



March - April 2010



WELCOMING OUR DELIGHTFUL VISITORS



TRAINEES ENJOY A HAPPY HARVEST TIME

Dear Friends:

PEACE !!



JOY !!



LOVE !!



As I write this short newsletter, the coming Holy Week is in my mind. I like Holy Week because it gives me the strength and grace to renew my heart and spirit from our Lord's sufferings and resurrection. I love all the rituals of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Mass. And I'm sure most of you too are preparing and looking forward to the Holy Week.

We had two of our dear friends, Mrs Jane Davidson McKee and Mrs Julie Frank from Canada visiting us in March. Visitors are such an encouragement to us! I have requested them to write our newsletter which they did very graciously. I hope Holy Week and the resurrection of our Lord will shower you with His peace, joy and love. Happy Easter to you all!

With much love and prayers,

Yours Sincerely,
Cecilia George

Dear Friends of SOJASI:

You never know what will happen when you decide to take a trip to Kurseong, India! On this occasion Julie Frank, my fellow traveller and I have been asked to write you all on behalf of Cecilia and SOJASI and Morningstar family.

It is four years since I was here last and much has happened since that visit. It has been a time of change and upheaval. Fr. A. Has retired, SASAC II has been reborn as SOJASI with Cecilia as director and Nita as her assistant here on top of the mountain at Morningstar, their "family home".

We have had the positive experience of visiting both places. First, to see the gardens flourishing under their new caretakers, and later to go to Morningstar for entertainment, prayer and supper. There is something very special about Nepali young people. They can sing and dance in a way that is absolutely wonderful to Western eyes and ears. Then they turn right around at prayer time and create prayers for us all straight from the heart. We came away from Morningstar feeling so enriched in every sense.

I spent a year here in 1972 with my five children, in the days when Fr. A. was principal at SAS. I taught English four periods a day to Class 5C. At that time I came to know many of the "locals" and now, in 2011, to go to Mass at St. Paul's parish church is a time to reconnect with old friends. This means lots of cups of good Darjeeling tea and even lunches and suppers. Don't ever think that you would come to India to lose weight. Kurseong and district is blessed with some of the best cooks you'll ever meet.



MUSHROOM SOWING TIME

I will be going home, grateful to have had this opportunity to see and experience firsthand the good work done by Ceci and her team. I've had many blessings in my life but surely one of the best has been my association with Fr. A. And now, continuing with Ceci. She and all who work here will be part of my daily prayer. Well done and so lovingly in His name.

Yours - **Jane**

Wow! What a joy it was to see the SOJASI training centre with all of its wonderful SMVG gardens bursting with life. I was a visitor in 2007 to this area, and at that time, it was so disheartening to see that all was at a standstill because of the inability to access funding for support. Now the most capable and energetic team led by Cecilia George has transformed SOJASI into a vibrant and productive enterprise. Of course there is

always much more work to be done, but with the lovely people who call these mountains their home, the dream of a young Canadian Jesuit priest all those years ago has come true!

May God bless you Fr. Abraham and your Indian people - **Julie**

"Morningstar" the word immediately projects the image of our mother Mary in my mind. The home that Cecilia and Nita provide for their 18 children is a true testament to the unconditional love shown to us by the mother of our Lord. This is a large cohesive family who live their faith every day. Evening prayer is a wonderful time of devotion and song. The natural ability of the children's voices is absolutely amazing. It is apparent they love to sing from traditional Nepali to current pop songs. The children truly enjoy each other's company and are always there to help the next one. Morningstar is a fine example of what a joyful and happy family can be. It is a privilege to share in the warmth and love offered by these children and their caregivers. May God bless you always!

With much love, many hugs, and plenty of prayer. - **Julie**



NEPALIS LOVE TO SING AND DANCE



BIRTHDAY BABIES