

Christmas 2007

Dear Friends,



Silent Night, Holy Night!  
Houses decked with colours bright  
While high rise buildings stand tall and upright  
The poor huddle under a small tiny light  
Christ the Saviour is born  
In a poor slum He is born!

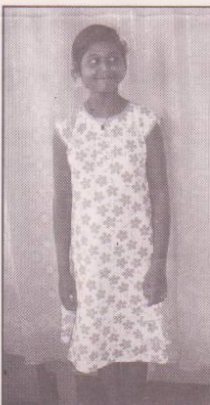


Silent Night, Indifferent Night!  
Bodies cold, hearts affright,  
Sits a shivering mother and child  
A starving infant so tender and mild  
While a poor babe dies shivering and cold.  
We sing out our Halleluiah!



*Christmas is the manifestation of God's free and unconditional love for us through His son, Jesus. We reciprocate this love when we give totally of ourselves, when we reach out to those in need and care for the unloved and neglected. As we prepare for this beautiful season of Christmas, let us act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.*

*"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of others, but from doing something worthwhile."*



The life of a young girl – **Chhoti** was saved by a kind young lady who saw her standing alone outside a school begging for a job and not money. Chhoti had been sold by her parents and was later sent away by her employers since she was a growing girl. She travelled alone by train for two days and was desperately looking for any place where she could stay and work. She knew the girl would be taken advantage of and so she took time to find a place where she could be safe. After going to many places the lady finally brought her to Garden School and how could we say no to the gift of an innocent child. Her hair was ragged, her clothes dirty but her eyes shone with hope. After a bath and new clothes, Chhoti was simply transformed to a pretty girl. We christened her Lalita because Chhoti means small and she would soon grow to be a young lady. "Lalita is of Hindi and Sanskrit origin and its meaning is "simple and playful". Lalita is now in our Prem Dan Boarding at Kharghar and each time we go there she comes running to embrace us. She is

**Some of the main activities and programmes during the first term:**

July, being literacy month, the students of the Rotary Youth Wing of Bombay Hills South conducted 4 sessions in Art, Craft and Communication for our kindergarten children.

The AICUF group of St. Xavier's College conducted various sessions with our tuition class children in the months of August and September. Some of the topics were "Human trafficking", "True beauty and Character building for girls", "Positive thinking" and a number of music sessions.

The children received a number of gifts and Stationery items from Prerana Charitable Trust, Lions Club, Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South, DSP Merrill Lynch Limited and other benefactors on their visits to the Garden School.

The Staff and students of Standard 1 took the kindergarten children of Garden School for an outing to the BPT Garden in Colaba while the Staff and students of Standard 2 of the same school organized a similar outing for the kindergarten children of Reay Road school. Besides sharing their snacks with the children, they gave them pencil pouches and stationery.

**Our Sincere gratitude to:**

- ◆ our Staff and Volunteers
- ◆ all those who have visited Prem Dan and spent time with the children
- ◆ the Staff and children of St. Anne's and Fort Convent for their social involvement with our children
- ◆ all who have donated to the feeding programme
- ◆ our benefactors and sponsors for the toys, clothes and other useful items.

Let us together continue to reach out in love and service to the unloved, the uncared for, the marginalized and downtrodden in our Society.

*May the love and joy of Christmas remain in your hearts and homes all through the New Year 2008.*

*With our love and greetings,*

*Sr. Felicity Morris, Sr. Juanita Coello, Sr. Asha Ohol, Sr. Patricia Santos and all at Prem Dan.*

