

January Update



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING JOY AT CHRISTMAS! FOLLOWING OUR WONDERFUL CELEBRATIONS, VICTOR WRITES.....

Christmas is a special season spent in the warm circle of families, friends, and communities and especially with our dear children. It is a time when we look back on everything that we have achieved thanks to you last year, and we take rest before we face the challenges of the coming year. It is a time to say thank you and share our gratitude for your kindness and compassion.

THE PLANNING BEGINS!

My wife Mary and our house mothers spend weeks buying and wrapping gifts for the children, staff and people living in our leprosy communities. Every child gets a special gift like bangles, schoolbags, shoes and sweets. 'Bundles of love' are prepared for elderly people affected by leprosy. More on this later.

The children had so much fun writing Christmas cards and colouring decorations for sponsors. I know that many arrived late because of the postage strikes, but I hope you enjoyed receiving them.



THE BIG WRAP!



**COLOURING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
FOR MUCH LOVED SPONSORS**

Mary also plans the most wonderful feast, with every kind of curry you can think of. She is well known for her cooking skills and loves to give our children really delicious food. She starts making sweets a few days before the party – so many are needed so no one misses out. We expected around 350 children, staff and guests in total.

There is so much to plan and prepare for our celebration, and everyone gets involved! The older boys and staff weed, clean and even repaint buildings that have faded in the sun. Then, the fun begins with decorating! There's no such thing as 'less is more' here, and every building is adorned with beautiful lights and stars. The stage is decorated with flowers and balloons, and we even had a selfie-station – which all the older children loved!



SHANTI NIVAS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED!

At 10am, the children from Rainbow joined us at Shanti Nivas Children's Village. It was such a privilege to pray and welcome everyone. Pastor Elisha, who is disabled by leprosy and leads many of projects, also prayed and shared a special Christmas message with the children.



The girls and boys started singing songs, and some helped Mary to decorate the Christmas tree. More guests arrived and shared their Christmas wishes from the stage. Then there was much excitement as presents were distributed to everyone. Every child waited for their name to be called, then ran to the stage to collect a present!



FEAST TIME!

The feast preparation began just after dawn, when Mary and the team started chopping vegetables and marinating meat. There were so many tasty dishes to try! And to finish we had ice-cream, which was a really special treat.



LET'S DANCE!

Many of the children love performing and had spent several weeks practicing songs and Bollywood dances, reciting Bible verses and poems. My daughter Supriya loves the children and compered a wonderful show for everyone.



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

As the children started to get tired, we all came together to cut the Christmas cake. Candles were lit as we sang Silent Night. I had the opportunity to thank everyone for a wonderful day and pray for a blessed New Year. Before we knew it, it was 10pm and sleepy children were led to their home, or on to the bus to Rainbow. What a special celebration we had!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

Thanks to your support, we were able to organise a small celebration across 18 leprosy communities in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari. Your kindness provided a special meal of biryani, chicken curry, vegetable dishes and sweets for all the residents. There was a Christmas message and prayers of thanksgiving.

A 'bundle of love' was gratefully received by everyone. Each parcel contained gifts of a saree or shirt and trousers, a woollen blanket, a special comb with a handle for people with disabled hands, Vaseline to keep skin supple, socks and coconut oil.

Your wonderful compassion also funded food parcels for the elderly and disabled. They were delighted with the rice, dal, oil, pulses and soap. For people who are unwanted and often shunned, showing them that they are loved and valued really makes a difference to how they see themselves.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we move in to 2023, I am very aware of the financial difficulties so many are facing because of your cost-of-living crisis. I am so thankful that you continue to show your love to us in spite of your own challenges. It is such an encouragement to me and Mary to know that you stand with us in this work.



WE LOVE KEEPING YOU UPDATED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING! HOWEVER IF FOR ANY REASON YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO HEAR FROM BRIGHTER FUTURE, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW.

FOR LATEST NEWS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Head Office 1 Charlies Yard, Dyke, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0GQ
Telephone: 01778 422701
Email: info@brighterfuture.org.uk
www.brighterfuture.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1186475

