit by nothing more than two lanterns—one of which the woman on the right is holding.

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As you can see, the bag comes from Mission India, an organization whose literacy program we have supported for several years. We want to invite you and other Sonlighters to join us in a project similar to the ones we have funded, a project that can transform the lives of thousands of illiterate women in India ... and, through them, their families, communities and, ultimately, we pray, the entire country.

Eighty percent (80%) of students who begin Mission India's Bible-based adult literacy program finish it and gain a fifth grade education ... in just one year. In an average class, a third of the graduates give their lives to Christ. You can imagine the light that comes into an entire family as a result! And you and I can provide this life-changing gift for just \$30 per student.

John and I promise to match every dollar raised by Sonlight families with a dollar of Sonlight profits ... up to \$100,000. If, together, we raise \$200,000, we could make a profound difference in the lives of almost 7,000 Indian families over the next year!

When we broached this subject with them, our friends at Mission India asked, "How can we make this project into something more—a unique hands-on learning experience for Sonlighters' children?"

The answer: "Let's turn it into an educational opportunity!" So if you sign up by September 12th, Mission India has promised to lead your children each week on an exploration of some aspect of India ... from its geography ... to its culture ... to Christian outreach in India and the 10/40 Window.

Over all, it's our hope that your family will be as blessed by what you learn and experience through this project as the families in India will be blessed by their mom having the chance to attend a Bible-based literacy class.

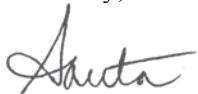
I need to tell you: I was raised in a family that never asked anyone for anything. If we couldn't afford it, we just did without. And I have inherited that same "don't ask for anything" mentality. But the memory of standing among those beaming, newly-literate women in that simple classroom in India encouraged me to push through and bring this unique project to your attention.

If you prefer to give in other ways, please don't feel any bondage from this letter. If it does inspire you, however, **I would like to encourage you and your children to sit down and talk about what part you can play in this exciting learning opportunity**—for you and for illiterate Indian women and their children.

Please find more information—including an informative video and a whole lot more exciting details about the program—at [www.missionindia.org/sonlight](http://www.missionindia.org/sonlight). That's where you sign-up as well.

I hope you'll join us. This simple project can make an enormous difference in your family's life ... and in the lives of families on the other side of the world.

Sincerely,



Sarita Holzmann

P.S. This Rice Bag Project is about far more than nickels, dimes, and quarters. It represents a unique, God-given opportunity for us to help change a woman, a family, a village, and, ultimately, a nation ... forever. We look forward to having your family join us in this exciting project! Please visit [www.missionindia.org/sonlight](http://www.missionindia.org/sonlight) no later than September 12<sup>th</sup>. The weekly lessons begin on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you.

P.P.S. Please be assured that we have not shared your name with any other agency or company. We sent this letter ourselves because we wanted to share what we think might be a wonderful opportunity for you and your family.