

*weltwärts Chronicle*  
*Partners' Newsletter – India*

weltwärts 



Welcome to the first edition of the weltwärts partners newsletter. Our aim is to send out a newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep our partners connected and informed about each others activities, report on previous events and encourage you to share your experience through your articles.

## Mure Memorial Hospital

### CLEFT LIP & PALATE CAMP:

A free Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery Camp was held in January 2013, in collaboration with Northern Cleft Foundation (U.K.) Rotary Club Nagpur West, Deputy Director Health Service, Nagpur and Mure Memorial Hospital. More than 120 people were helped by this free camp .



### HEALTH AWARENESS CAMP:

Through MMH Mobile Medical Unit NRHM Govt. Project an awareness camp was conducted at Ambada village. The Mobile Medical Unit team spread awareness about Personal Hygiene, about various diseases and different Gov-

ernment facilities to the needy people. Rt. Rev. Paul Dupare, Chairman of MMH and Director Mr. Vilas Shende were present for this camp along with MMH NRHM team.

### ARRIVAL OF VOLUNTEERS:

On 12th March 2013 Ms. Elena, Ms. Aileen, Ms. Sabrina and Mr. Tom arrived at MMH from Germany for 6 months as Volunteers. During these 6 months they will work in different departments of MMH.

### FREE HEALTH CHECKUP CAMPS:

Various free health check-up camps were conducted during January, February and March 2013 in schools, slums and villages in and around Nagpur. A total of 825 People were helped by these camps.

## Ecumenical Sangam

### Partnership-in-Action

Partnership-in-Action has supported and funded for the past nineteen years three projects, a Kindergarten Class and a Tailoring Class in Bamhani Base Centre and the ongoing training program to provide Village Health and Social Workers for the rural villages and urban slums. The new purpose built Sub-Centre at Gondwananagar has been fully operational since last spring providing a Clinic for the resident Trained Birth Attendant Nurse (TBA) who attends to the medical needs of the surrounding group of villages.



Partnership in Action

Registered Charity No. 1036683

### Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture and organic farming workshops for farmers took place during the second week of April in Bamhani. At the end of each workshop all participants received a certificate.



### ARRIVAL OF WELTWÄRTS VOLUNTEERS:

On 12th March 2013 Mr. Markus and Mr. Sven arrived in Nagpur from Germany for 6 months as Volunteers. Markus is responsible for Public Relations and Sven works on our Microfinance project. There are at present a total of five volunteers working for the Sangam.



### Mother – Child Health

The Sangam is starting a new project called Mother and Child Health.

**Aims and objectives of the project :** Improvement of mother-child health awareness. We are targeting 45 villages on matters of mother-child health, hygiene and diet.

Reduction in mother and child mortality close to ZERO.

#### Targets:

- Increase of awareness and knowledge of dealing with mother and children's health.
- Responsible family planning.
- Increase in the earning capacity of TBA by 50%.
- Income generation through Community Hall.

#### Role of Sangam:

- Information on Mother and Child Health must reach the village community.
- Involve village community through Self Help Group's.
- By Dec. 2015 at least one self-help group in every village .
- Organizing SHGs meetings in the villages.

#### Sangam, CRTDP, MMH



## Gyan - Shenbakkam

### A fairytale about wit, water and other valuables

At 4.30pm Priya, Shalini, Laurie, Lukas and I have set off on our daily itinerary to the ADWM-School in Shenbakkam carrying, as always, a donkey-load of equipment. The pupils that see us approaching from afar instantly stampede towards us, sporting their chirpy smile, and relieve us of the water tank and the two brooms that are part of our heavy load. Today is no ordinary day. Our children are excited, swarm into the classroom and quickly form a large circle that, surprisingly, needs no help creating. It is extraordinarily silent.

Everyone is eagerly awaiting something to happen. Then Priya, our Indian project manager, welcomes our special guest. Karthik is one of our trust members and owns a small kiosk around the corner that is frequented regularly by many of our girls and boys who buy nuts, biscuits and Indian sweets. He has come to our monthly "Job Class" to speak about his education at school and to clarify future job possibilities.

After a warm welcome, Karthik starts speaking. In Tamil he tells the children that he left school after finishing the 10th Standard, completed his Master of Arts in Tamil and, after ending his short career as a photographer due to health reasons, opened a kiosk in



Shenbakkam. Even though he had spent seven years learning English in school, he is not capable of conversing with Laurie, Lukas or me because of his lack of knowledge of the language. He criticises the Indian educational system, which is primarily based on repetitive learning, and emphasises the importance of our tuition programme that boosts the pupils' chances of acquiring a well-paid job. As they cross-legged begin to wobble around Karthik continues with a story. The children end their short-lived conversations and our guest once more becomes the centre of attention.

