

# PREM DAN

Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 BOM. 232/85 G.B.B.-SD dated 15.3.85 Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, F 10310 (BOM) dated 29.4.85  
15, NATHALAL PAREKH MARG, MUMBAI- 400 001. TEL.: 284 1975/202 0474 FAX : 284 1975

5th August 97

Dear Friends,

I am happy to have the opportunity to send you news from Prem Dan.

All of you must be wondering whether the child you sponsor, has had a successful academic year, and whether she or he has been promoted to the next class, or completed the Xth standard and joined a college. You will get this information from your sponsored daughter or son. I know that it will be good news for most of you, but failures are part of life too.

Schools here in Bombay reopened on June 13, 1997. This is usually an extremely painful day for my staff and me for we have to say 'No' to many parents who seek admission into PREM DAN Schools. (We have 3 of them). In the Garden School, we admitted 78 students, in St. Anthony's School, Geetanagar slum, we enrolled 50 students and in our Prem Dan School, Reay Road slum, 48 were admitted. For days after the admissions we had parents pleading to admit just one more child. It was sad to say 'No'.

On June 28, the High School results were declared. Eight of our students appeared:

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Vaishali Padekar | 5. Evon Nadan   |
| 2. Madhavi Bahadur  | 6. Geeta Khanka |
| 3. Manisha Sose     | 7. Anand Abaji  |
| 4. Priya Singh      | 8. Raju Kotian  |

This is the first year that we had failures. Manisha Sose failed in English and Raju Kotian went down in Mathematics. All the others have gone to Junior College.

Fifty of our students from our three schools got admission into Recognised Schools.

Wedding bells rang for Merrell D'Souza on July 12, 1997. She married Russell Pereira, a very good and promising young man. All the Prem Dan students, past and present were there to rejoice with her.

This year, we rented a room to help our homeless boys. One of the parents, a widow is taking care of them. These boys are Jerry Francis, Mohan Mulchand, Ramesh Kade and Anthony Pereira. The boarding schools for boys admit children only in Grade V so they could not enter any existing boarding schools.

In June, the following boys were admitted into Boarding Schools:

Agnel D'Silva and Jean John in St. Dominic Savio Boarding, Jijo John into St. Francis Boarding and Moses Patel into Our Lady's Home. All have settled very well. Two of our boys, Ajit Amin & Allwyn Anthony have joined the YMCA Vocational Training Centre, as Electricians. We also admitted three of our girls into boarding schools - Patricia Rajan, Irene Mendonca and Josephine Anthony. The latter two were kidnapped and were rescued after a week. The kidnappers who posed as doctors were arrested. Investigations proved that the kidnappers were trying to get their vital organ for transplanting.

We have wonderful news for our French sponsors. Our Uncle Philippe Baudin who lives in Rebenacq, France will register Prem Dan in France. All our French sponsors can now pay their sponsorship fee in France and get Tax benefits. Thank you Uncle Philippe.

We are happy to share with you the news of our new Italian Aunt Giovanna Berti, a language Professor who teaches Italian, French and Spanish. Aunt Giovanna spends all her free time with our boys. She takes care of all their needs especially recreation. They enjoy going with her to movies and other forms of entertainment like visits to Fantasy Land etc.. She too hopes to register Prem Dan in Italy for the benefit of our Italian sponsors. Thank you Aunt Giovanna.

Our local Fairy Godmother, Havovi Medora has worked miracles to raise money for the Building - Thanks a million Havovi. This building will definitely be completed by December, 1997. It's really a dream come true. During the monsoon, the surrounding area looks gorgeous. All the hills are green and there are numerous waterfalls. It is delightful to sit and enjoy the open green fields around us. At the moment, ours is the only construction on site. The children will have to travel by our school bus for twenty minutes to the neighbouring schools.

I am really busy trying to convince our sponsors and friends about our numerous needs for the new project. At the moment there are hectic activities with our local sponsors to raise money to complete my Dream Project.

As usual, we have lost a few of our children who seldom return when they visit their homes in the villages. This is a very frustrating experience for us and I know what you feel as Sponsors.

I thank each one of you for sharing your love with Prem Dan. May God reward each one of you abundantly, for your love and services to the poor and needy in God's Family.

Yours gratefully in **Jesus and Mary**

**(SR. FELICITY MORRIS)**