



HOPE CONNECT

JANUARY 2020 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

hopehomecal@gmail.com

www.hopehomecalcutta.org



Beloved friends:

CHRISTMAS for the Hope Home Calcutta community is a time when we endeavour to reach out to as many people as we can in the community in as many ways as we prayerfully can. Our joy during Christmas is in blessing people and sharing the love of God which He showered upon humankind that first Christmas when Jesus was born! Here's a glimpse of what kept us busy during Christmas 2019!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Annual Christmas Concert was held on December 14 and saw a swelling crowd of over 400 people pack our field! The children and staff presented songs, skits, Christmas plays and self-choreographed dance sequences! We had invited a local Christian youth band, Kobordanga Youth Fellowship to present contemporary Christmas songs!



Our Christmas Concert was made specially meaningful with the folks from the Mary Cooper Home and also children from the paediatric ward of the cancer hospital across

the street join us as our **Special Guests!** A new policy of the hospital did not allow us to visit the terminally ill children but their superintending oncologist went out of her way to grant permission for six of them to come and attend our Concert! The children



had a special treat at the end of the concert as we were able to give out more than **100** gift bags with candies and goodies to the kids.



This year we were also able to give out blankets and mosquito nets to the poor and needy living in our community!

STAFF FAMILY NIGHT

STAFF FAMILY NIGHT and dinner was held on December 19. This is the **first** time we were able to organize our staff family night. All of our staff and their families, as



well as the members of our Board of Trustees and their families were invited for this special time of team-building and bonding over a time of singing, fun-time and excellent food!

MARY COOPER (OLD AGE) HOME

MARY COOPER HOME is a 'must' for the Hope Home Calcutta family. We have been visiting the elderly folks out here since the inception of the Hope Home Calcutta in 2003. Every year, the children save up some

money designated for their food to buy Christmas cakes, fruits and toiletries for these



special people. As in the past couple of years, we were saddened that some of them, who have seen our children grow up over the years, left for their heavenly abode during the intervening months since we last visited them. This visit (as also the visit of the terminally ill cancer children) is an important object-lesson for all of us to thankfully appreciate and value our God-given lives and live a life of blessing to the less fortunate!

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH
CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH - our effort to reach out to the community living in our vicinity with a practical demonstration of sharing God's love over a good meal on Christmas Day saw



over 200 people from diverse religious faiths and different walks of life come and participate. We were blessed this year in a special way as many Christian families joined us in sharing the best day of the year with people who do not know much about Christmas and its true meaning! We especially appreciate our live-in staff led by Ruth for the hard work they put in to organize this lunch, including a visit to the local farmer's market at 5 in the morning! What a joy to be a blessing in the lives of so many people!

SHAH JAHAN-THE 'FERRYWALLAH'

SHAH JAHAN in Indian history was a Mughal ruler over India. Our Shah Jahan is



no ruler at all! He is our local 'ferry-wallah' –

someone who goes around house-to-house buying old newspaper and scrap, carrying it on his head and taking it to the local recycle shop where he sells his 'collection' for a pittance! Shah Jahan is Muslim and loves our children; although poor himself, he often donates meat for the kids on special occasions! He and a few others like him come from the far-flung villages and live in cheap rooms on rent and survive on very little. We were so happy to provide him with blankets and mosquito nets to end our year 2019 on a blessed note! What a joy to share in the joy of others, especially the poor!

NEW YEAR'S 2020



OUR NEW YEAR was welcomed at our beautifully decorated and brightly illuminated Church, St. Paul's Cathedral over a candle-lit worship service! The children loved the late night drive to Church from the Hope Home Calcutta and the early morning return!

Wish you all a very blessed, purpose-driven and successful New Year 2020!!

THANK YOU for being part of the extended family of the Hope Home Calcutta! We are blessed immeasurably! We appreciate your visits, letters of encouragement and emails!

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 clearly for Hope Home Calcutta)

ONLINE - vcc.churchcenter.com/giving

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