

March 8, 2009

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy month since our last newsletter – but then again we do have a household with 13 active children!!



**Photo left:** Here are the children dancing and playing the air guitar to one of their favorite songs in our beautiful living room.

All the children started back to school after their 2 month break. We have 6 girls attending St. Joseph's school (one in high school and the others are in primary school), 5 boys attending St. Alphonsus' school and Nigma (one of our new additions) attending the Godwin open school. This meant buying uniforms, books, sports dresses, sports shoes, exercise books and paying school fees for 12 children, not to mention also registering Nigma at his new school.



**Photo left:** Children in their school uniforms. Front row from left to right: Pooja Elizabeth, Prabina Monica, Alina, Aden, Choden. Top row from left to right: Shanti, Pratima Bernadette, Sajan, Dava, Sachin James, Subodh, Prabin Justin.

**Photo right:** Choden (in pink) and Chogel (red shirt) doing their homework in the evening.



Nigma is Shanti's younger brother and as I told you in our last newsletter came to live with us recently. He is 17 years old and had finished class 8 but then was directed to attend a technical school for training in auto-mechanics for 1 year. Nigma completed this

last year and wanted to go back to finish high school. Because of the break in his education, Nigma needed to attend an open school which is for children who have to dropped out of school for various reasons.



**Photo left:** Nigma in his school uniform. He attends the Godwin open school.

Shanti is doing well and studying hard for her last 3 exams before she obtains her class 12 certificate. She recently wrote and passed exams in English, political science and geography. Her next set of exams are in history, computer science and home science. Shanti will go to Darjeeling in April to write these exams. Her plans are to apply to nursing school if she passes all her exams. We are so proud of her!!



**Photo above:** Here is our dear Shanti helping to make moomoos. Shanti is the oldest of the children (19 years old) and is a great help to Nita in the kitchen.



**Photo right:** Here's Shanti studying for her history exam in April.

We've had some visitors since our last newsletter including Dr. Laura and Harry from Vancouver, Canada. They brought a donation from Kit Doan & friends to help complete the purchase of our beautiful home. We plan to finish the transaction by the end of March and the home will officially be ours by April 1, 2009. There are no words to express the gratitude to our friends and supporters that made this dream of having our own home a reality. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!



**Photo left:** Here is our cozy home thanks to all of your generosity and kindness.



**Photo left:** Here is a photo of Dr. Laura and the children. Front row from left to right is Pooja Elizabeth, Aden and Pratima Bernadette. And in the back is Sachin James.

**Photo above:** Harry dancing with little Aden.

Dr. Laura has been doing a training course for the Indian Red Cross Society in Kurseong. She is teaching them ear acupunctue as a complementary therapy for their substance

abuse program. Laura brought with her a lovely volunteer called Jessica who has been staying with us.

Jessica is from California and recently graduated from a masters program in traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. She has the most wonderful personality and it's been an absolute joy to have her living with us. In fact, she has become our family doctor. Jessica has been giving Shanti and I acupuncture and massage treatments for back and shoulder pain respectively which have been extremely helpful. Jessica has also given massage to Nita for her back pain with very good results.



**Photo left:** Here is Jessica dancing with Pooja Elizabeth on her arrival at our home.

The children have been working hard at school and we keep them on a structured schedule. For example, a typical week day would be as follows:

5:30am – Rise and Wash up

6:00 to 7:00 am – Study

7:10 am – Breakfast

7:30 am – Dress up and go to school

8:30 am to 3:30 pm - School

4:30 pm - Tea

5:00 to 6:00 pm - School home work with our volunteer tutor (Andrew)

6:00 to 7:00 pm - Study with our volunteer tutor (Andrew)

7:30 pm - Evening prayer

8:00 pm - Dinner

9:00 pm - Lights off/ bed

Father Abraham has been coming over and teaching the children songs in English to improve their pronunciation. It's always such a delight for us to have Father here at our home. He continually produces huge smiles and giggles from the children!! See the wonderful photos below.



**Photo above:** Father teaching the children songs in English to improve their pronunciation.

**Photo left:** Do you know what song Father is teaching the children? It's 'Old Macdonald had a Farm' – with a 'moo moo here and a moo moo there.....!!!!'

Thank you so much for your generosity and thoughtfulness in helping our children receive a good education which will ultimately lead to a fulfilling life. Your kindness is never forgotten and you are always in our prayers.

Love from all of us,  
Cecelia, Nita and the children

p.s. If you would like to make a donation to support us and you live in Canada or the United States, please contact Dr. Laura Louie at [dr.lauralouie@yahoo.ca](mailto:dr.lauralouie@yahoo.ca). **Thank you!!!**



**Photo above:** Here's another photo of our beautiful children singing, having fun and staying healthy in our living room thanks to your kindheartedness!!