

A MINISTRY THAT TOUCHES LIVES ABILITY AIDS INDIA INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2011



*When food is on every table,
All will know that Jesus is risen!
Then the poor of the world will feast
And their children will sing alleluia.
(Chorus of song by Weston Priory)*

Dear Friends,

Easter will be here April 24. HAPPY EASTER!!! For those of us who are church people, it means beautiful services and the message of the Risen Christ.

In this newsletter we have a wonderful treat for you in the account of Arthur Jansen, from the Netherlands, who made a recent visit to our ministry.

Because of the worldwide financial crisis and its aftermath, we have an unprecedented need for more sponsors. Eleven centers and ten children are currently sponsor-less. Please prayerfully consider whether you can help alleviate our current difficulty.

Love ever,
Beth (Elizabeth Verssen)

Dear Friends,

We were extremely fortunate and privileged to have our close friend and long-time sponsor Arthur Jansen from the Netherlands visit us. He came with his daughter, Izy, and we had the most delightful time with them!

Their compassion for the disadvantaged was palpable. It was a whirlwind visit but it left a deep impression on all of us. Thank you Arthur for giving us so much inspiration and encouragement!

We bring you an account of the marvelous visit enjoyed with Arthur. We are grateful to Arthur and his team for extending a helping hand and trying to support our Community Development Project at Aryanad.

Love and peace to all,
Connie Newton
Executive Director, AAI

***** A VISIT TO AAI *****

I am just back home after a short visit in March to Kerala with my daughter, Izy. I have so many wonderful memories that are constantly playing in my head : the natural beauty of Kerala (“God’s own country”) and it’s friendly people, the delicious food, the places of cultural interest, the chaotic traffic, the fun we had bathing and riding the elephant. However, the strongest memories are those concerning the AAI team, it’s investment in the empowerment of people and its projects in the field of community development.



The AAI team is a group of skilled and committed people, working very hard to achieve their goals. The leadership consists of Joseph Antony (the wise President of the Board), Connie Newton (the new, inspiring Executive Director) and Elizabeth (still going strong).

It was wonderful to meet a number of sponsored children. Besides providing them with a monthly cash stipend, books and uniforms, AAI provides them with basic health care, counseling and a host of other services. AAI also conducts wonderful, stimulating summer camps for the children. When you see the children, it is very clear: all of it works!



*Arthur & Izy with their sponsored children
(In the backdrop is the house he built for them)*



It was also very “enriching” to see how a Life Enrichment Center works. It is good to see that AAI does not forget senior citizens in a vulnerable position. David made a big impression on us, as he (with a dose of humor) stated that he was ready for his last journey!

Arthur, Connie & Izy at a Center

AAI's community development project is based upon a modern vision: not just helping people but helping people to help themselves, which has a more lasting effect. They encourage people to grow their own food, to breed their own animals, to start their small businesses. I shall never forget the happy face of the man who – with the support of AAI - started his own teashop after an accident that prevented him from continuing with his former job. People are encouraged to take responsibility for the quality of their lives and their environment.

A beautiful example is the rainwater project in the village of Aryanad. How can you fight for a better future without basic facilities as water supply? For poor people and for people living in rural areas, rainwater harvesting using roof top technology is the easiest and most effective way to address the problem of water shortage.



Arthur at the site of the rainwater project. In the backdrop is the storage tank

AAI is doing a great job and it can continue to do so only with moral and financial support. In the Netherlands we founded the Santhosham Foundation with the goal of supporting the valuable work of AAI's Community Development Project at Aryanad and as the chairperson of this foundation it is my constant endeavor to garner the maximum possible support for AAI. I do hope that people will support AAI in every possible way and help AAI to continue to help the disadvantaged and underprivileged.

Arthur Jansen



Help us change the world.....one child at a time

- Ø For \$30 per month a child or a senior can be sponsored
- Ø For \$40 per month a Life Enrichment Center can be sponsored
- Ø Make a special donation for any amount

Half-sponsorships are also welcomed

Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Phone:.....
Email:.....

Funds in any currency can be sent by check to Ability Aids India International at the address listed below. Kindly see to it that checks as well as non-monetary gifts which are sent by mail are registered. Those who wish to send checks in the USA have to make them out to our US organization which operates under the name – International Institute of Ability Advancement, 109 Slabey Ave., Malverne, N.Y. 11565-1521, USA

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