



# PREMDAN NEWSLETTER *Easter 2010*

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*The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.*  
- Henry Knox Sherrill

Dear Friends,

We celebrate Easter the world over as we welcome the spring - new life. Once more, a promise is renewed in our lives, a promise of hope, love and life despite the dark hours of suffering and pain. The trials we face are many and the joys that we gain from little things can help lighten our burdens.

We are grateful to you dear sponsors, for giving hope and joy a chance in the lives of our children and for helping us reach out to those in need.

May the Risen Lord Jesus bless You and everything you do.

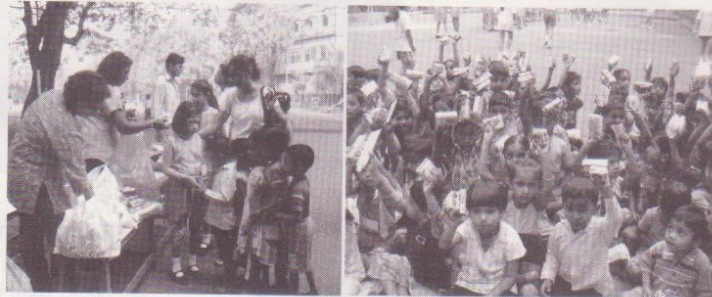


*This Easter season we send our sincere thanks and prayerful wishes to you and your families...*

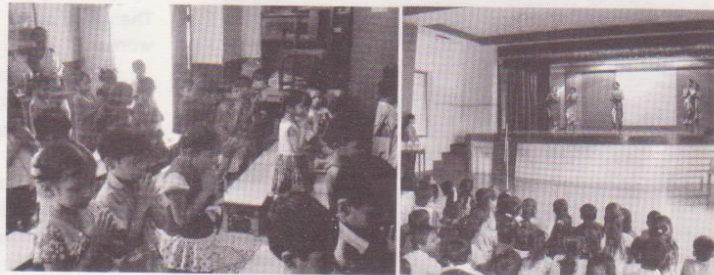
Sr. Felicity Morris,  
Sr. Juanita Coelho,  
Sr. Vidya Pathare  
& all the Staff at Premdan



**17th Dec 2009:** The Fort Convent School children of Std II took the Garden School and Geeta Nagar School children to B.P.T. Garden. They played with them, sang along and recited poems. They also presented the children with a gift. The students of Fort convent also spent time at the Garden School with the Reay Road children of Premdan.



**16th Dec 2009:** J.B. Petite School children of Std II came to Garden School to spend time with the children. They played with them and also gave them gifts of soap and biscuits.



**2nd Feb 2010:** Sponsor's day was celebrated with great excitement. Our children had a special prayer dance with prayer service during which their sponsors intentions were remembered, for their sponsors play a very important role in enriching their lives. This was followed by entertainment and games.





**Feb 03, 2010 : On the feast of St. Claudine Thevenet** we celebrated founder's day, by paying tribute to St. Claudine Thevenet with expressions of prayers and gratitude.

**Feb 27, 2010 : The Maharashtra State Women's Council jointly with the Rotary Club of Queen's Necklace** organised an interactive workshop called "RAINBOW" to teach the art of paper sculpting to create three-dimensional artwork. 15 of our students participated. This programme brought the children close to nature and strengthened their concepts of re-cycling materials. It was an experience that encouraged sharing with each other, working in a cohesive group and enhanced leadership skills. Our students were enriched by the programme and plan to spread the knowledge of this craft with the other children at Premdan.



### Aquinas Student Writes

"The best twelve days of our lives" – was the unanimous consensus of those of us lucky enough to participate in the Aquinas India Project Trip February 2010. For the sixth year in a row, Aquinas college students travelled from Manchester to Mumbai to get involved with the Prem Dan charity, and we loved every minute of it.

Whether it was painting fish or playing football with the children at the Garden School, being shamed by the poor quality of our dancing and amazed at that of the girls at Kharghar Boarding House, being warned of the panthers and exploring the Khandala centre or learning a true lesson in humility at Reay Road, we appreciated, enjoyed and felt incredibly privileged to be a part of something so admirable and worthwhile.

The culture shock was undeniable, as was the kindness and warmth with which we were greeted. I have to extend the most incredible thank you on behalf of all of us who came to: Sister Felicity, all the Sisters at the Garden School, Kharghar, Khandala and Reay Road and everyone who made our visit the single most inspiring event of our lives. I have a feeling you haven't seen the last of us yet!

**Sarah May Herdan**  
Aquinas College, Manchester, England



### Fire consumes Reay Road Slum

Very recently, on 28th February 2010 the Reay Road slum, not too far off from our Kindergarten Classroom at Reay Road, was gutted by a ravaging fire leaving three hundred homes in shambles. Unfortunately the eight or nine fire engines were unable to reach the entire area, due to lack of space between the houses, giving the fire more time to spread. The fire was also fed by kerosene oil from the homes in which it is used as fuel. Thankfully there were no casualties except one death of a young woman.

The hungry flames destroyed all of their meager possessions leaving them with nothing except the clothing they wore.

Help from Religious Institutions and political parties promptly arrived and our Kindergarten classroom at Reay Road was converted into a store room in this emergency situation.

It was a gruesome day indeed for all those families. Among these unfortunate families were families of our five sponsored children too, they too are being supplied with the necessary rations, household commodities, school items required etc.

We pray for the victims, that the pain they suffer and their impoverished condition may be looked upon with compassion by those who care for the poor. We ask God our loving and merciful Father to accompany them during this trying time.

