

The Prestons' June 09 Newsletter

“How are you?” “I am fine” correction “I am very well” And so began our English lessons with the office staff a month ago and continued for the week. We taught some basics and spent three quarters of an hour in repetition one on one in some cases, to ground the lessons taught. The whole exercise enabled us to get to know the staff a little more.



English Lessons

We left for Ooty several days later and are getting quite used to travelling in the trains. This one was only for a mere 18 hours! The 4-hour journey though from the bottom of Coimbatore to Ooty in a cramped bus and some 37 degrees took some courage. As one of the team summed it up “All I can say is “Praise the Lord”

This time at the jungle camp at Avalanche there were 45 (18-30 year olds). The team loved the kayaking, the abseiling, the games at night, the singing round the campfire and the chance to relate with people their own age who spoke English. There were anonymous disclosures of problems - sex, porn, relationships even black magic. People responded to the straight and frank answers given.

Afterwards we spent seven days at Ooty relaxing in moderate temperatures of 25+

degrees, cool nights and even the use of a blanket- unheard of in Kethnakonda.



At the Guest House

We returned on Sunday and started straight into 2 weeks of children's mission. Each day at a different venue we played games sang songs, told flannel graph stories, taught verses and gave prizes for the quiz winners. Many of the adult bystanders listened attentively as well. After two hours in temperatures of 40 and beyond, the team came home and collapsed for an hour's sleep! Amazing - Between 700 to 1000, children joined us over the ten days.



A parachute mushroom

The AIDS programme continues well. We have prayed for some of the folk – one quite remarkably stopped vomiting and returned home after weeks of illness. Joshua, who works with us, a male nurse by profession, has given them all sound advice in how to care for themselves. Some of the children of these folk will be joining the UCCI schools in the new year – June 09.

This last Tuesday night we visited a nearby Muslim area and engaged a crowd of 60 to 70 in flannel graph, drama and preaching.



Outreach at night

The reception was very encouraging, particularly as the week before in another area the village Hindu elders refused to allow us to hold an outreach meeting.



A tiling duo

This week we have turned our hands to some practical work. The tasks involved plumbing – renewing gate valves and taps round the campus, tiling the shelves in the operating theatre, painting our kitchenette and painting and reconcreting the base of the climbing frame built two years ago.



Painted climbing frame

During our last week here, there will be a day away for debriefing and time spent preparing a power point presentation of the 9 months activities which will be shown at the graduation ceremony on Saturday 13th. Then it will be goodbye to everyone including this year's team.



Graduation last year.

We have broken some new ground this year – the AIDS project, the evangelism in unreached areas, the baptisms of Hindus, teaching English and new depths in mission work.

We will be returning to Belfast on the 18th June to our own home at Ladas Drive and are looking forward to seeing you all again.

Our love and thanks as always for your support. We cannot do without you.

PRAISE FOR

- A good camp at Avalanche
- A rewarding children's mission
- A good variety of practical work
- The ongoing AIDS programme
- Good venues for outreach work

PRAYER FOR

- The last week and debriefing
- A safe trip home for all
- Readjustment for the team
- A time for us to relax & recuperate
- Recruits for next year

davidpreston2@yahoo.co.uk
jkpreston55@yahoo.co.uk