

# Overview

**Founder:** Dr. M.A. Thomas (1936 – 2010)

**President:** Dr. Samuel Thomas

## *Our History*

Based in Columbus, Georgia, Hopegivers International is a faith-based, non-profit humanitarian organization that rescues orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children. They become *Arrows for God*, ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These orphan leaders have been making a significant impact in their native countries by reaching out to those in need both physically and spiritually for over five decades. Hopegivers mission is to raise up one million of these orphans to fulfill its vision for **One Million Orphan Leaders Worldwide by 2030!**

Hopegivers traces its roots back to 1960 when a young missionary, M. A. Thomas and his wife, Amini, began an amazing journey of faith by traveling from South India to North India where few Christians dared to live and minister at that time. They had no money and few earthly belongings. But they had a vision that God placed in their hearts, and were determined to follow it through to the end.

Once they arrived in Kota (Northern India), the couple founded the Emmanuel Fellowship ministry, which eventually led to the birth of Hopegivers International, the US office (fundraising arm of the ministry). Seven years after reaching Kota, Amini gave birth to a son, Samuel. Today, Samuel serves as president of Hopegivers and continues the legacy left by his father to fulfill the vision of **One Million Orphan Leaders Worldwide by 2030!**

Through the more than 54 years of outreach to the needy, Dr. M.A. Thomas, Dr. Samuel Thomas and their families have endured much opposition to their faith-based, holistic and humanitarian approach. However, certain of God's call on their lives for this ministry, Hopegivers has not only withstood many tests and trials – arrests, beatings, torture, severe financial setbacks and martyrdom - it has continued to grow because of the grace of God!

It has been more than 54 years since Dr. Thomas arrived in Kota, and Hopegivers has taken its work into nearly every corner of India. In 2006, Hopegivers took its work into the Western Hemisphere by partnering with an established ministry in poverty-stricken Haiti.

The mission remains the same - Hopegivers is committed to the vision of raising up **One Million Orphan Leaders Worldwide by 2030!**

## *Current Outreach Efforts*

### *India*

- 53 Hope Homes established for the orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children
- Over 100 Bible colleges and institutes
- Over 150 Christian schools established
- Over 25,000 trained pastors and missionaries
- Over 50,000 Churches planted
- An outreach to those suffering from leprosy and HIV/AIDS
- 1 hospital and several mobile medical clinics

The newest ministries:

- Martyrs Legacy – a ministry to the families of Martyrs
- Dowry Castaway (burned brides) and their children
- HopeVision – a ministry to blind children

### *Haiti:*

Since 2006, Hopegivers is working with indigenous ministries in Haiti to raise Arrows for God by providing food, clean water, education, and medical relief.

### *Nepal:*

- Two Hope Homes established for the orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children
- Dozens of churches established
- Two Bible Institutes
- Gospel outreach to those who have not heard of Christ

### *Undisclosed Locations:*

- Hopegivers also works in nations where it is dangerous to conduct Christian ministry. We refer to these areas as our “undisclosed locations.” In those areas of the world we are working to:
  - *Gather* orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children,
  - *Sharpen* future missionaries through Bible College training, and we
  - *Launch* Pioneer Missionaries to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to protect those serving in the “undisclosed locations”, we cannot publish the specifics of the ministry.

## *Financial Accountability*

Hopegivers is a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, (ECFA).

# One Million Orphan Leaders Vision

Hopegivers International exists to **GATHER, SHARPEN, and LAUNCH** orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children as **Arrows for God** who will in turn reach out to needy children themselves. The goal is to raise up one million of these **Arrows for God** who will transform their native countries with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The four phases of the **One Million Orphan Leaders Vision** are:

**1. GATHER** – Hopegivers saves children from lives of poverty and suffering. It gives them a chance to grow up as boys and girls who have the joy and hope that comes from knowing Christ. These kids no longer have to fight to survive by begging on the dangerous streets and in train stations, becoming part of sex trafficking, working with drug lords who abuse them. Because of the many friends who support Hopegivers, these children are transformed from the inside out.

**2. SHARPEN** – At our Hope Homes, rescued children receive everything they need – food, clean water, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, an education, and the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Boys and girls of every age are given a safe, comfortable home. They receive the loving encouragement that is necessary for any child to eventually become all that God wants them to be.

**3. LAUNCH** – After our children finish their schooling – which often includes attending Bible College – they are given the opportunity to go forth as *Arrows for God* and minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ somewhere in India. These young men and women find jobs in villages, towns and cities where they eventually rescue the orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children. They take them in and provide for their needs just as someone did for them when they had no hope.

