

PREM DAN

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Dear Friends,

As Easter approaches I am reminded that another news-letter is due. All the children are busy writing their Easter letters to their sponsors.

You will be happy to hear that our New Building will be completed in June 2000. We are still short of funds but our friends & sponsors are helping me to complete my Dream Project.

Wedding bells rang for our ex-student Robert D'lima on the 5th of February. It was wonderful to meet so many ex-students at this wedding reception. Though Agnes was not a Prem Dan child we welcome her into our family.

You will be happy to hear this success story. Many years ago, we rescued two girls. Their father was a Dutchman & mother an Indian. Their family was in need as their father had deserted them. We took the two girls & put them into Boarding School. When I heard of their Dutch origin, I approached a friend of mine in the Hague, the late Thea Lemmens. She worked hard to find the father through Dutch Radio & Television and eventually traced his residence. When our Uncle Peter Van Wijk heard the story he went to Rotterdam & traced the father and began the work of re-uniting these children with their father. Uncle Peter was good enough to make all the arrangements for their travel & also to meet them and hand them over to the father. They are now well settled. Thank you Uncle Peter. Auntie Thea passed away in December she must have seen the reunion from Heaven.

In October, we were sad to bid farewell to our dedicated Dance Teacher & friend of Prem Dan Mrs. Satyavati Gopalan. Her son & his family were also close to Prem Dan and gave us a great deal of help. We had a beautiful memorial service for her conducted by His Eminence Simon Cardinal Pimenta. At this service many distinguished friends & relatives paid tribute to this great Dance Teacher. Her son is donating the proceeds from the sale of her flat towards the new building, which will be named 'The Satyavati Gopalan Hostel & Vocational Training Centre'. Thanks a lot Arjun & Anjali. I am sure Saty will be present with us in spirit on this memorable occasion.

Our special thanks go to Mrs T. Steinebrunnel of St Joseph's Parish, Switzerland who gave an organ recital in the church in order to raise money for the new building in Kharghar. May God bless and reward you Mrs Steinebrunnel.

At the moment the final exams are going on. 12 students are appearing for the High School Examination this year. They are:

Manujala Archarya
Lavina D'souza
Sumedh Jadhav
Mahadeo Yadav
Alex Rajan
Sunita Thakur
Pushpa Jadhav
Manisha Yadav
Prashant Nawalu
Kunal Kamble
Judy Athaide and
Anuradha Shukla

We wish them a successful end to their School Career.



Recently we had the pleasure in meeting some of our dear friends and sponsors.

Our very dear friend & Fairy God Ma Havovi Medora came on a brief visit laden with gifts & surprises for the Prem Dan family. Thanks Havovi. Please come again.

Uncle J's son Tommy now enjoys his trip to Prem Dan. Tommy comes like a Godfather loaded with good things for Prem Dan. Thanks a million Tommy.

Our Irish Aunty, Julie Hedon visited us again. Julie's visits too are full of stories of the unique way in which she raises money for her favourite Prem Dan children. Thanks Julie for your loads of love & generous donations.

We were happy to meet Linda Manni an Italian Teacher who loves the Prem Dan children. She and her pupils raised money for the Building and the needy families. Thanks a million Linda for your big heart and thoughtful gestures.

In December, we lost a dear friend, a benefactor of Prem Dan Sr Sacred Heart McGettrick, who was once my Provincial. Prem Dan was her favourite project. She was an Irish Nun who worked in India many years & retired in England. While in England, she often sent me help for her favourite charity. Today the McGettrick family wants to continue her good work and sponsor Prem Dan in the best way they can.

Before I end this news-letter I would like to share some thoughts on Easter

"Light scatters the darkness! On this special night we recall God's over-flowing love that constantly creates and re-creates life. With the resurrection of Christ, we are reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even death. The transforming peace of God witnessed in Christ will overcome power and domination. Good will prevail over evil.

On Easter night, we celebrate freedom from captivity. In the Exodus story, God promises Moses and the Israelites freedom from the bondage of slavery. Trusting the word of God, Moses leads the people through the desert to freedom.

Jesus, the new Moses, leads us to true freedom in the unconditional love of God. Freedom, for Jesus, did not come through power or domination, but from embracing His humanity. Jesus lived authentically, not seeking power over others. Power, domination and hatred were consistently met with a love that transformed life.

The freedom of Jesus is a sign of hope to us that nothing and no one can hold us in bondage because God loves us unconditionally. We can be freed from our addictions, our insecurity, our need for power, success or wealth.

New life comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. May God's passion for life be manifest again through our embracing freedom".

I wish each one of you "A Very Happy Easter" with God's choicest blessings and graces.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

(SISTER FELICITY MORRIS)

