

Dear Friends,

Time flies, the end of the year approaches and we have a great deal to thank God for, and we do!



On December 10th Vijay celebrated his 11th birthday. This was the first time he has ever celebrated this event. Like most of the children we take in, he had no idea what his date of birth was, so we decided that it would be on Dec 10th. He had a lovely cake with animals made out of cream on the top. He bought sweets for everyone, received lots of presents and had a joyful, memorable day. It was thrilling for us as only three years ago Vijay was fighting for his life after suffering severe burns from his waist to his feet when he got too close to a bonfire on the slum where he lived. Being illiterate he used to earn good money washing up at weddings and parties, but his earnings were divided amongst the adult members of his family. During his treatment and convalescence in hospital where he received skin grafts and several units of blood none of those family members visited him despite our repeated requests (apart from his mum who is devoted to him). After 6 painful months of rehabilitation Vijay asked if he could come and live at Morning Star School to learn to read and write, and to regain his lost childhood. Last year some of Vijay's relatives came to take him 'home' (as he was now fit enough to start earning again). Vijay and his mother were clearly against this idea so I told the relatives, as Charles Dickens once wrote... 'family need not be defined merely as those with whom we share blood, but as those for whom they would give their blood.' Volunteers of Morning Star donated their blood for Vijay because Jesus shed His blood for all of us and it's that spirit of sacrificial love which underpins everything we do. It gives us immense pleasure to see Vijay enjoying a childhood that was being denied him and we believe God will do great things in him and through him. Praise God.



Mitesh is about 10 years old and lives on the slum where the majority of our children are from. He started coming to school as a day student 3 weeks ago. His father died some years ago so he lives with his mum and two older sisters. We have told him and his mum that if he attends school faithfully for a sustained period of time then he can come and live with us. We think he will fit in well. Please pray for him. When we move into our new school we hope to offer some training in sewing and tailoring to his sisters.

Roopa is 14 years old and one of our brightest 'morning stars'. She writes devotional love songs to Jesus, so a friend and trustee of Morning Star, Phil Overton felt inspired by the Lord to write music to accompany these beautiful words and we have produced a CD which is available at a purchase price of £10. All the profits of which will go to Roopa and the other girls at Morning Star who are enjoying the priceless opportunity of receiving an education and having a say in shaping their and India's future.



Our oldest boy, Raj, is currently directing the nativity play which will be performed on Christmas Eve in church by the morning star children.



We want to extend a big thank you to David Harpin who spent nine weeks here from October to Dec 10th helping with the carpentry work in the new building everyday and preaching in the church on Sundays. David was on the slum with us when the work began in 1996 and we believe it is fitting that he has provided permanent fittings in our new building so the children will always think of him with thankful hearts. Bless you David.

News of the Building Project.

We have told our contractor that we absolutely HAVE TO move in to our new school on April 1st 2015 as the new academic year commences then and we think this is a realistic target. (This will be three years since we first laid the foundations).

In the main building we need the windows and fans fitted on the ground floor with a final coat of paint throughout.

Other outstanding work includes a banister rail on the stairs and open to sky area and minor fittings to the bathrooms.

We are currently reviewing designs and quotes for a stained glass style scene of a large cross rising up out of the map of India depicted on a globe of the earth. This could be in glass or a mixture of materials, which we hope will look stunning.



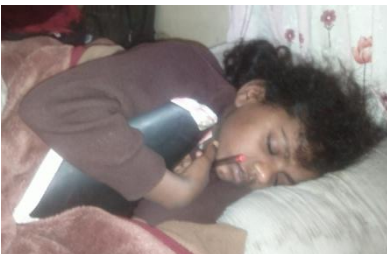
We are also reviewing designs and quotes for a stainless steel kitchen, and a solar powered hot water and electrical supply which will mean that we can have hot running water in every room! What a luxury for children who used to share a bucket of water from the water pump on the slum.

The laundry room is currently being plastered and the marble has been purchased to lay on the floor. This should be complete by March as will the security gatehouse.

*Finally we are reviewing designs and quotes for an exciting children's playground, and a multi sports ground which will be floodlit and lend itself to being used as a stage for drama productions, gospel meetings and anything else we can think of as it is surrounded by several balconies and therefore becomes a natural amphitheatre....**exciting stuff.***

Truly this new building will be the physical manifestation of the promise God gave to us when we began 19 years ago from 1Samuel 2v8.. 'He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, TO SET THEM AMONG PRINCES, and to make them inherit the throne of glory.' The Lord wants our children to experience this spiritually, emotionally, academically and physically....For His Glory.

Thank you so much for partnering with us and making this all possible.



To finish we want to leave you with this image of Ravina falling asleep with the bible held tightly against her heart. All of our children are being held by Jesus close to His great heart of compassion and they are finding rest, love, joy and peace in Him, just like the Angels promised to the shepherds in Bethlehem all those years ago.

We pray that you will experience the love of Jesus that passes all understanding this Christmas and throughout the New Year. Thank you for your continued faithful support.

*With Love in Jesus' Name from,
All at Morning Star Ministries*