Eventually, these mature *Arrows* become *Orphan Leaders* in their communities where they continue to provide for a growing number of children on their own. When they have 10 children in their home, Hopegivers helps them start a Hopegivers' Hope Home for the children they have rescued. This is the cycle of hope that is taught to every child. Needy children are being raised up in Christ to become purposeful *Arrows for God* who will also make an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God in India, Haiti and wherever else the Lord leads them.

# **Biography of Dr. M.A. Thomas**

## ***Founder of Hopegivers International***

Fondly known as “Papa” to thousands of orphans, Dr. M.A. Thomas began his mission work in 1960 in Kota, Rajasthan. Since then, the efforts of Dr. Thomas and Hopegivers International have helped to start more than 50,000 church congregations with over 25,000 pastors, 53 Hope Homes, 150 Christian schools and 100 Bible Colleges and Institutes. Their humanitarian efforts are primarily in India. We have expanded our efforts to Haiti in the last few years.

Born in 1936 at the extreme southern tip of India at Kuzhikala, Kerala, Dr. Thomas graduated from St. Thomas College in his homeland. He went on to earn a Doctorate of Divinity from Hindustan Bible Institute in Chennai, India, as well as an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

After establishing a church in the heart of Northern India, Dr. Thomas started an orphanage with eight children. This spawned a vision to develop “Hope Homes” all over India – Christ-centered orphanages that would provide for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children. In addition to the Hope Homes, and in partnership with his son, Dr. Samuel Thomas, Hopegivers also began to reach out to others in need by establishing a hospital, several clinics, some Bible colleges, along with other leprosy and poverty outreaches.

In spite of a busy ministry, Dr. M.A. Thomas was also the author of more than 50 books and was an internationally sought-after speaker. He lectured throughout the Middle East, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Holland, Canada, and in almost every state in the United States.

The lengthy list of humanitarian awards bestowed on Dr. Thomas includes the Padma Shree Award presented to him by the President of India – the most prestigious award given to civilians in India. He also received the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice, the Good Samaritan Award from the World Christian Association, the Joshua 1:8 Award from Bible Pathway Ministries for his mission work, and the Mahatma Gandhi Award for his humanitarian work with people affected by leprosy.

Since Dr. M. A. Thomas’ death in 2010, his son, Dr. Samuel Thomas, President of Hopegivers, now shoulders all of the responsibility for the ministry as he carries on the legacy his father established in 1960. Just like his father, he is passionately involved in fulfilling the God-given vision of **One Million Orphan Leaders Worldwide by 2030!**

## **Biography of Dr. Samuel Thomas**

### ***President of Hopegivers International***

Dr. Samuel Thomas, born in 1967, is the President of Hopegivers International and is known as one of the leading humanitarians in India. Working alongside his father for over 30 years, Dr. Samuel is a dynamic speaker with powerful leadership skills. As the second-generation visionary for the organization, he has been a major catalyst behind the **One Million Orphan Leaders Worldwide by 2030** vision which is currently fueling the explosive growth of Hopegivers in India. Dr. Samuel is passionate about rescuing one million needy children and raising them to make a difference in their homelands.

Dr. Samuel says that he was “drafted into his role” by the Holy Spirit while trying to reconcile God’s call on his life and his own aspirations to become a pediatric surgeon. He says, “*My mom and dad told me that God didn’t need my money—he wanted me. That’s how it all started!*”

Dr. Samuel’s education includes undergraduate work at Columbia International University, a B.A. from Liberty University, and a Doctorate in Divinity from Antioch Seminary. He has also received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Liberty University and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity at North Greenville University.

During his tenure with Hopegivers, Dr. Samuel has been instrumental in establishing approximately 150 Christian schools throughout India; overseeing 53 Hope Homes with nearly 5,000 orphaned, abandoned and at risk children; opening a hospital and a nursing school; and establishing 100 Bible Colleges, including the Emmanuel Theological Seminary in Rajasthan. He has also expanded the ministries work into other areas of need like the *Dowry Castaway Women (burned brides)*, *HopeVision* and the *Martyr’s Legacy ministries*.

An accomplished singer, instrumentalist, and songwriter, Dr. Samuel has recorded 15 devotional song albums in the Hindi and Malayalam languages. He conducts leadership seminars in India, the Middle East and in the United States. He is an internationally sought-after key note speaker.

Dr. Samuel Thomas is married to the former Shelley Lucas from Harpswell, Maine. They have two sons, Steven Andrew and Timothy Abraham.

