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ਠਿਠੀਠੀ 2020

A Christmas story in July

*A young couple, a baby on the way,
and no room at the inn -- until Love finds a way.*

You've heard us say it before: your support of FOCI makes miracles happen. There are daily miracles of love and hope. And then there are the miracles that take our breath away. This is one of those stories.

In the tribal village of Gattupally, a young mother of two, Rajitha, went into labor with her third child. With her husband, she began the long walk through a deep forest to the nearest clinic. At the clinic, they learned terrible news: the baby was entangled in the umbilical cord and would not survive; Rajitha's life was at risk. The clinic sent them on to a large hospital, where they were turned away for their inability to pay. Exhausted and terrified, they traveled to the government hospital in Khammam. It was overrun with coronavirus patients, and accepting no others.

There was no room at the inn. There was no mercy to be found. It was then that someone told them about St. Mary's Hospital. *Our* hospital: supported by FOCI, run by our Christian Service Unit.

At St. Mary's, Rajitha was welcomed with love and taken into the operating room immediately. All the staff were in prayer throughout the hours of surgery.

And a baby boy was born. Alive and alert, placed into Rajitha's arm, surrounded by love.

On a summer night in Khammam, a miracle happened -- a miracle which you made possible. Your ongoing support of a ministry thousands of miles away is -- literally -- bringing life to others.



We cherish your continued support. We need it. And-- miracles depend on it.

In Christ's love, *David Rowe and Alida Ward*

Photos from our annual visit to FOCI's work!

It seems so long ago now, as the world has changed so drastically - but in January of this year, our mission team visited all our projects in Khammam and Hyderabad. From the delighted smiles of the students at the Shanthi school, to the loving welcome of 'adopted grandmothers' at the Faith Home for the Aged, everywhere we saw signs of the good that is being done with your help! Faithfully led by the energetic Franklin Thigurapathi in Khammam, and TL Reddy in Hyderabad, our work is enabling literally thousands of people to thrive. What a joy to witness!

Video of our visit can be viewed at www.foci.org!



Clockwise from right: Jack serves dinner at the Lotus Center, Katie, Katie, Devenny, Becca and Ella serve at a public school, Karen visits with the children at the primary school, Devenny with her 'grandmothers', Ella at the Gollapudi hostel.



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FOCI's Compassionate Work Continues - even under Covid-19

India enforced one of the world's most severe lockdowns to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Yet even under intense restrictions, our partners in ministry still found ways to show God's love and compassion. In Hyderabad, T.L. Reddy took the funds that would have been used for daily after-school meals at the Lotus Center, and instead distributed two months' worth of food supplies to the families of the students we serve. And in Khammam, the Christian Service Unit staff ministered to impoverished day laborers making their way from Hyderabad back to their villages on foot. We are grateful to our loving partners for, as always, seeking out the "least and the lost" to receive our care.



T.L. with sacks of food to distribute to our families



Exhausted migrant workers on the outskirts of Khammam receive packets of food from our CSU staff.



Food distributed to villagers desperate for help.



We're in this work together! The CSU staff come together for a Skype conference with David Rowe & Alida Ward, supporting one another in this difficult time with shared prayer and encouragement.