

### Wigmore's Supported Charity for 2010

Our supported charity this year is the *Gorakhpur Nurseries* in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, near the Nepalese border, and we shall begin our fund raising for them during Lent. Last year Irene Rudling (the sister of Hazel Alcock) gave a talk at one of Wigmore's *Poverty Lunch* events (and will be giving us a further talk in September 2010). She has worked there since 1985. The nurseries take in girls abandoned by their family, or whose family cannot feed another mouth and asks the nursery to take them in.

The girls receive care and education and are helped to find work or a husband, depending on their needs. Some stay on at the nursery as helpers (*buas*) looking after the younger children. The nursery is run as a family, often with more than 100 people.

You can read a recent (February 2013) newsletter from the *Gorakhpur Nurseries Fellowship* below.

## Gorakhpur Nurseries Fellowship

PO Arogya Mandir, Gorakhpur, U.P. 273 003 India

February 2013 Newsletter

Dear Friends:

**Cricket** is the game of the moment, everyone from the youngest batting and fielding with great enthusiasm. One reason is because they have been watching the India v England matches on Harriet's T.V and the other because it is one way to keep warm in the present intense **cold**. Of course the batsmen have



to stand about, but you can jump and cheer every time one of your team scores a run, and your turn to bat comes round quickly as girls get out, most lob the ball and the fielders are good at catching! Skipping too has been another warming activity. Wendy enthused a number of girls to do some knitting and a large number of fingerless gloves were made to help keep their hands warm and to keep them occupied.

While we expect some **cold weather** in January in north India as icy winds blow down from the snowy Himalayas but usually this is short lived, and our normal weather is cool but sunny, a welcome relief from the heat. This year though the cold began in mid-December and has gone on till now (January 30<sup>th</sup>) and since Christmas has included misty mornings. At its worst in Gorakhpur the temperature was around 5 C and our indoor temperatures about the same, as we don't have heating but keep warm with extra clothes and bedding. Schools were closed from January 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and now open at 10 a.m. instead of the usual winter timings of 8.30 or 9 a.m. by order of the DM (District Magistrate). For the last few days the mist has lifted around lunch time and we have enjoyed a few hours of sunshine. In the evenings Harriet, Wendy and I enjoy a wood fire, and the Buas make fires in all kinds of containers including large flower pots for their family groups to sit round.

Cricket, cold, and our third C must be **Christmas**. This was a very happy time, senior schoolgirls were home safely and in good time and quite a number of our working girls too. We were happy to include Manisha and her four year old Yashita, it was she whose husband took his own life about eighteen months ago. Sadly they could only stay for 3 days as Manisha's school was re-opening. We are thankful she has work, and has accommodation in the school plus free education for her daughter. Due to the cold we began at 6.30 a.m. this year instead of 6 a.m. the fire was blazing and the candles glowing in the sitting

room. I think this is my favorite part of the day, seeing all the excited faces – shining like the candles, eyes wide and singing well known carols at least with enthusiasm if not tunefully. Harriet and I had been greatly helped over the shopping for presents, finding sufficient of each item for the different groups of children in varied colours and styles. By request the Buas received bedspreads, and the younger Buas small ceiling fans for their rooms (older Buas already have them). The service led by Sangita concentrated on ‘GIFTS’, and we enjoyed chicken curry and special rice for lunch outdoors. The last item of the day was the evening programme which included a well acted Nativity play.

The ‘**aj ki roti**’ (Daily Bread) S.U. books of Bible readings for the year were with us in good time and given out to all our older ones on New Year’s Day, plus a simpler version to some of the children. We send out copies to all the married girls we are still in touch with, and have received some encouraging phone calls of thanks, and assurances of how valuable they find it. **Pray** with us that all our family may love God’s Word and set their lives by it. Usha, spoke at our New Year’s service on ‘Remain in me’ from John 15.

In all four of the boarding schools there are girls facing **public exams** towards the end of February and into March. Tara, Nisha and Prarthna will take the Indian School Certificate (A levels), Daya in Bareilly, Bhawana in Dehra Dun face the matric exam (GCSE equivalent) in Hindi, and Priyanka sits the same exam but in English. We trust that they all will be working hard at their revision and do their best. Once completed they will be at home, anxiously awaiting results due in June, and then at least for the three older ones there will be decisions to be made about their futures. As expected Mt. Zion school is closing after April except for the Nursery and kindergarten classes. This means only Sushma and Meena can remain there. We are hoping St. Paul’s will accept Malika and Anandi into class 1, and Simran into class 3. The older two complete Junior School this year. Mitali finds school work very difficult and has recently done badly in her latest exam. Rachna has been given good encouragement and made progress at the local Masihi Kalisiya Hindi Medium School so we are thinking to send Mitali there, and also Ashima, a younger one who may do better learning in her own language. Prashansa too, will do better in a Hindi medium school so we expect to send her to one of the boarding schools. It really is a year of decisions as we are wondering if Perna and Varsha should be changed from St. Paul’s School and moved into a Hindi medium school, they are at present in class 5 and 6 respectively, neither doing well in their school work or in their conduct. A completely new start may be helpful to them both. Pray for the children and ourselves as we seek to do the best thing for each one.



