

# Francis and Alison Update

September 10, 2010



*Dear Prayer partners and supporters,*

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry among the broken (Dalit) people of India. Over the months we have been greatly encouraged by the response we are receiving from the people whose lives have been touched through our projects.

We are only able to help these people because of your faithful giving and standing with us through your payers. We trust that as you read this update you will be blessed and encouraged knowing your support is changing and transforming lives

## *Day Care Centre: Empowering the Dalit children through education*

*The Day Care Centre has grown from 25 to 30 children this year. Many parents from the slum are now asking us to take their children but because of the space and quality of education we want to maintain we are emphasising we can only take 30 children. At present we have are running two groups in one room so we are looking for a 2 bedroom house. This would create the classrooms we need and provide a kitchen and play area that they do not have at present. Please pray that we will be able to find the right place and that the needed finance will be there for us to buy it.*





*We now have a water filter in the Day Care Centre meaning all the children now have access to cleaning drinking water. Most of the children comes from the slum were they do not have good drinking water. Next month we will be giving a water battles to each children so that they can take clean drinking water home with them.*

### ***Parents meeting***

*On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September we had a parents meeting. We asked all the children to share what they have learned. They sang songs and performed action songs. During the meeting we asked the parents what they think about their children now they have seen what they are capable of doing and if they have seen any changes in the lives of their children, here are a few of the responses we received.*



#### **Nikitha's Mother,**

Both of my daughters have been coming to you for one and a half year, personally I have seen allot of discipline in their life and now they do not want to miss a single day of school. Thank you so much for changing my children's life.

#### **Nisha's Mother,**

My daughter comes home every day and teaches her Grandfather what she has learned, my dad say that I have never been to school but now my grander daughter is teaching me what I was supposed to learn 60 years back.

*All the parents came and told us that they are greatly encouraged by the talents their children have. A year back these children were on the street begging and brining money in to satisfy their father's alcohol habits. We are glad that we are making a difference in the children's lives.*

### ***Computer Training: Equipping for a Better Future***

*At present we have 8 young people going through a four months training course. This is a course which will give them a basic knowledge of computers allowing them a better chance in getting a job which in turn will help them to earn money for their family. Some of the young people who are doing the computer course are still students but have had no experience of using a computer and they never thought that they would ever have the opportunity to learn because of the background they come from.*

*These young people will be completing their course at the end of September. We already have 11 applications who want to come and learn computer in the next group.*



## *Tailoring Centre: An initiative to change the lifestyle of women*



*On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August we had a graduation ceremony for the 17 young girls who have completed their 6 months course in tailoring and embroidery. Most of these girls have been rescued from becoming temple prostitutes. Some of them are widows and most of them come from very poor background.*

*Each girl testified of how much the course means to them and how it has given them independence. It is allowing them to earn money for their families and for themselves it has given the ability to save money for their wedding and some of them are making money to continue their studies.*

### ***Here is a story of a Transformed Life.***

*Hanummava is aged 18 and has 7 siblings. Every day the whole family go out on to the streets and to the railway station to beg. They have been doing this for almost 20 years. Hanummava did not want to beg but she did not have any choice.*

*When Hanummava heard about our free tailoring course she came to us and explained her situation. She told us some of the experiences she has encountered with people while she begged, things like people calling her a prostitute. She told us that her parents do not care what she does they just want money, it does not matter to them how she earns it.*

*After hearing this we let her join the training. Hanummava has never been to school and she does not know how to write her own name so when she joined it was difficult for her to follow what the teacher was teaching but as the days went by she picked things up well and became a very bright student.*

*Now that Hanummava has graduated she is working in a local tailoring shop and is earning Rs 1500 rupees (£20 to £25) every month. She has left begging and is encouraging sisters to learn tailoring do the same so that they can have a better future.*



## *Back to School: Encouraging village children to go to school*



*We were able to give bags and note books to over 50 children. One of the requirements from the children for attending school is that they provide their own equipment so ultimately some of these children had dropped out of school because they did not have bags and note books to do the work in.*

*With this gift we encouraged those children to go to school. Some of the children are going to school but were struggling because of lack of money and so were very grateful that we helped them with bags and note books.*

*Steph and Abbey who came to visit from the UK taught them songs about God's creation and about the love of God. Chris from AMEN told story about Jesus.*

*Due to the Monsoon (the rainy season) which lasts for 4 months we are not able to do much with children's club because the field we use is completely water logged so once in a week we are having indoor activities for the teenagers.*

*Due to rain a lot of the people who live in the slum go back to their villages because they cannot earn any money. Now the rain is coming to an end we can see that they are coming back to Goa each day we see a few more familiar faces. Soon we will be back on the field starting our children's club.*

### *Prayer Requests*

- For our own place to run the Pre-school*
- For the people who we are ministering to that they will grow in the Lord*
- For wisdom and for grace for our staffs who are faithful and work very hard*
- For us as a family that we grow in the Lord and that  
We will be faithful to our calling*

*Francis and Alison Pidugu*

*Mevilton Enclave  
Flat G 10 'B' Block  
Colmorod  
Navelim - 403 707  
Margao  
GOA  
INDIA*

*Thank you for all you do, please do not hesitate  
to contact us if we can pray for you in any way.*

*Francis and Alison*