



NEWS-CHIT DEC 05

WE ARE A CHARITY! On 14 November Children's Homes in India Trust was registered by the Charity Commission. Praise the Lord! Our registration number is 1112048. We are absolutely delighted. It will give new supporters assurance, and of course it enables us to recover income tax paid by donors.

This occurred while three trustees were visiting the homes in India, which is the source of most of the news in this first News-CHIT. The objectives of the visit by George, Howard and Pauline were: to establish a sound working relationship with the management committee of the two homes we are initially supporting; to gather up to date information for our supporters and wider promotion; and to assist the Indian management to develop policies on child protection, health & safety, and financial transparency.



CHIT, courtesy of children of Bapatla home

The organisation. There are two homes, in Bapatla and Nidamaru, a small village 10 miles south of Vijayawada. They are a registered Society managed by a committee similar to our Trustee body. Formerly Goodwill Children's Village Society of Andhra Pradesh, the Society is planning to rename itself Children's Homes in India, and has agreed that we should use this title. We met the whole management committee of the Society and were impressed by their commitment to the Lord and their readiness to work with us to meet the rising expectations in UK of the regulation of work among children. Through two 3 hour meetings we reached agreements on financial control, health and safety and child protection that were fully written up and signed by all present before we left.



Main Block, Bapatla

We were very pleased to meet the new Director of the homes, Mrs Rahel Rani and spent time with her and other key staff members including the sponsorship secretary and accountant. The former Director, Mr Rajasekhara Babu continues as secretary to the Society and, following his hugely successful record in building this project from scratch, we look forward to seeing his strategic mind applied to future development and supporting us in fund-raising campaigns.

The Society also uses CHIT funds to support the school (ages 5-16) adjacent to the Bapatla 'campus'. We see great opportunities here to explore new projects including English medium teaching and basic IT for the older children, giving them an even better springboard into further education.

CHIT was formed in September 2005 as a trust, charitable from November 2005, for the purpose of the relief of poverty and support of education among Indian children. The full objects may be found at www.charity-commission.org.uk. The President of CHIT is Rev Canon Roger Turner, trustees are Mr George Kent (Chairman), Mr Howard Mathers (Treasurer), Rev Christopher Turner, and Mrs Pauline Stanton-Saringer.

At Bapatla there are currently 146 children resident in the home, and another 20 external students supported in further education. Additionally the High School provides education for another 133 children. We judged both home and school were operating at about 50-60% capacity. The major shortfalls in provision for the children are the boys' toilets, which are in desperate need of renovation for health reasons, and medical care as the incidence of TB is significant and increasing numbers of children are have lost parents through AIDS and are themselves at risk.

At Nidamaruru, there are currently 70 children resident, and another 3 external students supported. The home has recently been subject to extension work, but it has halted through lack of funds. This will bring the capacity of the home up to around 150, through provision of extra accommodation, shower and toilet facilities.



At both homes we found

Children at Nidamaruru, with Warden (far right) and house parents.

ourselves enormously encouraged by the joy of the children and were delighted to meet some of those who were getting on in further education including two who had recently qualified as staff nurses. We were at the same time impressed by the hope the children and the staff expressed in the arrival of CHIT to meet their continuing need for funds...

...action CHIT and our supporters !!

Sponsorship was also on the agenda. We were very pleased to meet the children who have been sponsored from the UK for some time, and will report back to the sponsors in due course. George will be contacting everyone who has expressed an interest in setting up new sponsorship. But please note - we have over 40 new sponsors, and hope for more. George will be abroad (not India) for much of December, so please be patient as we complete the arrangements.



Trainee nurses, Bapatla

News-CHIT - future issues. Children's Homes in India will provide financial and performance reports to us quarterly, so we plan to publish News-CHIT with the same frequency. We will also aim to update our website www.chitonline.co.uk similarly.

Finally and most importantly. Please remember that we only formed CHIT in September, believing it to be God's will that we should lead a programme of support for these homes and whatever lies beyond. We have seen God open doors (and purses !) and for all that we have achieved, we attribute this to His hand at work. Please pray for CHIT, Children's Homes in India, the children there today, and the children whom God will draw in tomorrow, and with us look forward to him doing a lot more opening !