

Join Sonlight as we get Lost in India to help children and families find Jesus!

August 29, 2013

Dear Mom and Dad,

Sonlight is preparing to "travel" to India on an adventure that promises to change our world. Would you consider joining us as we partner with Mission India (www.MissionIndia.org) to share the Good News with many who haven't yet heard the name of Jesus?

This year, Lord willing, we want to raise the resources that will allow 350,000 children to attend a Bible Club, even as we learn about a culture, place and people half a world away, nurture your children's spirit of generosity, and have some real fun along the way, too.

Let's get Lost in India

You may recall that Sonlight and Mission India teamed up in 2010 on the *Passport to India* project. That year, we met Chris, an American pastor, who went on a tour of India with Justin, his Indian friend. We Sonlighters also helped send 317,104 children to Bible Clubs all across India.

This time around, we'll once again travel with Chris, who goes to India to visit his old friend, Justin. Unfortunately, Chris is somewhat directionally challenged (not a good thing in such a vast country!) and, as you'll soon see, he loses his way.

You and your family can follow Chris in a series of lively videos as he finds his way across India. Along the way, he attends a Children's Bible Club, rides a camel, experiences a dipping ceremony, visits the Taj Mahal and more. As you journey alongside, you can help your children recognize the spiritual parallel found in Luke 19:10, which tells us, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

In addition to the videos, which Mission India will post each Tuesday and Thursday morning beginning October 8 and ending October 31, you'll also find interactive badges, slideshows, devotionals and lots of creative learning experiences for your family. We've also created a special forum for participants at **sonlight.com/indiaforum**. I'm confident that your family will enjoy and grow together through the *Lost in India* adventure.

We'll go with God to the End Places

Did you know:

- More than 2,000 unreached people groups live in India.
- More than 1,600 languages and dialects are spoken there.
- Five states have anti-conversion laws that make it difficult to become a Christian.
- 400+ million people have never heard Jesus' name.



It costs just \$1 to send a child to Bible Club. Will you join the Sonlight family as we help introduce the little ones (and their families) to Jesus?

Our partners at Mission India report that the country is more open to the Gospel today than ever before. India's men, women and children are turning to Christ in large numbers. We praise God for how He is working there!

In Acts 1:8, Jesus commissions the disciples to be His witnesses to "the ends of the earth." Since that day, Christianity has spread at an amazing rate, but there are still some places that haven't yet been reached with the Gospel. Our friends at Mission India refer to these as End Places.

Will you and your family join other Sonlighters as we respond to God's call to share His love in an End Place where the fields are now ripe for the harvest?

Millions are waiting to join a Children's Bible Club

More than 4.4 million youngsters were introduced to Jesus at a Mission India Children's Bible Club last year. Of that number, more than 1.8 million children and their family members became disciples of Jesus, and 222,901 children joined Year-Long Clubs. What a joy to have so many new brothers and sisters in Christ!

A Children's Bible Club in India is much like here in the States. Children enjoy songs, skits and games, listen to Bible stories and commit Scripture to memory. Not only do they develop relationships with trained volunteer leaders, but they often return home to share their newfound faith with families and friends.

Beyond the spiritual harvest, there are significant social reasons to get excited about the 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, as social status is left in the fickle hands of karmic fate. Beyond that, more than one-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 nearby, parents often can't afford it. For some children, there is no time to attend school: They are trapped by economic circumstances and work 10, 12, or more hours every day just to keep the loan sharks at bay.

For "the least of these," **Bible Clubs offer hope**. They introduce children to a loving God who created them in His image. They teach children to pray confidently and to wait expectantly for an answer. They introduce 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.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me ..."

In our 2010 partnership with Mission India, we Sonlighters were able to raise more than \$300,000 for Bible Clubs. It costs about \$1 per child to attend a 10-day summer club. There are typically about 50 kids per club, so \$50 can open the doors of a club for an entire village.

This year, John and I would like to see if, together with the Sonlight family, we can raise the funds to cover the cost of teacher training, curriculum, audio recordings and a few additional basic materials, and send 350,000 children to Bible Clubs. With that goal in mind, we promise that for every \$1 your children contribute, Sonlight will match you dollar-for-dollar, up to \$175,000, for a total of \$350,000 between all of us Sonlighters.

Just think of what we could do, working together, to fulfill Matthew 19:14 and help the little ones of India come to Jesus! How many children will your kids want to help attend a Bible Club? Perhaps they will dream big, work diligently and save their change to give \$50 and sponsor an entire village of children!

Please sign up for this life-changing experience (both for your family and that of potentially thousands of India's children and families) at <u>LostInIndia.org</u>. Here you'll get your questions answered and watch an exciting video trailer that gives you a taste of what to expect. The deadline to register in time for your children to get their FREE *Lost in India* Adventure Kit before the October 8 project launch is Friday, September 20, 2013.

I'm excited to accompany your family on this adventure of faith. I pray that you'll join us.

Blessings,

Sarita Holzmann, President Sonlight Curriculum

P.S. Consider the possibilities: Every dollar your children raise, once matched with Sonlight funds, will send not just one, but *two* kids to Bible Club. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of children who still wait to hear the name of Jesus.

P.P.S. Your kids will be excited to get their Adventure Kit, which contains, among other things, a map and stickers so they can track the journey to reunite two friends. I think it will be great fun for your family! Head over to **LostInIndia.org** to get started.

