

Preston's Newsletter – February 2010

We can hardly believe that 7 weeks have passed since we arrived in India with a new team. How fast time flies when life takes on not only the regular schedule but the unexpected too! We have had 3 sets of visitors to date – from Iceland, the USA & from N. Ireland. It has been a busy but very enjoyable time as we have related and worked well together.



Scott & the IQ team opening a Belfast sponsored borehole

After the team completed the research into needy water areas three separate boreholes were opened by our different visitors. Everyone was happy to see fresh water coming from the pumps. People had been painstakingly collecting water (from a nearby canal) that seeped up through the sand which filtered it.



Laboriously collecting drinking water from a local canal

It was lovely to see 20 vocational students receive new sewing machines from their Icelandic sponsors and the staff of 10 years service or more in UCCI receive plaques of recognition for their dedication.

Scott Olsen from International Teams, USA, visited for two days and was very encouraging both to the team and to Nalini & family. Thanks for dropping by Scott and for the promise of future visits.

We now have a beautifully painted health centre thanks to the joint efforts of a team from Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast, and the India Quest team. We had an action packed week sharing church meetings, outreach, AIDS programme, borehole opening, children's event and a meal for the elderly. Thank you all for coming out.



The painting team from Belfast having completed the task

The Belfast team came to the AIDS nutrition programme and noticed that people had begun to feel at home amongst us. They have started to give personal testimonies of God's grace toward them. We hope to have others join us soon as more sponsors are found.

Our work with the UCCI pastors has included three areas – church services, outreach into

tribal areas and several local crusades. Each has a different emphasis and the team has worked hard to be as relevant as possible. We use songs, drama, flannel graph, preaching and teaching to get our message across. It was great to hear that at one of the crusades about 25 youth responded to the gospel and were baptised the following week.



A crusade meeting in a local village

The Christian courses in the schools have been fun as well as challenging and we hope this month to give opportunity to 3 classes of students to accept Jesus into their lives. Following this we will be offering baptism to any of the students who are ready for this commitment. It's a very significant time for them and for us as a team.

Hannah & Rachel have been able to put their singing and drama skills to good use with a group of Janet English Medium students. They also teach swimming to the hostel children who so appreciate the time given to them.



Hannah and Rachel singing with the English Medium choir

At least once a year we try to visit each of the other UCCI schools/hostels. We travel as far as Hyderabad (250K) to visit one of the schools but what a welcome we get when we arrive! The visits are always so worthwhile.



Enjoying the parachute game at UCCI's Tenali hostel

On a more personal note we do face frustrations, from time to time with the intrusion of rats, regular power cuts, things breaking down with slow repair and with the occasional health issue. We are pushing through with all of these but would value your prayers.

Praise for:

- All our visitors
- Three boreholes opened
- Response in crusades
- Safety on the roads
- A team working together

Prayer for:

- Student decision time
- Baptisms – 21 March
- Weekly Outreach
- Strength as temperature rises
- Preparation for mission trip to the Punjab & Mumbai (from 25 March) & 5 long train journeys.

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