

Dear Friends:

Easter Greetings, Peace and Joy!

Nigma and Renuka, we call them Kancha and Kanchi (youngest ones) have been coming to me for a couple of weeks nonstop. Both of them are retarded. It was hard for me to understand them when they talked together at the same time, but finally I understood that they wanted me to keep their son, Chogel in our home and send him to school.



**CHOGEL'S PARENTS:
RENUKA KANCHI AND
NIGMA KANCHI.**
FROM GOOD SHEPARD
VILLAGE, WALKED
OVER 2 HOURS,
NUMEROUS TIMES TO
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THEIR SON.



CHOGEL & MOTHER

CHOGEL GETS LOTS OF
LOVE FROM HIS
PARENTS BUT HE
CANNOT GET NEEDED
GUIDANCE AND
CHANCE TO GO TO
SCHOOL.

Although, both his parents have severe learning disabilities Chogel, which means king, is eager to work hard for a proper education. He has a strong harmonic voice and loves to sing. In the evenings before dinner it is common to find the children in the sitting room with Prabina playing the guitar,

Sajan playing tablas, Chogel and the other children singing their hearts out. We have put Chogel in class III in Saint Alphonsus School with Sachin James. He is far behind now, but he and I are working extra hours at home so he will meet the standard requirements to pass class III. After a couple weeks of settling in, it seems he is quite happy to be in our home with the other children and going to school. He has been a wonderful addition to our family.



CHOGEL (10) IS VERY KEEN.

WE HAVE PUT HIM IN CLASS
III IN SAINT ALPHONSUS
SCHOOL WHERE OUR BOYS
GO.



HE IS INTRESTED IN
GARDENING ALSO.

April is celebration time for us. Subodh Aaron and Sajan Simon were baptised during Easter Sunday Mass. We had a great celebration. Thanks to Kathy Martin.

PRABIN JUSTIN & SACHIN JAMES



CHOGEL & ADEN



APRIL HARVEST: FROM OUR GARDEN TO THE KITCHEN!



CHODIN



PRABINA MONICA



BERNADETTE IN THE KITCHEN



**SUBODH
AARON &
SAJAN
SIMON'S
BAPTISM
CELEBRA
TIONS**



NITA'S BIRTHDAY ON 7TH APRIL



PRATIMA BERNADETTE'S CONFORMATION



JESSICA IS ENJOYING SIMON'S TABLA BEATS:



STUDY & RECREATION TIME



Thank you so much to our friends and supporters for their generous support and love. It makes us do our part well to love, guide and look after our children. You will be remembered in our evening family prayers at 7.30p.m.

Love and regards from all of us,

Cecilia, Nita and all the children.

P.S. If you would like to make donation to support us and live in Canada or the United States, please contact Dr Laura Louie at drlauralouie@yahoo.ca. **THANK YOU!!!**

JESSICA'S KURSEONG REFLECTIONS

I arrived to Kurseong late February, eager to meet Dr. Laura Louie for volunteer work with her organization and the Indian Red Cross, and excited to meet up with the 'family' I would be doing a home-stay with. At that time I knew very little about Father Abraham, Cecilia, Nita, and all the other people whom work so hard to ensure a positive quality of life for these incredible children. Being a guest in this home the past two months has truly been a life changing experience for me.

As their first guest to stay in the new house, I had the honour of breaking in new beds, sheets, and pillows in the lovely guest room. The two beds were very useful for me as one was used for sleeping and the other for giving acupuncture and massage treatments to the Ladies of the house and others in need. It was my privilege to be able to share my skills and help out, as Cecilia, Nita and the children were so hospitable and kind to me. I will never forget my first day of arrival, and being greeted at the door with a "Hearty Welcome". All the children waiting quietly, a candle burning on the altar, Cici placed a white Khada around my neck, Pratima smudged my third eye with red tikka and I felt immediately connected.

Although, I am not Christian, each night I participated in evening prayers and satsang. These evenings of chanting, prayer, singing and connecting to the divine have truly been one of my most unforgettable experiences. The daily rituals of this household have taught me much about discipline, worship and sacrifice. Through hard work and dedication I see how truly blessed all are in this family. Not a typical family by any means, but a family that emphasizes what I believe to be the most important values: love and hard work. I see how each child's individual needs are taken into consideration; so I understand how with great care comes great nourishment to the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of each child.

The children, in return, take their studies very serious and they are some of the most creative children I have ever met. I have enjoyed myself tremendously while dancing with the kids, watching them practice guitar and tablas, listening and trying to learn the Nepali lyrics to their myriad of favourite songs. Sajan has shared hilarious short stories with me, Sacchin and the others have shared their artwork, garden work, hopes and desires for a bright future. Most impressive though is their behaviour and respect for each other and their elders. They are so well behaved and without much discipline. A harmonious, energetic and hopeful spirit exists in the household beyond that which I have ever felt before.

Lastly, I will miss Nita's cooking. She and I both share a love for food. After her initial resistance of allowing me to help, I have sequestered a place for myself in the kitchen beyond guest. She truly makes miracles everyday on such a limited budget!

Heartfelt thanks to all the supporters of this family. I am a testament to how your generosity supplies so much more than basic needs for these special children.

If any questions or comments for me please feel free to contact me by email: jpiazza555@yahoo.com. Blessings to all, Jessica Piazza