

PREM DAN
C/o. Convent of Jesus & Mary
15, N. Parekh Marg
Bombay 400 039.

7th December 1984

Dear Friends,

Christmas will be with us once again and I have still to give you news of your children.

At the very outset let me thank you on behalf of our children for your involvement in this work of Christ and his little ones.

School re-opened on June 12, Forty new children were admitted into our Geeta Nagar class and 30 were promoted to other schools, 9 got admission to Recognised schools while the others have joined the Garden School. The monsoon as usual was a very trying time for the people of this slum who live on the breakwater so near the sea - most of them have to rebuild their homes after the monsoon. They have been given official notices that this slum is due to be demolished but in view of the forthcoming elections this will definitely be postponed. I hope and pray with these poor people living in fear that the Government will not demolish their homes until they are provided with alternate accomodation.

You must be wondering if any of our childrens families were victims of the recent communal riots. Thank God there were none, though we do have a few Sikh children.

Last month the Y.M.C.A. started a project in collaboration with Prem Dean. Their need for Recreation and Supervised study classes was a much felt need in this slum as the children spend most of their time in a dingy hut and have no facilities for games and study. Prem Dan offered its premises. The Y.M.C.A. sends two teachers to organize games and supervise the study classes conducted seperately for the Juniors I-IV and Seniors V - X. The Y.M.C.A. will organize a Christmas Party and sports on the 21st. I really have to thank God for all these generous benefactors.

I wish to end this newsletter with a few thoughts for Christmas - God's word in the Flesh - The value of human life was profoundly affirmed by our God in the birth of Jesus. God's love for us found its own complete expression there. God dwells with us, in our own flesh.

Moreover, the birth of Jesus is our promise to our child that the deep evils rooted in our human hearts, that have found expression throughout the centuries and in our own times, will be overcome, and resolved - definitively! May we experience the peace of Christ Jesus in our world this day! May we work ardently for that peace because He has come! May we delight our God with our joyous celebrations!

Yours gratefully in Jesus & Mary

Sr. Felicity Morris r.j.m.
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