

# The Freedom Report

SPRING 2020 • DALITFREEDOM.CA



# Introducing You to Philip Reilly...



**Philip Reilly**

New Executive Director,  
Dalit Freedom Network Canada

Our Board of Directors is pleased to welcome the next Executive Director of Dalit Freedom Network Canada: Philip Reilly. Philip will become DFN's second Executive Director, following Sherry Bailey, who has served as the founding Director since 2006.

*"The Board went through much work during the selection process, and as a result of this work and many prayers, it was unanimous that the Board extend an invitation to Philip to become the next leader of DFN Canada. His heart and passion for India and the marginalized is in line with the heart of DFN and we look forward to what God will have us do together. Thank you for standing with us in prayer during this transition time."*—Jacques Beaudreault, Chairman of the Board

Philip has served with IJM (International Justice Mission) Canada since 2014, initially as BC Director of Development & Mobilization, and most recently as National Director of Development. In addition to experience in the worlds of business and pastoral leadership, and the valuable fundraising skills developed through his work with IJM, Philip brings with him a deep heart and passion to see justice for the world's poor and marginalized.

Philip grew up in Scotland, and since 2003 has made his home in Canada. He lives with his wife, Louise, and their 3 children in Langley, British Columbia.

*"My passion for justice has been a hallmark in my life since I first volunteered with a ministry in Kolkata, India in 1995, serving abandoned street children. My own connection with India is deeply rooted as my father was born in Kolkata just prior to partition in 1948. My work with IJM has also led me to India where forced labour, bonded slavery and the modern-day slavery of sex trafficking opened my eyes and deepened my commitment to speaking up for those who cannot speak up for themselves."*—Philip Reilly

DFN's mandate is to provide accessible education to the poor, marginalized and low caste children of India. We'd like to offer our sincerest thanks to our sponsors and donors like you who make this work possible. We invite you to reach out to Philip and our Canada team in the coming days. Together, we can bring hope through education and help restore God-given dignity.

## Your Gifts in Action...

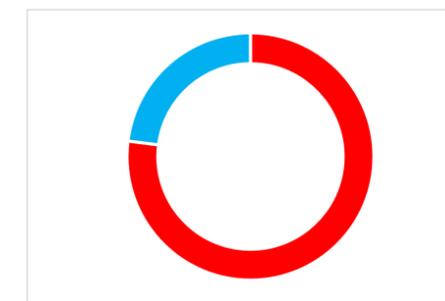
# HERE'S WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED IN 2019!

In 2019, your outstanding generosity went above and beyond for marginalized children in India. It's thanks to you that children whose lives have been deeply affected by poverty and discrimination can attend school and prepare for promising careers. Thank you for empowering girls and boys to pursue their dreams by giving them the gift of education. Here's how your gifts this past year impacted young lives for the better.

### APPORTIONED

### TOTAL REVENUE 2019

**\$2,607,552**



**77% Designated Funds**  
**23% Undesignated Funds**

### INDIA PROJECTS FUNDED

**\$1,501,771**



**98%  
SCHOLARSHIPS**  
\$1,426,098



**1%  
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**  
\$9,600



**1%  
OTHER**  
\$16,073



Revised: Aug 2020

COMPARISON	2019	2018
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,607,552	\$2,653,279
INDIA PROJECTS	\$1,501,771	\$2,259,900
ADMINISTRATION	\$601,761	\$556,784
FUNDRAISING	\$222,348	\$207,925
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$281,672</b>	<b>-\$371,331</b>

### NOTES

Our finances are audited annually by Loewen and Kruse, Chartered Accountants. Audited financial statements are available on request. Current Board of Directors: Jacques Beaudreault (Chair), Elaine Maxwell, David Aune, Denise Gordon, Greg Hislop, Darrell Gladman, Joseph D'Souza

Your generosity allows girls like Angel to receive an education and pursue their dreams!



