



# BRIGHTER FUTURE

Registered Charity 1186475

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



## MESSAGE FROM VICTOR

**I can't believe it's almost March! I know in the UK this means lighter evenings are approaching. I hope the weather will also start to get warmer for you.**

We're currently preparing our Annual Reports, reviewing and learning from everything over the last 12 months. I am more thankful to you than ever as I look at what you have helped us to achieve.

Your love and compassion reaches out across continents, bridging gaps and creating opportunities for a brighter future. The impact of your kindness is felt not only in the lives of those directly supported but resonates through entire communities. Thank you so very much.

Mary and I want to also say thank you for your love and prayers as she continues with oral chemotherapy. It was a real blessing for Mary to be well enough to join the Christmas celebrations in December. You all know her heart for the children and adults in our care at this special time of year.

With love and blessings,

*Victor and Mary*

## THANK YOU FOR SENDING CHRISTMAS TO BRIGHTER FUTURE!

Christmas at Brighter Future is a very special time. Shanti Nivas Children's Village comes alive with excitement and Rainbow Children's Village bubbles with joy. There are twinkling lights and beautiful decorations everywhere and the children's laughter is infectious, filling every corner of the place.

The first celebration was a special carol service. The children lit candles and enjoyed singing together. As their voices joined to sing 'Silent Night', there was a lovely sense of peace.

Next came the nativity play, and everyone loved being on the stage – from angels to donkeys! There was also a Bible exhibition, quizzes and competitions for everyone to enjoy.



Christmas church service

# PARTY TIME!

The main Christmas celebration happens every year on 22nd December. Twinkling lights, magical decorations and beautiful flowers greeted all the children as they gathered together as one family.

Lots of hard work goes into this incredible event to ensure that no child is missed. Everyone plays their part in preparation. The older children get involved in cleaning, putting up marquees, decorating and laying tables in preparation for the big day!

Pastor Elisha shared a lovely Christmas message, which was followed by lots of singing. Then came the part the children had been waiting for – presents!

## REMEMBERING THE ELDERLY AT CHRISTMAS

Because of your generosity, we were able to give 300 leprosy colony residents a Christmas 'Bundle of Love'. These special packages show elderly and disabled people that they are not forgotten, and that they are loved and valued. The bundles include some food, a new outfit and some bath soap.



Christmas dinner

The gifts were small, but gratefully received. They were so excited to see their gifts, waiting eagerly for their name to be called! For some, this was their first experience of Christmas and presents.

By the time this was all finished, the aroma of festive dishes was wafting through the air, making everyone hungry! Cooking had begun in the early hours of the morning, and the feast was a sight to behold. Every kind of curry, sweet and ice-cream was eaten until everyone could eat no more!

After dinner the younger children had a rest, while the older ones prepared for the evening festivities. Young and old performed dances, drama

and singing. Cake eating followed before very tired eyes were finally able to close.

There are no words to thank you for the joy you have given to the children. You're a blessing!



Giving out presents



Everyone at Christmas

# YOUR IMPACT IN 2024

Thanks to you, so many lives were changed for the better. You provided childhoods, education, medical care, food, and a way to break out of poverty through small business development.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



**197** children received care



**40** at college or university



**7** had vocational training

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

**2,128** people living below the poverty line received small loans and training to establish small businesses. These included **134** affected by leprosy and **29** disabled people.



## LEPROSY AND DISABILITY



**81** leprosy colonies reached



**94** cases of leprosy were identified



**6,856** ulcer dressings done



**2,213** pairs of protective sandals distributed



**45** people referred to The Leprosy Mission's hospital for reconstructive surgery to hands, and other treatment



**206** mobility aids provided including crutches, wheelchairs and prosthetics



**3,800** food parcels provided for elderly and disabled

## ADVOCACY FOR GOVERNMENT HELP



**106** meetings with government



**500** blankets provided



**125** people affected by leprosy secured land rights



**300** sarees provided



**36** people received **£150** monthly disability pension



**300** shirts provided

# STRIDING FORWARD IN ODISHA

Victor was born and grew up in a leprosy colony, so it's no surprise that one of Brighter Future's key strategic aims is to help as many communities affected by this dreadful disease as possible.

Volunteer Louise was in Odisha last week spending time with Victor and the wider team at the inauguration of Brighter Future's new leprosy project in Odisha. Work begins in March across 32 leprosy colonies, bringing hope to people in desperate need. From clean water, toilets and safe housing to smallholdings growing vegetables and looking after animals, this is a really exciting new venture. Especially as these communities have been forgotten for the last 25 years.



Opening ceremony for a new project in Odisha

We're excited to have Pastor Elisha's expertise in advocacy, as he has transformed so many leprosy colonies with Brighter Future in Andhra Pradesh. Watch this space over the next few years as we share stories of hope and

transformation. And please pray for God's protection and provision over the team and the people they are serving.



Louise in Odisha with Sunitra, who is affected by leprosy



If you'd like to visit Brighter Future and meet the people whose lives you are changing, please get in touch! The next visit is planned for October 2025, led by volunteer Louise who has extensive experience of taking groups to India.

We love keeping you updated about the difference you are making! However if for any reason you would prefer not to hear from **BRIGHTER FUTURE**, please do let us know.

Head Office: 1 Charlies Yard, Dyke, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0GQ

Telephone: **01778 422701**

Email: [info@brighterfuture.org.uk](mailto:info@brighterfuture.org.uk) Website: [www.brighterfuture.org.uk](http://www.brighterfuture.org.uk)