



HOPE CONNECT

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2019 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

hopehomecal@gmail.com

www.hopehomecalcutta.org



Beloved friends:

FROM ITS INCEPTION in 2003, the Hope Home Calcutta has been a growing transformational movement, impacting hundreds of lives, shaping destinies, and providing an incentive for individuals to live a life of dignity and honor, equipped, educated and empowered, having a deep-rooted faith in God! Christmastime provides us with the greatest opportunity to make the maximum impact and be a blessing to as many people as we can. December 2018, the Lord enabled us to exactly that! Here's what we were able to accomplish over Christmas:

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 15: Our annual Christmas Concert saw an overflowing crowd of over 400 people; for the first time, we had to make arrangements for LCD monitors outdoors so



that the people who stood on the roadside and in our field could get to witness the program! The children sang carols, danced, performed a Christmas short play, with the teachers too putting in a very challenging Christmas skit! We had an upcoming Christian singer, Rina Mall as our guest artist and the star attraction this year was the Bengali Christian band, Stephanites United (songs could be seen on YouTube) who enthralled the crowd with wonderful songs of worship and Christmas! We were also able to provide gifts to over 100 children after the

main event as part of the 'Christmas Tree' party!! Our *special V.I.P. guests* this year were terminally ill patients from the cancer hospital. This was the **first** time these children attended a Christmas Concert and heard Christmas carols and songs!



MARY COOPER (OLD AGE) HOME

FOR THE 16th YEAR, we were able to visit the Mary Cooper Old Age Home on December 20. Sadly, a couple of the folks there who have been part of this facility since



2003 died during the year. Our children sang Christmas carols, played the violin, prayed for the residents, distributed cakes and gifts (saved up from their own 'pocket-money' and even got a few of them -mostly in their 70s and 80s- to get up and dance! What a blessing to be a blessing to these elderly and lovely group!

VISIT TO THE CANCER HOSPITAL

CHRISTMAS-EVE we were able to visit the pediatric ward of the cancer hospital



across the street from the Hope Home Calcutta once again. Every visit to these kids-

some terminally ill- is emotional and brings back to focus, our relation to God: every breath we take and health we enjoy is because of the goodness, faithfulness and grace of God! We distributed gifts, toys and permitted food stuff to around 40 children! We were also able to visit the terminally ill (cancer) children housed at the **St. Jude Child Care Centre** after our visit to the hospital. The children living here are such a **WONDERFUL** group, totally oblivious of



their illness and future, singing, laughing, living and enjoying every moment of their lives! What a heart-touching experience these visits are for the Hope Home Calcutta family!

CHRISTMAS-DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

CHRISTMAS DAY community lunch on December 25 saw a group of over 250 people



join us for a time of (good) food, fellowship and fun time as we shared the *best* day of the year with the *best* food of the year with all these people coming from different religious faiths including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and from different social and economic backgrounds! This lunch provides us with an excellent opportunity of bonding with the local community, explaining to them the **REAL** reason of the (Christmas) season!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY!

TWO OF THE local community leaders (they represent the Hindu religious faith) approached us last December, requesting



us to help them organize a Christmas program and insisted that we begin with

prayers and a reading from the Bible! On **DECEMBER 26** and **27**, we took our tired bodies to these venues and celebrated Christmas with the local communities! The children played the violin, danced to Christmas songs, performed Christmas skits and sang Christmas carols. We invited well-known



Christian singer, Babita Peters to sing Christmas songs. Again, for many in the audience, this was the **first** time they heard Christmas songs and attended a Christmas concert! We invite all of you to consider spending *one Christmas* in Calcutta- experience a life-changing visit and be a blessing and make a difference!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES...

Some of the children at the Hope Home Calcutta are in need of regular commitment of support to enable them to live, study, be equipped and empowered and grow up in an environment of love and security. Most of these children, would never have a decent upbringing and no access to education, had they not been part of the Hope Home Calcutta community! Please consider getting involved and invest in the life of a child!

THANK YOU for being part of our extended family!

Dev and the Hope Home Calcutta family

Support for the Hope Home Calcutta should be sent to/checks made out to:

VERDE VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

406 SOUTH 6TH STREET, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326

TEL: 928-634 8166 (Please designate your gift for Hope Home Calcutta clearly)

ONLINE - www.vvchristianchurch.net

Donors in India- all donations, including online, are exempted from Income-Tax under section 80G through HDFC Bank. Contact us for detail