**Lives You've Impacted!**

## From Angel to Astronaut

Angel's parents noticed their daughter was a bright child from an early age. She learned quickly and kept them on their toes. As loving parents, they wanted to free Angel from the discrimination they encountered every day simply because they were low caste.

While meeting daily needs was a struggle, Angel's parents decided to give up what little they had, so their daughter could attend a Good Shepherd School.

Angel felt nervous and excited on her first day. *"It was hard at first. It was a new school, I didn't know anyone, and I had to learn English to understand my lessons,"* Angel says.

But Angel was uniquely determined. She had a secret ambition...and for that, she needed to study hard and get good grades. Diligently, she kept going to school, and over time she caught up with her classmates.

Today, she's an "A" student in Grade nine—her grade average is an amazing 92%!

*"My hobby is to find facts about our planet,"* Angel says. *"My friend helps me with this. Math is my favourite subject, and my ambition is to become an astronaut! To reach my goal, I want to study astronomy after my school studies. I like researching the solar system and other planets."*

Thanks to donors like you, Angel is shooting for the stars!

Your generosity helps girls like Angel to understand their immeasurable value, dignity and worth. By teaching low-caste children these truths, you're unlocking their potential and imagination, allowing them to dream—and empowering them to make their dreams come true.

## Finding Freedom Through Education

Shree lives in a house with her parents, younger sister, and grandparents. Day-to-day life is a challenge. Both of her parents live with disabilities and can't work.

Her father has lost the use of his legs. To get around, he heaves himself off the ground, as much as possible, and with a great effort, pulls himself wherever he needs to go using only his hands. Shree's mother is frail, suffering from a spinal disease that contorts her back and makes it impossible for her to stand up straight.

Shree's grandparents take manual labour jobs when they can, and their family receives a small disabled person's allowance. But it's never enough. Shree does what she can to help. She works many hours every day, cooking and cleaning and doing chores around the house.

She works hard and never complains.

Thanks to your generous gifts, Shree is able to attend a local Good Shepherd School!

At school, she's particularly fond of the sciences, and is a good all-around student, loved by teachers and fellow students alike. *"One day, I hope to become a teacher,"* says Shree. *"I love going to school."*

Shree knows keeping good grades is her pathway to University and pursuing her dream of one day becoming a teacher. Thank you for equipping her with a quality education, so she can help her family escape from poverty and build a future of hope.

*Help young girls like Angel and Shree discover their potential by giving today!*

[DALITFREEDOM.CA/DONATE](https://dalitfreedom.ca/donate)





More than just a place to learn, the school is a hub for an entire community of impoverished people in need.

**Your generosity improves the quality of life for children and families!**

## More Than Just A School Caring for a Community Under One Roof

Supporters like you create miracles worth mentioning. BAL Good Shepherd School is located in the middle of a slum.

The BAL School started in 1998 with just two teachers and 10 children under the shade of a tree. Today, it's located in a rented building and grown to run classes for 109 students from Lower Kindergarten to Grade 5. Last year, 20 new students were admitted for 2019/2020!

Alongside the school, 2500 huts have been constructed to house approximately 5000 families who are mainly beggars, rag pickers, and construction labourers. They all come from very poor backgrounds and often struggle to eat just one meal a day.

The school has 5 full-time teachers who teach with great commitment. All other responsibilities beyond teaching are shared by the entire staff. When children graduate from Grade 5, the school staff help the parents secure a place in a government high school for their children, to ensure they can continue their education.

But this is no ordinary school. BAL Good Shepherd School is also a hub for everyone in the community to gather, pray, and stay healthy.

As well as meeting the community's spiritual needs, the school focuses on caring for the community physically. That's why once a month, the school offers a vaccination program for the children and medical care for the whole community. Here, people receive free health check-ups and medicine at no cost.

But this wouldn't be possible without the help of faithful donors like you! Your generosity allows this school to meet the needs of an entire community in a practical and tangible way. Your gifts truly change lives here.

