



CHILD CARE

March – May 2014

Summer brings special joy for the children in our homes. First, it is the start of Children's Gospel Clubs and, second, their month-long vacation.

Every child looks forward to the week of the Children's Gospel Club program; learning songs, memorizing scripture and engaging in fun activities. After CGC, children enjoy a month - long vacation with their parents until June. For us, it is a time of anticipation as these little ones sow the seeds of the gospel in their homes and villages. There couldn't be more effective evangelists and missionaries with passion, fervor and sincerity as these little ones that God is raising up for Himself. I can't wait to share with you testimonies of the many amazing ways that God will use the children to bring hope and healing during their vacation.

While the children are away, the Children's Home premises are due for their annual maintenance. It is a busy time for house parents as they work hard to prepare the home for the children's return before another academic year. This year, IGL had to undertake some major maintenance expense due to new rules and restrictions enforced by the government. Please pray with us that God will provide for these needs as the regular sponsorship gifts will not cover these costs. In addition to maintaining these facilities, house parents and superintendents undergo a week - long training which is further highlighted in this prayer letter.

Reflecting on the past quarter, and even the past academic year, I stand amazed at the goodness and greatness of our God. The bleakness of poverty, the overwhelming spiritual darkness and the hopelessness brought on by disease and disaster are no match for our Resurrected Savior. As I experience the laughter of the children, the transformation of a community and the fruit of the Holy Spirit evidenced in the witness of these little lives, I can most assuredly say that we have experienced the miracle of Easter everyday of the year. Death and hopelessness have been defeated. New life and hope in and through Christ, for every child under our care is our testimony.

We live in a time of tremendous change at every level; social, political and economical. This presents both opportunities and challenges to raise these little ones as godly leaders for tomorrow. It calls for sharpened abilities and strategic responses to be able to influence this next generation for Christ. Moreover, engaging in partnerships that will serve to fulfill His mission in discipling this nation's children is becoming increasingly critical. Statistics prove that 80% of the world's children live outside of the developed world and have access to only 20% of the world's resources and opportunities. Therefore, mobilizing and directing resources to these excluded ones must remain a priority. IGL is pursuing these priorities with a greater sense of urgency.

We remain deeply grateful to each individual who has stood in solidarity with us through their prayer and support to 'Raising Tomorrows Leaders Today'. Generous support from you, our ministry friends and prayer partners have enabled us to build a bridge of hope and 'let the little children come to Christ'.

Rebecca Stanley

Director - Child Care - India Gospel League



EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Easter brings delight, God's endless blessing & love and freshness of spring to the children and all people. The children in the IGL home wake up early in the morning and busily prepare for the Easter celebration. The children go to church wearing a new outfit. The church was completely decorated with lovely Jasmine flowers. The Easter day special message on Christ's resurrection was given by Rev. Samuel D. Stephens. Following this there was a cultural program in which many children took part in dance, drama & skits.



They enjoyed the Easter day program with much excitement. The celebrations included a special meal of Briyani rice, curd with Onion salad, dessert and banana. The children enjoyed the whole day with their friends. Most importantly the children yet again heard the gospel message and the hope that Jesus brings into their lives.





HOUSE PARENTS' TRAINING

Ongoing training for staff at all levels is prioritized. House parents, in particular, who work hands on with children in IGL homes care for the children 24/7. They are brought together from various homes both in India & Sri Lanka for a week of intensive training during the summer (at the end of the school year). This year the annual training was conducted from May 13 – 17, 2014. This training program was to cast vision, review commitment to working with children and equip our staff with knowledge and skills to serve the children. Sessions for the five days were facilitated by resource personnel on various topics pertaining to the objectives of the training and child development.

House parents who participated in this training have returned to their respective places of work much more encouraged and equipped. This is evidenced by the feedback they shared following the training.



“

I thank God for this opportunity to participate in this training. Every session was very helpful to develop our children and encouraged me to learn more about children. I dedicated myself to serve the children. I learnt to handle children’s problems more effectively.

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Stellarani

Dharapuram -Embracing Home



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I learnt about how the children would feel without their parents to understand them better. Also I learnt about the ‘Rights of every child’. All the session was very useful to me. I can apply these learning in my place of work to develop the children as future leader.

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Vaidegi

Musiri –Rebekah Home



LEADERSHIP TRAINING - MAY 2014

IGL conducted Leadership Training camp for teenagers for twenty days. Fifty seven teens came from different places throughout Tamil Nadu. For the first three days there was a Children Gospel Club (CGC) that had games, storytelling and action songs.

The Leadership Training started with devotion every morning at 5:30 for half an hour. The next half an hour, the teams were required to do some campus cleaning. Then, there was an exciting hour of gymnastics followed by clean-up and breakfast.



At 9am, a session for music was allotted where they learnt to play drums, keyboard and guitar. Then at 10:30am, there were type writing classes 'till 11:45pm. Next, there were drawing and tailoring classes that were assigned alternatively after tea break. During this time, the children explored their creative skills. The children split for lunch at 2pm and assembled for a session on life coping skills from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. This session was practical in learning and hence effective for their spiritual growth. Then there was tea break and sports till 6pm. Evening devotion was at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7:30 and finally, lights off at 8:45pm. Towards the end of the camp, an exciting time of trekking was scheduled. At the end of the trekking, the children enjoyed boating in a lake.



After a period of time, there were significant behavioural changes in some of the girls. For instance, girls who were disinterested in finishing tasks began to volunteer to do more. At the end of the camp, these same girls bagged prizes for a memory verse contest.

The whole leadership training was really very helpful for the children, especially when they discussed questions about life issues and were guided based on scripture.

Feedback from the children:

"I am **Boopathi** from Sharon home. I am attending this leadership training program for the first time. I liked the typewriting class very much because I never seen or heard about the typewriter. But this training helps me to learn the meaning and usage of the typewriter. I thank God for this useful opportunity He gave for me during this summer. From the Life coping skills class-es, I believe that I have sharpened my skills and can face more confidently."



"I am **Jeganathan** from Blessing home. Life coping class made me confident about myself. I always need to hesitate to speak and felt inferior. Now, I am made aware of myself. I will be an example to my friends and I will share with them that, which I learnt in this training."





PRAYER POINTS:

Pray for the students who attended the leadership training, to be a model for the other children in their homes.

Pray for the children who are newly admitted in the homes to get adjusted to the new environment, for their salvation and spiritual development.

Pray for the house parents to effectively discharge their duties among children as a result of the intensive training.

Please continue to pray for the health and protection of all the children.

PRAISE POINTS:

Praise God for His faithfulness which guided our children throughout the last academic year.

Praise God for the children who have scored good marks on their government exams.

Praise God for His guidance during Leadership Training and House Parents' Training.

Praise God for His care in protecting the children from sickness.

