

Dear Friends,

The last weeks have been very busy but we are glad to be able to give you an update on some of what has happened since we were in touch last.

Saukina



Saukina's family have still not spoken to the boy's family about calling off the marriage but they have assured us that it will not happen and they will work with us in the future to find a literate partner for Saukina to marry when she is ready. Keep praying. My promise to Saukina that we will not let her be forcibly married was enough to give her complete peace and rest and it taught me a lesson about trusting our heavenly Father's promises.

Birth Certificates

Thank you so much for the fantastic response to our appeal for help with birth certificates. Today we received 8 certificates for our most vulnerable girls so we can fight for them legally if we have to. The mothers of 4 girls have assured me that they will allow their daughters to complete their education and they will only seek marriage partners for them at their request! This is a miraculous change in their thinking and an answer to prayer.



Saukina has two uncles who are pastors who have been delivered from the slum by God's grace and they are providing a good education for their own children (one is studying to be a nurse). So they understand our struggles and have assured us that they will visit the slum for us and talk to the parents. Dr. Santosh and a local headmaster have also offered to come and talk with our children's parents to encourage them of the great thing they are doing in allowing their sons and daughters to receive an education and how counterproductive it would be to hinder that by hasty, inappropriate engagements. We have been working with most of these parents for 19 years and feel sure that the bonds of friendship that have been forged will help in these delicate discussions.

Kaloo took his GCSE's but as previously mentioned he is banned from the village. As he was approaching the end of his exams he said in a conversation... "If I stop study my life will stop - I just need to keep studying and make my life"...Two days after he finished his exams we found him a place at a residential college in a nearby city where he has now started his 'A' levels. The college specialises in sports and kaloo is extremely fit and strong and is a good kabaddi player (a popular Indian style of light wrestling). So he is studying physical education as well as political science and history, general English and Punjabi, environmental studies and computer Applications for his 'A' levels as well as



training for four hours each day with the kabaddi team which also consists of older degree students. In the hostel where he stays he has begun to make friends with degree students from various parts of India who are serious about their studies...the bible says that a man becomes like the company he keeps so this can only be positive for Kaloo's progress. He made a mistake,

he has been punished, he has repented and knows that Jesus has forgiven him and given him a wonderful new opportunity and I believe he will grab it with both hands. Please pray for his continued progress.



Monu also took her GCSE'S in March/April and will study 'A' levels here at Morning Star School along with three other female students. This is a new venture for us and we are very excited about it. The girls will be studying History, Home Science, Political Science, general English and Punjabi, environmental studies and computer applications.

'A' level students

Our four 'A' level students completed their exams in March and subject to results (published in June) their future plans are as follows...



Raj has applied to do a B.A in theology at 'New Theological College' Deradhun (www.ntcdoon.org) and will sit a three hour entrance exam on May 16th.

Ajay has applied to the same theological college to do a one year diploma in worship and music and is waiting to be called for an interview.



Sandeep has applied to another Christian residential college to study for a B.A in English literature.

Veena has been offered a place to do a diploma in nursing at a Salvation Army hospital.



Exams....All of our children passed their end of academic year exams in March and have progressed to the next classes.

Building Update



Our wonderful playground has been fitted and we are waiting for rubber tiles to be laid on the floor. All the classroom equipment has been delivered and is being fitted ready for use. There are just a few finishing touches to be made to the building and we are waiting for the electricity board to install a new transformer and meter as our electrical power requirement is high. Once this has been done we will be able to move in.



We are so thankful for all your support and all God is doing.

Bless you in Jesus' name,

All at Morning Star