



FRANCIS & ALISON UPDATE

June – August 2011

Dear supporters and praying friends,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry among the broken people of India. Over the months we have been greatly encouraged by the responses we have received from the people whose lives have been touched through our various projects.

On the 20th of June we opened a new Day Care Centre where we are educating children whose parents are affected with HIV/AIDS.

Through the Tailoring Centre many girls' lives are changing. We would love to share all the stories with you but we just do not have enough space in one newsletter.

We are only able to help people because of your faithful giving and standing with us through prayer, you are making a difference!

We trust that as you read this update you will be blessed and encouraged knowing your support is changing and transforming lives.

Warmest regards,

Francis, Alison and Abigail



Computer Training: Equipping for a Better Future

On the 5th of July 6 young people completed the 3 months computer course. This course equips them with a basic knowledge of computing allowing them a better chance of gaining employment to help them to earn money for their families. Some of the young people on the course are still students but have had no experience using a computer and never thought that they would have the opportunity to learn because of the backgrounds they are from.

We already have 8 applicants on a waiting list for the next course. During the monsoon the rain is so heavy that power cuts happen often and for few hours at a time so we will be re-opening in October when the rains stop.



Day Care Centre: Empowering the Dalit Children through Education

On the 20th of June we opened a new Day Care Centre in the Birla slum, one of the biggest slums in Goa. We started with 22 children but over the weeks more parents have approached us asking us to enrol their children. Unfortunately we cannot take any more children because of a lack of space and staff, so we are focusing on the neediest of the children.

Parents Meeting and Uniform Distribution

Only one month after opening, the Birla Day Care Centre held their first parents meeting. During the meeting the children sang songs, recited rhymes, counted and read the letters of the alphabet that they have learnt so far.

We gave time for the parents to share with us what they thought about their children's progress and all the parents testified that they were amazed at what their children have learnt in only one month. They told us that we have opened their eyes to the talents that their children have. They thought that their children would never be able to learn English as it is too expensive to send them to an English school.

The parents are very poor, so it is truly amazing for them to see their children learning English and they are so grateful.

One mother said "I always wanted my son to study English, but I did not think it was possible because I cannot afford to pay the fees. I gave up my dream, but you have given me hope and helped me fulfill my dream for my son. I am so happy today to see him singing in English. He has learnt so much within a short time"

During the parents meeting we gave out two sets of uniform to all 22 children. The children all looked very smart in their uniforms.



Margoa Day Care Centre

We re-opened the Day Care Centre in Margoa after the holidays on the 6th of June. We expected to have around 20 children join us and planned to gradually increase the numbers as the days passed but, to our surprise, we had 40 children arrive on the first day. Since then we have sadly had to turn a few parents and their children away because we simply do not have enough space for them.

We are in the process of looking for larger premises and hope to find something suitable in the next few months.

A Big Transformation

11 of the children who attended our Day Care Centre for the past two years have now started mainstream school. This is a huge achievement for us considering the background of the children. Two years ago they were on the street collecting garbage and their parents took no interest in sending them to school. Today the parents understand how important education is and they have made a commitment to send them to school each day.

Gifts for All

We had a wonderful surprise for the children this month that even we were not expecting. We were informed with just two days notice that the charity 'Samaritans Purse' was coming to distribute their shoe boxes to our children. We had all heard about it and even been involved in some way with their famous Christmas shoe box appeal, but to actually see our 39 children from the Margoa Day Care Centre opening their very own box was amazing. The boxes were filled with so many things that the children had never seen before that they could hardly contain their excitement. Every child went home not only with a box of toys, but with the knowledge that someone somewhere in the world cared enough for them to make this box just for them. When we took the children home we could see the look of amazement in the parents' eyes as they saw their children's faces and the boxes. This is the biggest gift each of these children have ever received in one go, truly Christmas in a box!



Tailoring Centre: An Initiative to Change the Lifestyle of Women



On the 7th of July we had a graduation ceremony for the 17 young girls who have completed their 6 months course in tailoring and embroidery. Most of these girls have been rescued from becoming temple prostitutes, some of them are widows and most are from very poor backgrounds.

Each girl spoke of how much the course meant to them and how it has given them independence. It has allowed them to earn money for themselves, their families and has even enabled some to save money for their weddings and others to continue their studies.

We invited a local Dalit leader as a guest to hand out the certificates. He spoke and encouraged all the girls to use the skills they have learnt to enhance their lives. He thanked Tender Heart and all its supporters for its help in transforming the lives of Dalit women. He asked that we open many more training centers like this one so that hundreds and hundreds of Dalit women can benefit.

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light" — [John Keith Falconer](#)

Story of Kemamma

Kemamma was sold into the Devadasi system when she was 14 years old because of the economical situation at home. Her Mother does not work and what her father earns is not enough to feed the family. Her parents knew that they could not give a future to Kemamma. The only way they thought that they could get her out of the house was by dedicating her to be a temple prostitute.

Two years ago Kemamma met a man who was interested in marrying her. However, within 6 months of being married he left her and still today she does not know where he is. This incident bought her so much discouragement that she wanted to take her own life.

During this time she learnt about our free tailoring course and approached us with her story. We committed to help her and enrolled her for training. She has now completed the six months course and has started to earn money; she has even started to attend church every Sunday. She is very excited about her new found hope; please pray that she will grow closer to God.



Thank you for your financial support. Every seed that you sow is used to help fulfil our vision of "Releasing children from poverty and transforming lives". Philippians 4:10-18: "How grateful I am and how I praise the Lord that you are helping me again. I know you have always been anxious to send what you could, but for a while you didn't have the chance. I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that pleases God well." (The Living Bible)

Thank you for all you do and don't hesitate to contact us if we can pray for you in any way.

Francis, Alison & Abigail

Contact information

India

Francis and Alison

House No: 106 A

Nagvaddo

Betalbatim

Salcette

Goa – 403 713

Contact in the UK

King's Church

1 Victoria Fields

Birkenhead. Wirral

CH 41 0PF

Telephone: 0151 653 5595

E-mail: kingswirral@btconnect.com

E-mail

alisonandfrancis@gmail.com

alisonpidugu@gmail.com

Or Visit www.amentrust.co.uk