

Bonus March 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I know you will ask: "Two newsletters in one month?" No this is not a newsletter – only a bonus newsletter! I just wanted to share this with you. Remember I mentioned in my last newsletter that two friends, Jane Davidson and Julie Franke, are visiting with us. They are returning to Canada in the next couple of days. I asked them to reflect on their visit and write a short report on it. I want to share this with you because you have been a part of our effort to help feed, clothe, educate and LOVE our poor children since the beginning. This is what Jane and Julie had to say:

Dear Friends of Chris Niwas:

From the first moment of warm welcome hugs from Sudhir and company at Bagdogra airport last week, Julie Franke and I have felt "at home". For me it's a feeling of awe that the little runny nosed barefoot kid who came with my five children and me in 1972 on an outing to Siliguri – stands before me with wife Sashi, two sons – a home for 13 other children and plans and projects for the future.



Julie and I stay at Cochrane Place hotel, which is at some distance from town centre of Kurseong. Sudhir has made sure of transport for us and when the very wet and colourful festival of Holi took place this last weekend he saw to it that we were "hiding" safely at Chris Niwas. Holi used to be a spring festival of colour and fun. Today it has become an opportunity to overdo it to the point of injury and harm.

**Jane & Julie cutting the
'Welcome Home' cake**

It is four years since I was last in Kurseong and in that time Fr. A. has retired, SASAC II has been reinvented, as is SOJASI and Sudhir and his group have become an independent Indian NGO. This has not been an easy decision but I see Sudhir being equal to the task. He learned his lesson well through association with Fr. A and I'm leaving with a happy feeling that I've seen progress, joy and love in the Chris Niwas family life.

Going to Kurseong meant that I could, at last, give your donations to Sudhir. The bank in Canada in which we had deposited your donations, cancelled the account. For a long time we had successfully sent money to Sudhir who had used an ATM card we sent him. Not allowed!!! These donations came from all across Canada and even New Zealand.

Jane

It's a wonderful life! I'm absolutely sure that this would be the statement shared with visitors by each member of the Chris Niwas family. During my visit to Kurseong along with Jane Davidson we were lucky enough to spend time with Sudhir, Sashi, and their 13 children. This is a busy home where Sudhir and Sashi ensure that these

children are well-fed, well-clothed, well-educated, and well-loved. Evening prayer is a very special time with each child sharing their heartfelt prayers to God – even little 5 yr. old Andrew. There is such joy and camaraderie between all the children – whether they are entertaining visitors with song and dance, or playing games on the rooftop terrace. Sudhir and Sashi have taken on a great responsibility to raise all these children. Perhaps we may find it in our hearts to help in lightening their load just a little by giving them our support.

Julie



(L) Julie & Jane learn to wrap “momos” (dumplings) from Anu (R) Saying goodbye to the children



(L) Julie reunites with friends made in her last visit (R) It is always difficult for friends to leave the children



(L)Sashi with Jane & Julie (R) and with Sudhir’s Family

Greetings to you all. We pray that someday you may be able to visit us and experience the same love, joy and peace!

Sudhir