

PREM DAN NEWS LETTER AUGUST 2010

15 Nathalal Parekh Marg, Mumbai- 400 001.
India

Tel: 022 22841975 Fax: 022 22841975
Email: premdan@vsnl.com

*Education is no substitute for wisdom and insight, for openness and faith.
What God puts in the heart is always more important than what the world puts in books.*

Dear Friends,

It is because of the goodness and generosity of your hearts that so many poor and needy children can receive **nutrition and education**. This goal of Prem Dan has been and continues to be sustained because of your reaching out to the children enabling them to step into a bright future.



Sr. Juanita Coelho.



Fire at Reay Road:

Our sincere thanks to our benefactors who responded generously to our appeal for the victims of the fire at the Reay Road slum that took place on the 28th of February 2010. We were able to provide food, household needs such as utensils, clothes, etc... to our sponsored families and many others in the slum. God Bless you always ...

Arriving and leaving:

Our grateful thanks and good wishes accompany Sr. Juanita Coelho who served Prem Dan for the past three years. She is remembered for her kindness and selfless service here at Prem Dan. On 1st June she left for "Prem Dan Social Service Centre" at Navi Mumbai.

Sr. Zelia Fernandez replaced Sr. Juanita Coelho on 1st June 2010. The work with the many poor children in Prem Dan is both challenging and rewarding.



Sr. Zelia Fernandez

Getting down to work:



Garden school

The academic year in Mumbai commences in the month of June. Admissions were held between the 10th and 16th June 2010.

A total of 213 children were admitted in the six kindergarten classes run by Prem Dan (3 classes in the Garden School, 2 in the slums of Reay Road and one at the Geeta Nagar Slum).

Most of the children are Hindus and Muslims - all poor Indian children, of parents aspiring to give their children the education they were 'deprived of'.



Geeta Nagar

Forty sponsored students had appeared for the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) Examination. The results were declared in June 2010. To date we have the results of sixteen who appeared, and are successful.



Reay Road

106

Prem Dan Khandala:

From our earlier newsletters you are aware that Prem Dan has a "Children's Home" at a hill station in Khandala 120 kms away from Mumbai. We the sisters at Prem Dan Zelia and Vidya along with the help of other volunteers held two week - end camps this month for young School going girls from Sangamner and Kendal a rural area in Maharashtra.



Pratima Bahadur, an ex- Prem Danite writes:



We often hear people say that childhood years were the best years of one's life and undoubtedly it's been the same for me since my association with Prem Dan lovingly called by us "Garden School". I looked forward to early morning school for the hot cup of milk. My teachers were awesome. They taught us phonetics which helped us greatly since most of us came from the lower middle class background and communicated at home in our mother tongue. From Std. IV a few of us got the opportunity to one of the good schools run by the Jesus and Mary Sisters something we would never dream about

Our guardian, mentor, mother provider was none other than Mother Felicity a woman with foresight, vision, courage. A strict disciplinarian she got permission from her higher Superiors to accommodate some of us in the "Fort Convent" as boarders.

Here I learnt the value of time management, prayer, and hard work. For me this was a home away from home where I spent fifteen blissful years. Through the Garden School Mother Felicity has touched the lives of many poor and given a platform to hundreds of underprivileged children to hold their heads high. I thank God for Mother Felicity and her faith in each of us.

My vocation as a teacher has taught me to be humble and kind towards the poor - not forgetting my Alma Mater - the Garden School which embraced me with love and compassion and made me the person I am to-day

Our grateful **THANKS** to you our dear sponsors for being so prompt in renewing your sponsorships. This helps us, in turn, to be prompt in paying the children's fees and other requirements. To those who have successfully seen a child through school and who is now on the threshold of various opportunities which she/he can choose from God Bless your goodness. A gentle reminder to those who have not yet sent their sponsorship money. A warm welcome to our new sponsors who now form a part of our Prem Dan family. We also express our thanks to our benefactors and sponsors for donating all the useful items, as well as for sponsoring the feeding program for the children.

With deep gratitude and prayerful wishes to you and your dear ones
Sr. Felicity Morris, Sr. Zelia Fernandez, Sr. Vidya Pathare and the Staff of Prem Dan.

P.S. Due to certain restraints, we plan to send you two newsletters in the year instead of three. Also, we are currently thinking about replacing some of our traditional paper documents sent by post with electronic alternatives in an attempt to save time and the environment. In this regard could you please forward your Email details to the Prem Dan Email address (cf. heading)? Do be assured that we will not fail to keep in touch with you ---- our dear sponsors.