

Francis & Alison Update

January - 2012

Dear praying friends and supporters,

The end of the year brings both memories and hopes. We've had a great year in terms of ministry and family life, so there's much to be thankful for and so much to share with you, most importantly please accept our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done and continue to do for us in your prayers and support.

As we look forward to this year we want to transform more lives through word and deed. We are trusting God who continually gives us strength and also meets all needs. We are committed to change the lives of the people. Your help, support and prayers are vital to this ministry. There is no question in our mind that God has tremendous opportunities in store for us together in the days ahead.

We wish you, your family and church a blessed new year. May we thank you again and ask that you remember this ministry in your fervent prayers and support as our Lord enables you. We will continue to use the gifts with which you have entrusted us to serve our Lord and to honour his call upon our lives.



**For more pictures & News of Joel, Please visit
Alison's face book**

We are blessed with a baby boy

As a family we want to thank you for praying for Alison and for baby Joel. Your prayers gave us strength to face the uncertainty of the survival of our tiny baby and your personal financial gifts are helping us to meet our expenses in the UK. You may be reading this newsletter and not know what we are talking about so let us update you.

Our son Joel was not supposed to be born until the 4th of Feb 2012 in India but Alison developed preeclampsia at 27 weeks so we took the decision to fly back to the UK so that he would have the best chance if a premature delivery was necessary. On the 7th of November Alison arrived in the UK with Abigail and went straight into hospital that evening. Joel was born by emergency caesarean at 6:10pm on the 9/11/11 weighing 640g (1.4 pounds)

In India the doctor advised us to terminate the baby for the sake of Alison but instead we trusted in the Lord and came to the UK. The doctor was surprised that Alison came from India by flight and had not had any serious problems.

Joel is now 9 weeks old and doing well. The doctors are pleased with his progress. He is having a little help to breath but he is doing most of the work himself. He is still in the incubator and he will be until he can stabilize his own temperature. He is being fed by a tube with 34ml of milk every 3 hours and Alison is breastfeeding him twice a day but this will increase as he gets stronger. On New Year's Day he weighed 1KG (2.2 Pounds).

We are staying in accommodation at the hospital run by the Ronald McDonald Charity which helps parents by providing them with free accommodation. We thank God for providing a free nursery place for Abigail. Although the situation seems one to be sad about, we have so much to thank God for and be happy about. Please do pray for Joel and we will continue to update you on his progress.

Day Care Centre: Empowering the Dalit Children through Education

The two day care centres are running well, from both day care centres combined we are educating over 65 children. Every two months we have a parents meeting.

All the parents are very happy about the progress of their children. 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 am so glad that my younger son is studying here, I have an older son who goes to another school but my younger son knows more than elder son. I am so happy today to see him speaking and singing in English. He has learnt so much within a short time"



Our goal for the next academic year in June is to get as many children as possible into main stream school. Please pray that we will be able to get a bigger place to run our day care centres. We want to RESCUE more children and give them a good education

Tailoring Centre: An Initiative to Change the Lifestyle of Women

Two graduations

On the 19th of November and the 10th of December we had a graduation ceremony for the 39 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 of them 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.

Pastor Colin and Liz visited our ministry at the end of last year and were guests at the graduation. They handed over the certificates to the girls and Pastor Colin gave a gospel message at the end of the meeting. Colin gave an invitation to accept Jesus into their heart and over 12 girls made a decision to invite Jesus into their heart. Now the local church is doing regular follow up work with those girls.

On the 10th Dec we had a Graduation with Pastor Steve and Jain as guests. Jain shared her testimony and Steve gave a Gospel message entitled "Lost and Found". At the end they both prayed for the girls who had completed the six months course.



Pastors meeting:

At our first pastors meeting, about 65 pastors came together for encouragement and teaching. These pastors are from the surrounding villages of the Belgaum district. This is the first time a pastor's meeting has taken place in this village and also the first time someone from another country has ministered to them through the word of God.

Pastor Steve from the UK spoke about having a team of people to work together in the church and about mentoring. It was very good teaching and for most of the pastors it was the first time that they had heard a message on team work and mentoring.

We also had a local pastor take a devotional message. He spoke about how pastors should live life as an example. It was a blessing to all the pastors.

As a result of this meeting the pastors have decided to meet once a month and will have a time of prayer. It is so encouraging to hear this because there is very little unity among them and most of them do not know each other.

Francis has told the pastors that he will be happy to meet with them and be part of their fellowship.

Most of the pastors had to travel from different villages to attend so we included lunch.

The morning ended with the pastors sharing testimonies of how God is using them and blessing them in their villages and churches:

"I have been so busy in the ministry, doing everything by myself but today the Lord has taught me a precious lesson; I need to raise up a team in my church and take them along with me so that the church will grow and so that I can spend more time in the presence of the Lord" **Pastor Peter**

'I always thought that being a pastor meant the church belongs to me, not to others, but today God has taught me that I need to bring people into leadership and hand the church over to them and move on to plant more churches.' **Pastor Mark**

Computer Training: Equipping for a Better Future

At present we are not running the computer centre until 15th of February because Francis is in the UK with Family. We cannot hire someone from outside to continue this because they are asking for a big salary.

Francis will be back in India from the first week of February. Many young people are asking us to start soon, so we will be starting in February with a new group



Literacy class: Helping women to read and write

It is almost a year now since we started running literacy classes for the women in the slums. Most of the women who live in the slums haven't had any education and so they cannot read or write.

This skill alone will improve their daily life. We take reading road signs or instructions for granted and don't think twice about filling in a form, but for these ladies it is a huge disability. If they can read, it will improve their quality of life and it will help them to teach their children.

At present we have 5 women attending in one slum. From the middle of February we will be starting one more literacy class in another slum. We have a teacher from the local church that is willing to come and teach voluntarily.



Micro Enterprises

On the 19th of Nov and 09th of December we distributed 8 tailoring machines to 8 women. This is the project where the women receive their own tailoring machine and then pay the money back little by little each month until the machine is paid for. So far we have been able to provide 60 machines to 06 women. To date, all of these women are making their living through the machines we have supplied.

A big thank you

Thank you for your financial support. Every seed that you sow is used to help fulfill 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 and Joel



Joel's letter fingers holding Alison's finger

Contact information

UK
King's Church Wirral
1 Victoria Fields. Birkenhead.
Wirral. CH42 0PF. United Kingdom
Telephone: 0151-653 5595

e: mail

Francis: alisonandfrancis@gmail.com

Alison: alisonpidugu@gmail.com