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*Somehow, not only for
Christmas, But the whole
year through, the joy that
you give to others, Is the
joy that comes back to
you. And the more you
spend in blessing - the
poor and lonely and sad,
the more of your heart's
possessing, returns to you
glad.*

*—John Greenleaf
Whittier*

Three months have simply flown by and it's time again for another newsletter. This gives us a chance to think of you a little more often during the year.

We were happy to have *Magda Himschoot* from Belgium spend a few days with us in September 2002. She met the children of the Garden school, Gita Nagar slum and the Boarding and collected more information on Prem Dan.

School closed for the Diwali vacation on October 21 and re-opened on November 13, 2002. Thanks to *Mr. Gupta*, for Diwali we received 100 boxes of sweet meat from *Diwaliben Mohanlal Mehta Charitable Trust*. Our children and a few deserving families enjoyed the sweets.

Mr. Mauro Mingrone with his wife Deborah from Italy paid us a short visit on November 2, 2002 as they had just one day in Mumbai.

Ms. Mary Wadia, a Senior trustee of the A.H.Wadia Charity Trust expired on 11th November 2002. The Wadia Trust has helped Prem Dan in a big way for the last 25 years. May her soul rest in peace.

We were also happy to meet our dear friend *Elizabeth Hunck*. She came to Bombay for a few days in November and visited us several times.

Children's Day on November 14, was celebrated in a special way this year by our generous benefactors. At Reay Road, the Rotary Club of Queen's Necklace organized a nice party for the children. Besides snacks, they each took home a gift packet of a dress/ shirt-pant, biscuits and chocolates. The Garden school and Geeta Nagar children as well as the tuition class children were given snacks and sweets.

The primary children also received gifts from *Namita Gokal*, an ex-student of Cathedral High School who used to help with the evening study classes for a few years. She grew so fond of our children that she bought each of them a sweater and school bag.

To celebrate Naval Week this year, the wives of the Naval Officers brought the children of Garden school delicious snacks on November 22, 2002. They also donated clothes to the school.

The Staff, students and parents of *Campion High School* organized a Social Awareness Camp on November 24, 2002 at their school premises from 9.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. The object of the camp was to provide fun and games for poor and needy children while at the same time exposing the school children to the practical problems faced by these children. 40 of our children attended the Camp and had a wonderful time. They were each escorted by one of the school boys for the entire day. Besides games, snacks and lunch they were taken for a Boat ride and received a useful gift at the end of the day.

Our dear friend, *Uncle J* from Germany came to see us on November 9, 2002 and he spent just 2 days with us. It is always a pleasure to discuss any topic with him. His son *Mr. Thomas Feix* from Germany spent 5 days in Mumbai from November 24 to November 28, 2002. He had begun preparing a documentary on Prem Dan but he fell short of some appropriate pictures and information and so he spent a lot of time taking more pictures of the slums, the children and even the crowd scenes in the market place and at the railway station. Tommi and *Wolfgang Spitchan*, have designed a very colourful and meaningful *Prem Dan Calendar for 2003*. For copies you can write to him at FliegerFeix@t-online.de

We have been very fortunate to have some of our sponsors from Germany, Italy, Belgium and other countries as well as those from Mumbai itself visit us from time to time. We are grateful for the donations and useful items that they bring to Prem Dan.

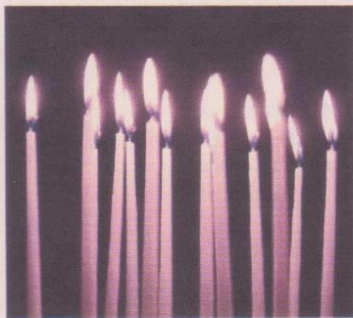


Christmas trees, stars, greeting cards and decorations on display is a sure sign that Christmas is at our doorstep. And what is our major focus for Christmas on – gift-giving and sweet-making? We are fully absorbed in the

latest fashions to fit in with Society's expectations of style and behaviour. Our life becomes an endless gamut of rushing and running, a frenzy of doing and producing.

But amidst the dirt and debris on a pot-holed pavement of our Mumbai streets, Christ our Saviour is born. A poor malnourished babe struggles for a dear life, fanned alive by a forlorn mother's love. That's all she can give her little one.

The priceless gifts of Christmas are not the ones wrapped or placed under the tree, but the gifts we give when we give of ourselves. It is the love that we share; the comfort that we lend in times of need; it is the moments we spend together helping each other follow our dreams. The most priceless gifts of Christmas are the understanding and caring that comes from a loving heart. And all of us have these gifts to offer through the gift of ourselves.



As the glowing Christmas candles shine and fill the world with beauty, may our thoughts reflect their light. And may our faith unite us in the joyous blessings of the hope, the peace and love that shine in hearts that share God's love. For when there is love, peace and joy in our hearts, then, indeed, it is Christmas not only on 25th December but everyday of the year. May this be our experience now and in the New Year that we will soon enter into, so that our journey with all humankind will be a journey of peace, harmony, hope and bondedness.

We wish each of you A Very Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year' 2003.

With our love and gratitude,

SR. FELICITY MORRIS

SR. PATRICIA SANTOS