



Dear Partners, Friends & Well-wishers,

May the joy & peace of the season of Christmas fill your hearts and homes.

What a joy it is to enter the month of December and what is a better way to start the month than with the Orphans Christmas Party 2012!!

On the 1st of December 2012, about 500 children from 7 different homes gathered at the Orphans Christmas Party (as you see we call it the “Children’s Christmas Party” because we are here to let them know that “we are their family”).

There always is a lot of excitement because everyone is looking forward to something new at each Christmas Party and we have to take care that we don’t disappoint them. So Sweetlin (trustee Alex’s wife who is a trained Children’s worker) and I worked out a whole new programme with lots of music, dance and lots and lots of fun. As you can see from the cheerful smiley faces, the children had a great time.

Atleast half the children were attending the Christmas Party for the first time so we had an ice breaking session of getting to know each other and then the best way to get them involved was putting them into action with an action song, so we all danced and danced and danced and by the end of the song had all the children laughing.

Then it was time for their own talents to be exhibited on stage and it almost turns out to be a competition with each group of children trying to be better than the other. However that does bring out the best in them – all for the glory of the Lord Jesus whom they are celebrating.

After this we moved on to some serious stuff with our special guest (also a Children's Christian worker) and his small team bringing out the message of Christmas with their puppet story. The message was "Christmas is a time of giving ... first giving yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ by giving him place in your heart and then giving to others in love. It is very important to teach these children the importance of looking outward rather than inward as it helps them overcome any sense of loneliness and worthlessness they may feel. This being done, those that had never accepted Jesus as their Saviour were invited to open their hearts to the Hero of the Season!

Our entire youth team, members of our church and all DPM staff then got into action to give out the gifts with Santa (this year Ralf, our special visitor), while Danny appreciated the services of the wardens by giving them special gifts.

Then it was time for lunch – hands & hearts full and now time to make tummies full with biriyani, chicken and egg.

Following this party, we made a visit to the 31 girls in Pratiksha Home who were unable to attend the party as the Government school at which they studied refused to give them leave. Needless to say, the girls were delighted that they had not missed out on their gifts.



Again with help from our youth and Sweetlin, it was a memorable evening spent with these girls. The amazing thing that came out of this visit was an opportunity to minister to the village kids of the community around the home on 23rd December. Sis. Jessie who runs this home is so enthusiastic about reaching the kids of the community, so she has organised this outreach and also invited 30 other girls from another orphanage that we did not know of, or invite to the Christmas Party! Talk about blessings in disguise!!

On the 14th of December, we visited the Spastic children. Again a group of lovely young people who wait eagerly for us to come visiting. They welcomed us this year saying, that as soon as we visit they know that Christmas is around the corner. Again did a skit on Christmas with puppets that had them in splits of laughter because Prasad (our youth volunteer) and Sweetlin kept getting at each other jokingly. Bringing this to the Christmas message, we did something for the first time – asked the children to repeat the prayer inviting Jesus into their hearts – and to our surprise, every single child, even those with speech difficulties repeated it after us. It was amazing!! And the unexplainable, amazing thing that happened to me was that my heart kept bubbling with joy all through the day! I have visited the Spastic children several times but this visit was somehow special. I believe Jesus did something special there, that day.

We praise and thank God for the wonderful opportunity to minister to these children and all the many more that we will be meeting during the days running up to Christmas and beyond. What a joy to prepare them to meet their Saviour.

Thank you friends for praying, supporting and giving. Without you it would not be possible!

May the Lord abundantly bless you in the year 2013.

Elsie & Daniel

Derek Prince Ministries - India