

July 20, 2005.

Dear Friends,

After three months of sweltering heat, the monsoon showers provided great relief and comfort. The rains will hopefully continue for another 3 months.

We are immensely grateful to Philippe and Frederique Baudin, head of Prem Dan France, for their invitation to visit the sponsors in France and for extending their generous offer to visit the other places in Europe. It was indeed a beautiful and enriching experience visiting the places, meeting sponsors, exchanging ideas and discussing future plans. Our sincere thanks to all those who made this endeavour possible.



Highlights of the Visit:



In **France**, Philippe and Frederique took care of all the arrangements. I was happy to meet the Core group members of Prem Dan Association.

The meeting with the sponsors was held at Lyons on 29th April 2005 and was organized by the Jesus and Mary Association.

• There were 3 meetings in **Germany**.
At Mauerstetten in Kaufbeuren, on 3rd May, organized by Thomas Feix and Wolfgang Spitchan, I was happy to have an informal meeting with Mr. Helmut Ofner, (who was in-charge of the sponsorship programme for many years and did a wonderful job) Mrs. Pielorz, his Secretary (who also has been very efficient and will continue to help us); Mrs. Hella Feix, Mr. & Mrs. Jurgen Feix (one of the first and most generous sponsors of Prem Dan), Thomas Feix and Wolfgang Spitchan.



We then had a wonderful meeting with the sponsors, some of whom traveled quite a distance to come there.



At Sindelfingen, on 7th May, organized by Meena and Gunthard at their home, we had a lovely informal meeting with a few sponsors.



At Eschborn on May 9, a short meeting at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Hunck.





We had a whole week of admissions from June 13th to 17th and witnessed long lines of parents eager to get their child enrolled in one of our three Kindergartens.

We have admitted 180 children this year.



These children do not have any sponsors and receive free

education for one year along with breakfast, lunch and many other benefits, thanks to donations from generous donors and benefactors.

Sewing classes began in Colaba and Reay Road from July 1, 2005. The girls will get a Government Certificate for Tailoring, Hand and Machine embroidery.

35 children appeared for the Secondary School Certificate examination of which 28 were successful. The successful ones are Amarjeet Mahabharat, Anand Chavan, Chanchal Adak, Dilshad Ansari, Devi Swamy, Javed Khan, Joemol Joseph, Krishna Murthy, Lata Bhosle, Laxmi Vadari, Marita Ferrao, Manoramma Muttu, Maya Kamble, Meenakshi D'Souza, Mehrunissa Sayed, Milan Verma, Mohin Shaikh, Mumina begum Shaikh, Pooja Ahire, Pradeep Kamble, Razak Fakir, Rekha Golekar, Saima Sayyed, Sanjay Patil, Tahera Shaikh, Vidya Rane, Vijay Dhotre, Xavier Cardoz. Thank you for helping them to complete their School education. Many of them will continue their College studies. Those who are unsuccessful will re-appear in October.

A few points to take note of:

- The Sponsorship programme is for 10 years or till the child finishes school. Once the children move into College we encourage them to earn and learn. In this way we can reach out to more children and give them an opportunity for basic education. We will inform you as soon as your child is finishing school and we would be happy if you could help another child but we leave this decision entirely up to you.
- There are just a few children who receive visits and gifts from their sponsors; the majority never gets to see their sponsors. While we do not discourage visits and gifts we request you to be sensitive to the feelings of the other children as well.
- We recommend that you do not give your e-mail or addresses to the children and do not correspond directly with them. You may write to them or send them cards, pictures or gifts, but through Prem Dan. This is because we have had unpleasant experiences in the past of the children making unrealistic demands and this affects their education. Once your child finishes school, you may choose to keep in contact directly.

We are very grateful for your continued support and interest. Thank you for renewing your sponsorship for this year. We wish to remind those who may have forgotten to do so. God bless your generosity and commitment to our underprivileged children.

Yours gratefully,

Sr. Felicity Morris and Sr. Patricia Santos