



Raju's Story

Raju lives in the village of Khunti with his mom, dad, brother and sister. He is nine years old and attends the Khunti Adventist School.

Each morning, Raju's mom walks him and his siblings down the road to school. They all attend the Khunti Adventist School and Raju is in the fourth grade. He's anxious to get to school on time because today is assembly. The entire school meets in the cafeteria to sing songs and hear Bible stories. It's one of Raju's favorite events each week and he doesn't want to be late. If he's late, he might miss the singing, but he might also not have a place to sit.

More than 1,300 children attend Raju's school but there's no room big enough on campus for all the students to meet for assemblies. Each week they convert their cafeteria into an assembly hall but there still aren't enough seats. Children that are late have to stand in the back. When assembly is over, Raju has to help move the tables and chairs around so the cafeteria is ready for lunch. He works quickly to get it all done before class starts.

After assembly is over Raju heads to his classroom. He and the other fourth graders study in a very old building. It's one of the original buildings from when the school was started in 1937. They sit at their desks and eagerly wait for the teacher to help them learn things like spelling and math. One of their favorite activities is when the teacher tells them stories from the Bible. But because the building is old, it gets hot in the summer and during the rainy season the roof sometimes leaks. This makes concentrating in the classroom very difficult.

In the middle of the day it's time for lunch. Today the cafeteria is serving aloo gobi, a curry made from potatoes and cauliflower along with a bread called naan. Raju quickly eats so he has time to play during recess. Volleyball and Lagori are some of his favorite games to play with his friends. It's nice and sunny out so they spend recess playing together. During the rainy season, kids are forced to stay inside their classrooms for recess because there is no large covered area for them to play.

The principal rings the school bell, signaling the end of the school day. Raju's mom is waiting at the gate to walk him and his siblings back home. They tell their mom all the things they learned and how they wish more of their friends could go to school with them. Each year, hundreds of students are turned away because there just isn't enough space.

With your help, children at the Khunti school like Raju will get brand new classrooms that are bright and clean with lots of space for them to learn in. Your donations will help Maranatha build a large building--big enough to fit all the elementary school students for classes. Plus it will give them a large auditorium for worship, assemblies, and a place to play on rainy days. But you'll be doing more than building classrooms. You'll also be helping more kids learn about Jesus. Thank you for being missionaries right where you are!