A Gloomy Home Brighten



The day the meal package from “Feed the Hunger” reached to the Munda home, 12-year-old Arjun Munda saw his mother smile for the first time in a long while. It was a small moment, but it was the start of something his family had stopped expecting. Arjun is in class 4 and lives with his parents, Bimol and Moni, and his little sister, Ritu, who is 3. Their family’s financial condition is very poor. His father works as a tea worker, but the wage is small and after the basic costs of the household, there was never much left for food. The family got used to eating less and wanting more.



Because of this, the Munda home had stopped feeling cheerful. Nobody laughed much and nobody had smiled in a long time. Arjun was thin and often tired. At home, he spent most of his time looking after Ritu, who cried whenever she was hungry. He did not complain, but he missed the days when he had the energy to run and play. Moni worried constantly. She had two growing children and she knew they needed good food to grow strong. Every day she tried to stretch what they had, and every day she felt she was failing them. The guilt weighed on her, even though it was not her fault. Bimol felt the same way. He worked hard in the tea garden, but his wage could not change what was on the table and he came home each evening with little to say. When Moni opened the meal package, she found oatmeal inside. It was not just simple oatmeal. It was filling and full of the nutrients that growing children need to become healthy

and strong. She had not held something like this in her hands for a long time and she knew it would do her children really good. Moni cooked instantly as it is very easy to cook. Arjun ate his bowl slowly, as if he wanted it to last. Ritu finished hers quickly and asked for more.

Since then, smiles have returned to the Munda home. Arjun talks to his parents the way he used to and he has started telling them about his day at school. He joins the other boys at break time now. Ritu is cheerful at mealtimes and no longer sits quietly by herself when she is hungry. Moni no longer wears the worried look she carried for so long, and Bimol feels the difference when he walks through the door each evening. The house is no longer gloomy.



The family is beyond grateful for the meal package. They say they cannot thank the people behind it enough, and they will remember them in their prayers. Bimol still works in the tea garden and the family is still poor, but there is far less worry about food and there is something to look forward to at every meal.