

Nick,

What a pleasure it is to finally meet you even if it was by phone. It seems to me that it will be very good for us to find time to meet on your next trip to NY. I am about 2 hours away and it is an easy train ride to my home. I think we are both working on the same projects but from slightly different angles and I think if we can work together it will be far more than the two of us working separately.

I would like to hear about how you got involved and how the project has evolved since its inception. I would also like to share how I was involved and what I have worked to accomplish to help Hebron. Sagar is very careful not to share what each donor is doing since some people have been offended by others trying to help in their own way. And it seems many people have their own set of rules to get the job done and at times they conflict. So that is why he has not put us together previous to this. When I was there I asked him to put me in touch with as many people involved as possible so we could combine efforts to help in a big way. And so we begin.

I left Hebron about one month ago and saw a huge change from my visit before this one. Your school was there and as I told you it is making a difference in the town and a huge difference in the lives of the Hebron Children. The school is great and is being built well with the right materials and workmanship. But I saw no waste and everything was being built efficiently. The building is fantastic – but that's not the story. The story is the kids all going to school together and learning the same things and becoming one society. You asked about jobs and I feel when these kids leave the school they will be looked upon as equals in every way and will have the same opportunities as anyone else in the area. They will also be able to make changes in their town that will be lasting and powerful. That is the story of the impact of the school.

Yes – the orphanage is always running in a deficit but if there was extra money I would be even more concerned. Sagar and his team have the ability to make a little go a long way. We bought a new steam cooker for the rice which is faster and safer to use and makes the food cleaner (for lack of a better word) With this system Sagar has very little, if any, waste with the food for the kids. He has no extra and puts every penny or pence to the best use. But kids keep showing up at his door and he takes them in.

A plus side of this is we raised the tuition for the school and this will cover the entire cost of the teachers and materials needed for the school. Some parents said they would take their kids out because of the increase. They did not do so and paid the extra money because it is the best school around. And if they leave there are 1500 kids on a waiting list to get in. And these families will pay the higher fee. So I hope with this higher tuition he will have some relief from the money issues.

When we finish buying the land next door it will create a buffer between Hebron and the rice workers that will make it safer for the kids. It will also give us the dorms for more kids for the school and bring in more money every year to support Hebron. And we are on our way to making the purchase work.

So as you can see your investment is huge because it allows Hebron to see self-sufficiency in about 5 years. That is a priceless gift.

I look forward to continuing our conversation and learning more about your vision.

Hope your travels were uneventful.

Scott Rankin

