

PREM DAN

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December 1, 2004.

Dear Friends,

As the season of Christmas draws close, there is nostalgia in the air with candles spreading their glow and carolers singing praises of a child born long ago.
We share with you **-The Christmas Present By: M. Smallwood, Rome, Georgia**

I heard a knock on my door one Christmas Eve, As I looked out my window a man I could see, he was cold and seemed so lonely and upon a bended knee he asked can you spare anything for me to eat...

I opened up the door and as I helped him in, he looked up at me with such a peaceful grin As he drank down some coffee and had a bite to eat, I put more wood on the fire so he could warm his feet...

Over there by the fireplace he warmed his tired hands, I wonder where did he come from, this quiet white haired man, but I wasn't at all afraid of his peaceful ways you see, this man dressed in poor, almost as poor as me...

As he left he turned and thanked me for all I had done, but he forgot to take his gloves, so out the door I run, He was gone in the blizzard and I could hardly see, so I took his old glove back to the house with me...

Just a little after midnight I awoke in the dark, there wasn't a bit of fire just glowing cinders in the dark, and where I'd placed his gloves by my little Christmas tree, there laid a brand new pair, and a Christmas Card for me... and it read....

**You gave me shelter and food to keep me warm,
you even tried to bring me my gloves in the storm,
so here's for you a new pair,... the finest ever seen...
as an angel of the Lord
I'll be sure to tell the King....Merry Christmas.....**



Thank you dear sponsors and benefactors for being little or big angels to our poor and deprived children and families. You will receive abundant blessings.

*May you enjoy a Blessed Christmas
and a wonderful New Year 2005.*



Yours gratefully,

Sr.Felicity Morris & Sr.Patricia Santos

Highlights of the activities from July to November 2004:

- On 1st July, Coaching classes commenced for the sponsored children. We have engaged more teachers to help the children with their homework and difficulties. We also have students from St. Xavier's College, St. Anne's High School and Campion High School who help with the study classes.
- July being literacy month, the students of the Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South organized activities for the children on 12th, 19th and 26th for an hour each.
- On July 30, 2004, Mrs. Betty Mendonca and her daughter Vatsala D'Souza set up the library at the Kharghar Boarding with a large collection of books donated to them.
- After one year of hibernation, the Vocational Training Centre at Kharghar came alive with the commencement of the Tailoring and Embroidery Course on August 5, and the Computer Fundamental Course on August 7, 2004. The Vegetable Cooking Course began on September 13, 2004 and concluded on September 30, 2004 with a practical exam. The Computer Course is held on Saturdays and Sundays so that the children of Standards 7 to 9 can also benefit. The other Courses that will be offered during the year include Baking, Menhdi, making Soft toys, Flowers, Candles and Detergents. At present there are 8 residential students who are attending the full one year Course and a few others from the vicinity join for select courses. The students will receive a Government Certificate on the completion of each Course.
- On August 5, 2003, 47 students of the AICUF unit of St. Xavier's College met at the Garden School to know about Prem Dan and to see in what way they could be involved. Some of them have started helping with the study classes for the children.
- On September 6, 2004 Teachers Day was celebrated at the Garden school with a meaningful Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Ivo D'Souza followed by a sumptuous lunch
- Maya Jeffereis and Mara Patashnik from the University of Washington, Seattle visited Garden School on September 7, 2004 to discuss the possibilities of beginning the Prem Dan sponsorship programme in Washington.
- As part of their Project work, the First year students of the Bachelor of Mass Media of Wilson College performed 2 skits on Honesty and Hard work for the children of the Garden school and the primary tuition children on September 8 and 9 resp.
- On October 1, 2004 the Staff & Students of Std. I of Fort Convent took the Garden school children to the Colaba BPT Garden. The Fort Convent children shared their snacks with the Garden school children and organized games for them.
- On November 9, as part of Navy Week celebrations, 25 Prem Dan children were given a treat with lunch and a visit to IMS Vikrant. The Navy also gave Garden School a new look by painting the ceiling of the verandah, the roof and the fencing.
- It is always a good experience to have benefactors and sponsors stop by to visit Prem Dan. We were happy to meet Philip Baudin, head of Prem Dan France and Anjali Mathrani in August' 2004. Mr. Thomas Feix and his friend Mr. Rolf Schad from Germany visited the Garden school on October 6, 2004. They spent 4 days in Mumbai visiting Garden school, the Reay Road school and the Boarding at Kharghar. They interviewed a number of the Staff and students of Prem Dan in order to prepare a personal Christmas message for the German sponsors. A number of Lufthansa and Alitalia Crew continue to visit Prem Dan bringing along useful items. We appreciate all your visits and the interest you show towards the underprivileged children. God bless you all.