

Fall/Winter

2006-2007

Agape
International

LOVE IN ACTION

WHAT'S NEW

A Trip to India

As many of you know, I (Kim) visited India and our Agape homes for the first time in October. (An earlier scheduled visit was postponed when I learned I was pregnant with Hope, who turned two in January). I shared my "Top Ten Things I Learned (or Confirmed) While in India" at our fall dinner, but thought that those of you unable to attend might also appreciate the trip update.

India is very poor. This may seem like a "duh" observation, but I think some may no longer think of India as very poor. What we see/hear about India is strong economic growth, increased outsourcing and many of us know and interact with talented, well educated colleagues from India. The real story though is that India's economic growth has not yet changed the lives of most – 300 million still make less than a \$1 a day, the average annual income is less than \$500 and more than 40% of the population is still illiterate.

We visited a slum in India to do an Agape medical clinic. (Without these medical clinics, those in the slums would receive no medical care. Sadly, many are suffering from easily treated and cured illnesses.) I've traveled to many places, but I'd never seen poverty like what I saw in this slum. More than three hundred families live on a tiny patch of urban dirt, in huts made of garbage, with no running water.

The slum we visited near the city of Hyderabad. Agape provides the only medical care these families receive.

