

Francis & Alison Newsletter

Small things done in grate love...

Issue No 7/ September/2008

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayer towards our ministry in India.

On the 15th of August we celebrated 62nd Independence Day. Every where on roads and streets, we can see Indian flags and we can see the spirit of India on the faces of the people.

We used this occasion as an opportunity to bring together the children of the slums so that we could give them notebooks, school bags and lunch boxes to help prepare them for the start of school.

One of these children has an amazing story; he is only 5 years old and has just started school. As a baby of just one month old he was abandoned. He and his father were traveling on a train when his father asked a family

nearby if they would hold him while he went to get a newspaper. He never returned. The family left holding him however was willing to keep him and give him the best life they could. They are not a rich family and have children of their own so it is a privilege for us to be able to help them. The boy has never seen his birth father or mother again. When we gave him his school bag, notebooks and lunch box, his adoptive mother said that it had been her wish that her adopted son would start school with the blessing of God. Please pray that we will continue to be a blessing to this boy in his family and schooling.



Welcome



Dalit Children with Gifts

New Vocational Tailoring Center

On the 16th of July we opened a new Tailoring School for the girls of a very large slum called Birla just outside Vasco city. Already 17 girls from this slum have begun a six month training course. At the

moment the girls have to meet in the house of the teacher, so please pray that we will be able to find suitable premises soon so that they will have the space they need to learn in.



New Tailoring Group

It has been a great privilege to be able to spend time with the people in the villages near to our Gataprbha Tailoring School (2 to 3 hours away). We have visited three Villages and were very warmly welcomed each time by dancing and singing. We all took part in telling stories using our puppets. For many months the children of these villages were desperate for some sports equipment to enable them to play in the evenings, and so the Pastors serving in these villages asked for our help. By the grace of God and with your support we have now been able to provide this equipment.

Children's Club



Pastor's receiving gifts for the Children's Club



First Pastor's meeting

At our first Pastors meeting, about 73 pastors came together for encouragement and teaching. These pastors are from the surrounding villages of Belgam and meet together once a month for teaching as most of them have never had the opportunity to go to Bible College. We were invited to spend a morning with them.

Kasia spoke about the 'blessing of being in the presence of God' and later Rob Perry spoke about 'what the Bible says about the blessing of giving'.

The morning ended with the pastors giving testimonies of how God is using and blessing them in their villages.

'As Indian pastors we are often asking people to give, but today God has sent us someone from the UK to teach us to give.'

Pastor Rathanam

'I always thought that ministry meant ministering to others, but today God has taught me that in order to minister to others, I need to be in the presence of the Lord.'

Pastor, Mark

Second Tailoring Graduation



Dancing By the Dalit Children

On the 26th of July we had our second Tailoring School graduation. The graduation was due to start at 7:00pm but, due to a power cut, the evening started in complete darkness (except for our little battery powered light that we have for these situations). The power did not return until 8:00pm so we were fashionably late, Indian style!

Once the lights came on so did the music and dancing as the children from a local school performed for us. There was singing, dancing then silence, more darkness and even rain to cool us all off; once again the power had gone. This time there was no stopping us, the headlights from a jeep gave us just enough light to begin giving out the certificates presented by Gill Perry. Once again the power returned and this time it

stayed on until the end of our program. Rebecca also helped to give out presents to the Dalit children as a thank you for their participation in the evening and Gill and Kasia gave a great word of encouragement to the graduating girls.

The highlight of the evening above all the singing, dancing and power cuts was the testimony of one of girl. She explained, with her newly presented certificate in hand, how the tailoring course has changed the whole outlook of her future. She is the only member of her family left. Though unfortunate circumstances, she has lost both her parents and all her siblings. However, because of the Tailoring School she now has a way of making a living for herself and feels she now has a future.



Second Graduation

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Once again we want to say how thankful we are for all your prayers and support. We ask you to continue to pray with us in the months ahead as we have some exciting and important ministries planned.

Thank you for all you do and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can pray for you in any way.

Francis and Alison