***You could make a difference in other impoverished communities just like BAL. Please help lift people out of poverty with the gift of education today!***

**[DALITFREEDOM.CA/DONATE](http://DALITFREEDOM.CA/DONATE)**

***Shining a spotlight on your generosity***

## Why John Believes in Scholarships Continuing a Legacy of Extraordinary Education

It's donors like you that open the door to freedom for children who are oppressed and discriminated against—simply because they were born into poverty. This month, we want to shine a spotlight of gratitude on one of you...We'd like you to meet John!

John's beloved wife of 25 years, Geraldine, was a teacher in Surrey, British Columbia. When she passed away in 2016 he wanted to honour her memory in a special way, and continue his wife's legacy by bringing education to children. For the next 10 years, John has committed to providing educational scholarships to marginalized children in India, allowing them to escape poverty.

*"To know that I have helped these precious children rise up out of poverty and oppression by giving them a chance to attend school gives me immense satisfaction," says John. "And to be able to do this in memory of my dear wife makes it all the more significant. I give so that her death was not in vain, and her love of educating children will continue for ten years after her death."*

From everyone at DFN Canada, we'd like to thank John for his inspiring act of love and generosity in memory of his much-loved wife.

It's donors like John and you that empower children born into extreme poverty in India to break the chains of oppression through education. Thanks to you, these girls and boys can pursue good careers, raising themselves, their families, as well as their communities out of poverty.

Your generosity means the world to marginalized girls and boys in India. Thank you.



John donates in honour of his beloved wife, Geraldine. Thank you to John and all of our exceptional donors for setting children in India free by giving education!



## Building into the Future of Low Caste and Marginalized Children

Setting up a planned gift lets you manage your finances while making a long-term difference. Whether you set up a fund or include us in your will, you'll be leaving a legacy of hope and freedom for India's poorest people.

### Bequests and Wills

A bequest is a gift made in a last will and testament. Bequests are the most common type of planned giving and anyone with a will can make a bequest. Please consider leaving a legacy of freedom and including Dalit Freedom Network Canada in your estate. If you have any questions about setting up a bequest, we would be happy to advise you.

*Will you consider low caste and marginalized children and families in your planned giving?*

**[DALITFREEDOM.CA/DONATE](http://DALITFREEDOM.CA/DONATE)**

# 2019 at a Glance

## Thank You for Exchanging Oppression for Freedom!

As we look back over 2019, there are so many reasons to be thankful.

Through your incredible generosity, DFN Canada has been able to impact the lives of thousands of India's low caste and marginalized children and their families through education scholarships. In fact, this past year your gifts made it possible for 4,672 girls and boys to receive a high quality English medium education for another year! You've opened the door to many new possibilities by completing construction on our brand-new DMK school in rural India!

We'd like to thank those of you who are faithful sponsors, giving every month, as well as our generous donors—those of you who have dug deep and blessed the ministry with your gifts.

We're also extending a huge thank you to supporters who've attended DFN breakfast and banquet events, and our representatives who've shared their inspirational stories about our work with thousands of people in churches and at events across the nation.

With your continued support, we can help break the chains of discrimination and poverty, and help many poor and oppressed children achieve their full potential—and in the process transform the lives of their families and communities as well.

Our deepest thanks for your amazing support this last year!

***Reach more marginalized children by giving today!***

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### Praying for You...

During the past several months of turmoil, health and business concerns, we at DFN have been praying for you.

Our country, and in fact the world, is facing new and great challenges. For you, our friends and partners in Canada, and for the children and families in India, we give you this blessing from Numbers 6:24

***The Lord bless you  
and keep you;***

***the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;***

***the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.***

Prayer updates on the Good Shepherd Schools and the work of DFN Canada are sent out quarterly by email.

To receive this prayer update, email us at: [prayer@dalitfreedom.net](mailto:prayer@dalitfreedom.net)

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”***

**Jeremiah 29 : 11**