

## Join Us for an International Learning Adventure

August 28, 2010

Dear Friend,

Do you want to help your children think beyond themselves and do something significant to impact their world? Please join with other Sonlighters as we partner with Mission India ([www.MissionIndia.org](http://www.MissionIndia.org)) in an exciting project that, I believe, **will radically alter the lives of thousands of Indian children and their families, will help your children learn more about their world** and, I pray, **will nurture your children's spirit of generosity.**

Mission India has three primary ministries: Children's Bible Clubs, Adult Literacy Classes and Church Planter Training. Two years ago, Sonlighters enabled over 7,000 Indian women to learn to read. This year, Lord willing, we hope to send a third of a million children to Bible club. (I'll say more in a minute about the surprising influence these clubs have on children, families and communities—and tell you about a special matching grant to multiply your children's effectiveness.) As we raise funds for children in India, we intend to **have some fun and learn about the culture and life of people in India.**

We're calling this project . . .

### "My Passport to India"

As we discussed this project, the Sonlight/Mission India creative team agreed it would be useful and fun to create a real-life video tour of India—a tour hosted by someone who, himself, was unfamiliar with India. That way, participants would all get to see India with fresh eyes and new insight. As I write this letter, our friends at Mission India are putting the finishing touches on a special 10-episode video learning adventure . . . just for us!

Your "tour guide" on this adventure is Chris—a pastor who traveled to India to discover what India is all about. He went just this past June.

So what will you experience as you accompany Chris on his journey? Among other things, you will eat a meal with a family in their home. You'll hop on board a train and a rickshaw—India's most common forms of transportation. You'll visit two Mission India-sponsored Bible clubs in different parts of India—including a fisherman's slum in India's largest city. You'll experience the energy and joy at a worship service led totally by kids. You'll also get to see and learn a little about Mission India's other two ministries: the Adult Literacy program (which Sonlighters helped fund two years ago) and their Church Planting program.

I think you'll be pleased and amazed at what you see, hear and learn.

In addition to the videos, which Mission India will post each Tuesday and Thursday morning beginning October 5 and ending November 9, you will also find photo slideshows, family devotionals and some creative learning experiences for your family. And, of course, we've created a special "My Passport to India" forum at [www.sonlight-forums.com/MyPassportToIndia](http://www.sonlight-forums.com/MyPassportToIndia).



India's kids are God's most effective evangelists. Your children can introduce them to Jesus, and make an incredible impact on the Kingdom!

### Why India?

According to people who study world missions, India includes the most unreached people groups in the world. (See <http://sn.im/immap>—a 12MB PDF map of the world—to get a sense of what I'm talking about.)

## Why Children's Bible Clubs (CBCs)?

During the daily club meetings, children enjoy songs, skits and games, hear Bible stories, memorize Scripture and are introduced to Jesus. They develop relationships with caring volunteer teachers and share their joy in Jesus with their families and friends.

And what difference does that make? In 2009, over 4.5 million children attended Mission India Bible clubs . . . and, between the children who attended and the parents and adults influenced by those children, **just over one million people gave their lives to Jesus**. And 6,607 new worship groups<sup>1</sup> began.

If you're interested in spreading the good news of Jesus, that's a pretty stunning response rate! What joy to have so many new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Beyond the spiritual harvest, however, there are significant social reasons to get excited about the Children's Bible Club program. For children who grow up in the lower castes, there is little reason for hope or joy in this life. The Hindu worldview condemns them to a lifetime of grinding poverty. After all, their social status is their karmic fate. But even beyond that, over a third of all school-age children in India are unable to attend school. For many, there is simply no school available. If there is a school around, parents often cannot afford it. And then, for some children, there is simply no time available to attend school: they are trapped by economic circumstances into working 10, 12 or more hours every day simply to keep the loan sharks at bay.

For these children, the **Bible Clubs offer hope**. If nothing else, they introduce children to a loving God who created them in His image. They teach children to pray confidently and to expect answered prayers. They teach the importance of good nutrition and personal hygiene. They encourage parents to send their children to school. They inspire children to serve their communities and to become future leaders.

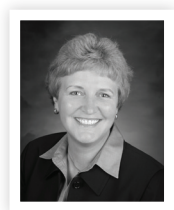
Last year, we Sonlighters were able to raise a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) for Bible translation. This year, John and I would like to see if, together, we can raise a third of a million dollars (\$334,000) for Bible clubs. Toward that end, John and I promise that **for every \$1 your family contributes, Sonlight will match you dollar-for-dollar**, up to \$167,000. So between all of us Sonlighters, that would be \$334,000 total.

Since it costs a mere dollar per child to cover the cost of teacher training, curriculum, audio cassettes and a few additional basic materials, \$334,000 can send 334,000 children to Bible club! How many children will your kids want to help attend a CBC?

Please **sign up for this project and adventure**—and meet Chris—at [MyPassportToIndia.org](http://MyPassportToIndia.org). There's a brief introductory video available for you there and a lot more information about this entire project. The deadline to register—and to get your Welcome Kit before the project launch—is Friday, September 24, 2010.

Please. Come join us. I look forward to joining you on this adventure!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sarita'.

Sarita Holzmann, President

P.S. —Think of it: every 50 cents that your children raise, once matched with Sonlight funds, will send an additional child to Bible club. And I was so pleased with the educational opportunities Mission India provided Sonlight children two years ago, I am confident this year's twice-weekly learning opportunities will be well worth your time. Whether your family raises \$1.50 or \$150, **please join us**.

P.P.S. —Please feel free to pass this opportunity on to anyone you think might be interested. May we link arms and bring about great change in the lives of a third of a million children!



[MyPassportToIndia.org](http://MyPassportToIndia.org)

<sup>1</sup> Many of us would call them—at least most of them—churches. At least “home churches.” But to avoid any controversy, Mission India prefers simply to call them worship groups.