



THE STORY

As a young girl Vidya learned quickly how important hard work and perseverance was. Growing up in a poverty stricken district of India, she and her family struggled to survive. By adulthood she had worked to become a teacher in a school with 40 children. Through her diligence she soon become vice-principle, and later Principal. Yidya desired for her precious school to reach into the community and become a safe haven for children of all ages, and to provide not only an education, but a shelter to many street and orphaned children.

Since 2002 Yidya has felt privileged to run Saint Paul's Educational Society (formally known as Golden Bells English Medium). Since her employment the school has progressed from 40 students to over 500 children, supporting 18 teachers, and 5 helpers from the community. It is her dream to continue to reach into the hearts of her people, develop deep relationships, offer education and a sense of work ethic which her own family instilled in her.

THE PROBLEM

Yidya knows what it means to be poor and to experience the heart ache of not knowing when one's next meal will be. It is her desire to be a shelter for the community she serves in, to allow students to feel free to learn and become all they were intended to be, and not worry about being homeless or having an empty belly. She has taken great strides to grow her school, help it become independent and use the proceeds of the tuition that is able to be paid to go back into the school. In 2010 as she continued to work toward sustainability land lord, the very person who appointed her as Principal, asked for her and her school to leave his land. Given only 3 months, Yidya had to take out a loan with high interest rates to be able to pay for a new lease. Renting a small piece of land, building temporary class rooms in 2 months, she moved her school. For over 3 years Yidya has worked to pay off the high interest loan, work again toward sustainability through buying a piece of her own land, rather than rent her current property, and build into the lives of her 500 plus students and teachers. As 2013 unfolded, her new landlord was not pleased with her position on sharing the gospel and asked her to leave. He gave her 5 months to move. Without a building, and unable to meet the expenditure of school rent, teachers' salaries, and debt, she is in need of a school building. To Yidya, this is not just a building for education, but a sanctuary, a place where children can feel safe, be fed, feel the love of Jesus, and know they were created for more. Doing her best to keep the school open, Yidya has paid salaries out of her own pocket, and continues to search for the solution to continue to provide for her school and community.

THE SOLUTION

Women At Risk, International (WAR, Int'l) has watched a similar story unfold in Burma. We partnered with another Non Profit organization whose deep desire matched our own in building sustainable businesses. We watched a school receive a loan from the two of us, and turn that loan into a school which turned enough profit in its first four years to pay off their loan, fully support a teaching staff and helpers, tithe 10% of its net profit to local and national ministries, become the school of choice for learning English in their region, and fully fund an expansion project and build its own upgraded facility costing over \$300,000 out of pocket.

We fully believe Yidya, her school, and her business plan show the same dynamic signs toward this same level of success if given the chance. The solution is to give Saint Paul funding from a revolving loan designated specifically for ministries just like Saint Paul who thrive under the concept of sustainability.

THE PLAN

Yidya has already received a donation of land for a future location of her school. She has worked with her government to become recognized and has a Certificate of Registration to be able to host the school. Bylaws for the program have been constructed and approved, budgets have been devised, and means of repayment of a loan have been accounted for and verified by a WAR, Int'l accountant. The plan would be to loan Saint Paul's Educational Society \$250,000 dollars with little to no interest. Her school would be set to pay back \$500 a month for the first few years of the loan, and if she is as successful as we believe will be able to pay \$1250 a month toward her loan, dropping her from a 35 year payment plan to a 15 year plan. As her school grows she will become more sustainable, giving more teachers employment, assisting more homeless children, and spreading the love of Christ.