

Rehoboth (a Hebrew word meaning, *God 'has made room for us'*).

The orphanage was established in the Kerola region of India in the early 1900's by a German couple, Mr & Mrs. Nagal. A New Zealander, Miss Lottie Sundgren, joined them in 1907 and in 1910 took over management of the home. Since that time it has been managed by someone from New Zealand.

Miss Edith Wallace joined Miss Sundgren in 1932 and took over responsibility for the home in 1951. Local Indian ladies and missionaries from other countries also assisted at the home.

Miss Phyllis Treasure from Christchurch went to India in 1957 and worked with Miss Wallace for several years. Phyllis - now in her eighties - is still at Rehoboth. She is affectionately known as "Mummy". Miss Sarah Simpson from New Plymouth (a great-niece of Miss Lottie Sundgren) is known to the girls as "Sarah Aunty" and has been at Rehoboth since 2004 and is now responsible for a lot of the work.

For many of the girls at Rehoboth, this is the only home they have known. They are taught and encouraged in the Christian faith, given a good education and helped into employment as they grow older. As is Indian custom, parents find a suitable husband for their daughters, and so it has been the pleasure of Phyllis and Sarah to see many of "their" girls enter into a happy marriage. Another tradition is that Indian girls always go home to their parents house to have their babies, so Rehoboth has been the birthing place of many, many children.

The work is financed entirely by free-will gifts from local Christians and donations from countries such as New Zealand. When needs arise, Phyllis tells her Heavenly Father, and miraculously the needs are met and money arrives at the appropriate time.

Some words from Phyllis

"As thou goest - Goodbye New Zealand! Hello India!

No great missionary this! Just a happy, young, apprehensive New Zealander with no experience, no special training, no plans 'to do' or 'to be', no special 'gift' - not wise or mighty or noble; just one of the 'weak things of this world' ...

But 100% sure that the call to Rehoboth was from God and He would lead 'step by step' and provide. And He has ... miraculously ... 'step by step'.

Once I had to be in the office of the Income Tax Inspector. He asked me how I would provide for all the children's needs with no sponsors or guaranteed support. I replied, "Our Heavenly Father will provide." Many years later I had reason to go again to the IT Office but in a different place. The previous Income Tax Officer had been transferred and I did not recognise him but as soon as I walked in he recognised me and even before I sat down he looked at me and asked, "And has your Heavenly Father provided all these years?" And with what joy and confidence I could reply, "Yes!" After all these years my heart still stands in awe at the gracious compassionate way our Father supplies every need.

“And what about the orphanage?”

No thought of increasing the numbers! ... But ‘step by step’!

A lady came to the door with a toddler. I asked my predecessors, “What shall I do? Shall I admit the child?” And they replied, “We have reduced the numbers as much as possible. There are 35 children left with nowhere to go. Now it is up to you to make the decision. How much faith do you have? There is no bank balance. Now the choice is yours to take in more children or not.” I didn’t make a conscious decision, but ‘step by step’ the Lord led and gave the wisdom and help. Then the babies starting coming; there were babies on the bed beside me, babies in the dining room, babies in the sitting room and with the babies came sleepless nights, wet nappies, bottles to be boiled, milk mixtures to make And the number of children increased to 80, to 100, to 200. I still don’t know the answer to how much faith I have but I stand in awe at the faithfulness and greatness of my God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all; and He has proved His Word, that HE is able to make “all grace abound unto every good work.”

And ‘step by step’ God has led through all the experiences of life to teach that He is all the All-sufficient God. Sufficient in times of loneliness and sickness, sufficient in times of being misunderstood and falsely accused; sufficient in times of bickering and divisions; and sufficient in times of discouragement and even despair. Who is sufficient for these things? I stand in awe as I say, “Our sufficiency is from God.”

So to any who are coming behind me, on this my 81st birthday, let me call back and say,

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths”.***

Proverbs 3 : 5



Rehoboth



Phyllis Treasure - "Mummy"

Since 1957