# Interview Questions

The following is a list of potential interview questions for Dr. Samuel Thomas:

1. Would you share the history of how your father – Dr. M. A. Thomas – began the ministry of Hopegivers International?
2. I understand that Campus Crusade for Christ founder – Bill Bright – played a small role at the very beginning of this ministry. Could you tell us about that?
3. Why is there a need for an organization like Hopegivers International in India?
4. How does Hopegivers International differ from other humanitarian organizations in India? What makes HGI unique?
5. Would you describe the living conditions and the social challenges faced by the orphaned, abandoned and at-risk children you rescue?
6. You call your orphanages “Hope Homes.” Would you describe a typical Hope Home and what these homes provide for the children?
7. Would you share the **ONE MILLION ORPHAN LEADERS WORLDWIDE BY 2030** vision you and your father have for this ministry?
8. Besides the orphans, do you provide any humanitarian services for other people groups in India?
9. How can someone support the work of Hopegivers International?

*\* Please note that some questions that arise during the interview might **not** be answered because of political ramifications that would endanger Dr. Samuel Thomas and the Hopegivers International organization in India*

# Testimonies

*A child condemned to back-breaking labor ...*

**L**ittle Sonu was born in India in 1996. His parents, who were both affected by leprosy, and labored in a brick factory where the wages were low and the working conditions were miserable. The family was extremely poor and rarely had enough to eat. They lived in a dilapidated shack that did little to keep out the cold during the bitter winter months. Sadly, because of the family's poverty, Sonu was never able to attend school. At a very young age, he had to work long, hard hours alongside his parents at the brick factory.

With the health of Sonu's mother deteriorating quickly, the family had little hope for a better future. But one day, Sonu's parents heard about Hopegivers and one of our Hope Homes. The parents found out that Sonu would be given three meals a day, quality shelter, and a free education. Sonu's parents knew immediately this was the hope of a lifetime for their son.

Now, surrounded by his 11 new brothers and sisters at the Hope Home, Sonu smiles and says, "I get good food, clothes, education, and have new friends. I'm so happy to be here and not in the factory!"

*At 5 years old, his meals consisted of salted dirt ...*

**W**hen one of our pastors in Haiti found Fidelin in 2006, he was staying with his grandparents. His parents had died from AIDS. His grandparents were poor farmers and could barely afford to feed themselves, much less a child. They were so poor that they were eating salted dirt to survive – literally sprinkling salt on the ground and eating the dirt for their meals. Needless to say, Fidelin was in bad shape and near death when we first met him. He had tuberculosis and was terribly malnourished. He could barely stand up and play with the other children. But since then, he has received medicine and a steady diet of nutritious food provided by Hopegivers' supporters. Today, Fidelin has made almost a complete recovery – and he is now able to play with his friends!

*A little girl living just to survive the streets of India ...*

**B**oth of Amrutha's parents died when she was only two. Her dad was beaten to death – her mom died after a lengthy illness. After these tragedies, no one was there to take her in ... so she was left to survive on the streets of India. At two years of age, Amrutha was forced to wander the dangerous streets alone. Until she was 11, she begged, sifted through garbage, and scrounged up food scraps for her meals. She had only rare encounters with extended family; they did very little to help her. Finally, her grandmother heard about a Hopegivers Hope Home and brought Amrutha to us.

Even though our Hope Home was a major adjustment from Amrutha's life on the streets, she now says she enjoys her new life very much. She says she loves the security, care, singing, dancing, and spiritual guidance she receives here. Some day she wants to become a singer herself!

*His alcoholic father abandoned the family –  
then his mother died ...*

**A**t just three years old, little Vipin already had a future that seemed bleak and hopeless.

Even before his mother, Alice, died, life seemed to be dealing a cruel hand to the family. Vipin's father was an alcoholic – and did next to nothing to support his wife and children. Eventually, his father walked out the door and never came back. Alice took a job at a local hospital just to make enough money to feed her children. The family was able to live on the hospital premises, but with no beds. They slept on the cold floor, which only got colder in the winter months when blankets were scarce and Alice couldn't afford to buy the children more clothes in order to keep them warm.

Unfortunately, Alice got sick and died of tuberculosis three months later. Little Vipin and his siblings were eventually split up – and Vipin found himself at a Hopegivers Hope Home. For the first time in his life, he enjoyed three healthy meals a day ... along with clean water, warm clothing, and a quality education – plus the Gospel of Jesus Christ! As Vipin grew up, he embraced God's love and committed his life to telling others about the love of Jesus. So great was his enthusiasm that he attended a Hopegivers Bible College, where he received a Bachelor of Theology degree! Now Vipin is working on a Bachelor of Arts degree to complete his college education before becoming a full-time minister of the Gospel. Vipin says, "I want to serve the Lord by doing something for the abandoned and poor children – because I know what it means to be left alone."