

Be A HERO

April, 2007 Report from Steve Clarke, India Director

Telpura Project

I recently traveled to Telpura, India to review, discuss and evaluate the progress of the Telpura School/Medical Clinic/Community Center project. The objective of the building is to implement a strategy to reduce poverty, and increase opportunities for destitute children and families in the Telpura community. The school will provide quality English medium education to local children. The community center and medical clinic will offer basic health care, adult education classes, health seminars, tutoring and meals for children, recreational and other community activities. In addition the facility may be rented out for conferences, seminars, retreats, weddings, etc. This will provide a much-needed resource and generate income for the ongoing operating expenses of this facility.

Phase 1 of the building is currently under construction and the brick work is almost finished. Two floors are now complete with the construction of the roof about to begin. The building is 17,000 square feet, with 12 classrooms, staff rooms, bathroom/toilet facilities, reception area & office, and medical clinic. Once the brick work is completed, the construction of the roof will begin, followed by plastering, electrical and plumbing work. The target date for completion is August and the primary school will be operational by September 2007.

Phase 2 will be a second building which includes kitchen facilities, a dining hall and an auditorium. Construction of Phase 2 will commence once Phase 1 is completed.

Finances:

The total estimated budget (at August 2006) for construction of the buildings (Phase 1 & 2) was \$212,000. To date (April 2007) funds received are \$125,000. As of April 2007 it is expected that \$100,000.00 Cdn will be required over the next 5 months (until August 2007) to complete Phase 1 & 2. We are pleased that construction costs are close to the initial estimates provided.

My overall impressions of the project are very positive. The building is well constructed and very functional. The people in the Telpura community are very supportive of the objectives of the project. An immediate benefit to the community has been the creation of much needed employment for local tradesmen and labourers.

I had very productive meetings with the developer of the project - Joseph Martin. Mr. Martin is a local developer and has successfully completed a number of other local commercial projects. He understands and is very supportive of the goals of this project. We are very

fortunate to be working with a person of his character, integrity and capabilities.

I also enjoyed meetings with Helena (director of NLC/BVK) & Emmanuel & Beulah Raj (founders). We discussed and reviewed Be A HERO's partnership, the finances, the progress of Hope Academy School, child sponsorship, staff hiring, the overall direction and focus of Bal Vikas Kendra, and the possibility of sponsorship of children at Hope Academy thru Be A HERO. Since the death of her husband (June 2003), Helena has assumed the role of director of NLC/BVK. I am completely satisfied that she is very competent and doing an excellent job in overseeing this entire ministry. As I have had a long time relationship with Helena's parents (Emmanuel & Beulah Raj) and now with her, there is a great deal of trust, confidence and openness between us. This has been essential in being able to successfully partner in this and other projects.

Summary:

The trip was successful and timely. I am very satisfied that Be A HERO's partnership with NLC/BVK is solid. The annual onsite visits are essential to clarify and solidify our shared objectives, problem solve, strategize and generally support, encourage and strengthen our relationship.

