

CHIT CHAT October 2011

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Building Futures for Children

It has been a very difficult year for our Indian friends. Inflation, without a matching increase in funding, has necessitated a serious rethinking of their priorities.

While no lives were lost in the cyclone, there was torrential rainfall which caused much flooding of low-lying areas, and seriously damaged the roof of our Nidamaru Home. With the girls' toilets at Bapatla also needing major replumbing of pipes covered in concrete, we were called upon for substantial help on top of a budget we were already struggling to meet.



We run on small reserves which we were saving for a rainy day. **7" of rain in two days was a rainy day.** The flat roof, shown above, was not designed for such treatment. In faith we sent out an appeal. We are very grateful to the 48 people who responded with the tremendous total of £30,000. Praise God! We also encouraged supporters to join the children in their Saturday morning prayers. Clearly we need increased regular giving. Some have done that, an example to follow. Others have set about fund-raising in their own ways. A generous lady has died and left us a handsome legacy. Do please put us in **your** will!

Claire and Stuart Brown have organised another profitable tennis tournament with super tea and, with their hardworking friend **Sandra Butt**, brought in £400 with a carefully planned sponsored walk.



Born in India, **Kal Rai** is a friendly family GP from St John's Church in Kenilworth. He is a very popular visitor to Bapatla. His gentle style makes his advice both acceptable and welcome. His stories, simply told on his return, have brought us a clutch of super new supporters.

If our work is to prosper, we do need more funds. We are holding regional meetings to stimulate greater

interest. If you would like some help or advice on organising a fundraising event, please contact George.



Roger greets George at St Swithin's Church, Barston

On November 5th there is a big get-together at St John's Church Hall at Kenilworth. It will be a time to say good bye and thank you to CHIT President **Rev Canon Roger Turner** who has been such an inspiration at Barston Church, near Coventry, and before that at St John's. When Roger and George get together we have seen the Holy Spirit at work in a remarkable way. It would be good if you could join us at Kenilworth for this special Tea Party. **Please grasp this opportunity to introduce a friend to CHIT!** Come for coffee at 2pm. Action start at 2.30pm with a talk from George on how it all began, a session with Claire Brown on English-medium education and a general discussion about fundraising. After tea and delicious cakes at 4pm, Roger Turner will speak.

In India, the staff receive great satisfaction from the educational success of students who go into further education and pass their exams. This year twelve girls got their nursing certificates, four students a BSc and one an English degree. The staff graciously accepted our advice that they only give the opportunity of further education to children who really merit it. Clearly the nurses and graduates did, but others have sadly dropped out, particularly from the Polytechnic. We have had rather a similar experience in the UK.

In future more students will be leaving our care at the age of 18. This is as it was a few years ago, but with a major difference: our children, when they leave us, *will mostly be speaking reasonably good English.* The effect of this policy change is that the total number of children we support has reduced to 240.

Going English-medium has been costly, but Babu is convinced it is the way to go. Meeting this expense is the main focus of his fundraising in the USA. He has already raised £10,000. Howard is joining him on his trip this month. Please pray for a successful visit. It is our duty to support him in every way we can.

Claire and Stuart Brown are hoping to take a friend to India with them in January to do another stint of English teaching. Another of our lady sponsors is going on a TEFL course to enable her to be really useful when she has a chance to visit the school.

India is a vast country on the move, but Christian Aid reported that **Andhra Pradesh** is one of the three poorest States where they concentrate their resources. Power cuts have become more frequent, causing the home administration problems with their computers. A visitor with IT skills would be very welcome.

From India we have some touching stories:

Fifteen years ago a little waif called Sagar Mary, who had lost both her parents, was brought to our Nidamaru Home. When she was 15 she wanted to stop school, but not to leave our care. She accepted a job as one of our hard-working cooks. Now that she is 20 she needs a husband. A suitable young man, who is a tailor, agreed to marry her and on 19th September they were wed. Happily, her husband will live and work on site.



Another young lady called Ramadavi was brought to us when she was about six years old, suffering from TB. Now, fourteen years later, she has passed her General Nursing exams and is working in the Ambulance Service. She recently married Naga Ragu and came back to the Bapatla Home with her husband to say thank you.



Finally Babu had a surprise visit which he found hugely encouraging. Annavarapu Sheeba Gold recently passed her B.Sc. Nursing. She joined us at Bapatla in 1999. She did well at college and decided she would like to study for a BSc in Nursing. We could not afford to pay the fees (£800 p.a.) and George and Howard suggested she get a bank loan. Babu thought it a pretty far-fetched idea but with the support from the elders of her village she did indeed obtain a loan. We just had to pay her subsistence.

She got her degree in the summer and found a good job at once. When she received her first month's salary of 3,000 rupees (c. £400) she came straight

back to Babu and gave him the entire sum. He was much moved by her action. He had asked George to help by talking to the older students about putting something back into the home. The idea did not seem to be well received. It is gratifying to see that at least one young lady acted on it. We pray it starts a trend.



This photo shows the augmented Trustee Team in India with Rajasekhara Babu. *From left* Stuart Brown, Howard Mathers, Linda Caple, Claire Brown, Kal Rai, Lucia and Christopher Turner, Babu, and Pauline Stanton-Saringer. It is good to know that all these kind people paid their own expenses and have jointly given money to CHIT which exceeds all our UK costs. Add George and Angela and you have a remarkable team immersed in the work to which they feel God has called them. There are **57 million children in India under the age of 5 suffering from malnutrition**, many more than is the case in Africa. They need us.

Can you, as a faithful supporter, talk to people you meet and generate some interest in CHIT? Just chat. George never goes out without a CHIT leaflet in his pocket. He picked up Eye Nurse Linda as a supporter while he was waiting for Angela to have an injection in her eye at the hospital. Last year it was a teacher at his tennis club. It is his conviction that people would rather support a charity which has the personal touch. Let people know what you are doing to help CHIT. Ask them if they would like to come to India in the lovely February weather! ***We are going at half-term.***



Having a holiday with an altruistic purpose appeals to many good people and it's a lot of fun! We can take 3 more visitors. If you are or know someone interested email George: agkentsilver@btinternet.com God Bless