Perna



The cold weather has delayed both our **vegetables** and **flowers**. However we are enjoying peas, excellent carrots and knoll khol from the garden. Cauliflowers were a failure once again, and many of the cabbages do not seem to be forming hearts. The former though are at present the cheapest vegetable in the market so someone is able to grow them. If the sunshine predicted for February does shine then our flowers, normally blooming by now, should open up – phlox, petunias, poppies, pansies, cornflowers, marigolds and verbena to brighten our gardens.



**Kavita** has had no more panic attacks and is attending school regularly, though she was off for sometime before Christmas because the school was reluctant to keep her. She was encouraged by a Psychiatrist recommended by the school Principal who had several helpful sessions with her. She continues to behave rather strangely at times and we all need wisdom to know how to handle her.

**Pratiksha** having found work and a hostel to live in after several false starts, came home for Christmas. As she put off returning to Lucknow she lost both her job and her place in the Hostel. She seems to have found shelter with her ex-Principal but she has chosen to go her own way.

Khushali and Jaiwanti are looking forward to a **holiday** in Mumbai in a week's time. They are faithfully helping here caring for our elderly Shoto. Khushali has from epilepsy but has had no attacks for recently. Wendy will go with them so as an experienced nurse Khushali is in good hands. It is a long train journey and they will stay in a Christian Guest House for 3 days. All three of our younger Buas and also Vidya have enjoyed holidays staying with various married girls who make them welcome. Puspha will leave for Bangalore to stay with friends shortly. In April Harriet looks forward to a break in Delhi and then we shall all be here to keep everyone occupied over **the long holidays in May and June**. Before Christmas Wendy had 2 weeks of intensive language study in Mussoorie and later this month returns there for a further 3 weeks. Meanwhile she continues to work at the language and some of the girls are helping her. We all had the pleasure of welcoming her sister to stay for few days after Christmas.



Khushali

**Sudhira** having completed her 3-year nursing training, passed her exams and is now doing the compulsory midwifery and health worker course. Her graduation will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Bela and Vandana will travel to Chhatarpur to be present at this special function. After that Sudhira is committed to work for

2 years with the EHA in a hospital of their choice, I think she will be home for a month's holiday first.

Our various **machines** have been giving us trouble, the office inverter has been out of action for some time, but with a new battery is now giving us light and more importantly fans once the hot weather begins. Telephones too were out of action, but thankfully they are functioning again. Our new 'winger' van is a great blessing to us, but roads become ever more crowded, and our driver needs both patience and skill as he negotiates the jams and risk taking of other vehicles. The **smaller vehicle** our 'Buttercup' tempo which takes some of the



children to and from school, is elderly now and needing frequent repair. Maybe the time is right to buy a new one. The acquiring of our Bank Statement for December needed in order to balance our accounts for that month took over 2 weeks before it was in our hands as the Bank printer was out of order. After several frustrating visits to acquire this we were told it only needed the replacement of a small cheap part, but they were waiting for the Bank authorities to sanction it's purchase.

I must not end without a big **thank you** to all those who sent us and the family lovely Christmas cards, often with encouraging messages inside, indeed our thanks go to every one of you who receives the letter and prays for us. Those of you who receive the letter by mail will know it is posted by one of our 'distributors'. Pat Johnson has done this now for almost 50 years and feels the time has come to give up. I first met Pat when I was in college and her father-in-law used to give the students tea and Bible teaching. We are grateful to her and to all our distributors for their loving service. Now my sister Hazel Alcock will send out the letters for Beds, Herts and Bucks, but she is not so young either. I wonder if there are any among our younger praying friends who would be prepared to do this for us, when the need arises. It involves receiving the news letter from the printer, addressing envelopes for from 20-30 people 3 times a year. Some people kindly pay the postage too but this is not essential and you can be re-imbursed from Denise (Miss D. Earthy) if you let her know. Anyone happy to do this please let us know here – address below, or e-mail [nur\\_gkp@yahoo.co.in](mailto:nur_gkp@yahoo.co.in) or inform your distributor who will pass the message on.

Before I write again we shall have celebrated **Easter**, may this time be a joy to you as well as to us as we remember the great love of our God, and our Saviour 'who gave Himself for us' but is alive today.

With our love, *Irene*