Once upon a time there were three men on a boat in the middle of the Indian Ocean who all originated from different countries. One of them had been born in China, another had spent his early days in Japan and third was of

Indian descent. After an exhausting day at sea, they were floating around in the vast ocean gazing at the starry sky when suddenly a huge, dangerous-looking ghost appeared out of nothing. With a thundering voice he spoke, "What do you think you are doing navigating my waters? Leave or I will kill you". This was so frightening that they jumped up and rushed to a distant corner of the boat. They begged, "Please, leave us in peace. We never did you any harm". The ghost simply replied, "Fine, you have one chance to save your life. You shall throw something valuable overboard. If I manage to retrieve your item from the deep waters of the ocean, you will be liquidated. If I return with empty hands you shall be spared". The three mariners had no choice. They had to oblige. The first up was the Chinese. He took of his father's golden ring and tossed it into the ocean. The ghost dived down and after a short time returned with the ring. He eradicated the Chinese. Next up was the Japanese. He had found a treasure box on board that he heaved onto the railing and dropped into the water. The ghost reacted quickly, dived down, and found the treasure at the bottom of the sea.



He brought it back up and wiped out the Japanese. The last one to try his luck was the Indian. He had no gold at his disposal and could not find anything valuable on the boat. The only valuable thing he possessed was his drinking water. He poured his drinking water into the salty sea and told the ghost, "Give me back my drinking water. It is the most valuable thing I own". The ghost set off to scout the salty waters for drinking water. He searched all night and returned to the boat the next day without the water. The Indian was the only one who survived and could see his family again.

All this time, the children had not uttered a single word. All eyes were on Karthik, the pupils were eagerly expecting him to explain his message. "There are many foreigners who enjoyed good education at a young age, acquired knowledge and can now lead a financially stable life. You are clever enough to do the same. Just like the Indian in the story you are capable of using your brain and

developing ideas. Do not lean back but give it your best shot. Take advantage of all the possibilities that are given to you in life in order to be able to lead a good life". The 32 attendant pupils give Karthik a big round of applause. Laurie, Lukas and I clapped, too. We did not understand anything but we are amazed by the way our guest kept the children quiet for so long. So, on our way home we, for once, are the ones asking questions and want to know what Karthik told the children.

### **Comprehensive Rural Tribal Development Programme ( CRTDP )**

CRTDP has a Rehabilitation Centre for young people who are either infected or affected (means a close family member is infected) by HIV/AIDS. These students have to face a lot of discrimination and often have problems at regular colleges.



That is why CRTDP in collaboration with DIZ in Germany runs the rehabilitation centre

where young people between 16 and 21 get free education (e. g. nursing class or several mechanic classes).

In the afternoon the CRTDP weltwärts volunteers offer other classes, including a Handicraft Class, a Computer Class and an English Class.

20 to 25 students attend the weekly English Class by Johanna and Marie. There they learn beginner's English:



different tenses, vocabulary, writing letters and understanding texts. Even though the students are on different levels the lesson works quite well, since the students are very interested and help each other. Sometimes small tests are written and at the end of every lesson a game is played, for example hangman with English words.



## Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church

For Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (GELC) the year 2013 marks the beginning of cooperation with DIZ e. V. by hosting the first volunteers from Germany in the frame of the weltwärts volunteer program by German Government.

The first two volunteers arrived here in Mid-March 2013 for their 6 months volunteer service with GELC. After some intensive efforts of learning Hindi the two were supposed to start their engagement with the youth works of the Church in two different places – namely Ranchi and Rajgangpur. Ranchi, being the capital of Jharkhand state as well as administrative headquarter of the GEL Church is a city with more than one million inhabitants, whereas Rajgangpur is a smaller town approximately 30 kms from Orissa's Steel City Rourkela.



From September this year more volunteers will come and support the Youth Work in Chaibasa as well as assist in the reform pedagogical Martha

Kindergarten in Ranchi. To get a better understanding of all the procedures, rules and regulations of the weltwärts volunteer program our Church sent a small delegation to participate in the mentor's seminar in Nagpur organized by DIZ in March.



But as the volunteers engagement mainly lies in the field of our church's youth work it was felt appropriate to also prepare the minds of our youths to get a better understanding and clear idea about what would be done and could be done with the volunteers in their midst. Therefore, a two-day workshop had been organized in Ranchi and a good number of about 30 youngsters from the different places where volunteers would be engaged in the future actively participated in the the programme.

One aim was to get a better understanding about the background of the young volunteers coming from

Germany.

Many participants wanted to know why German youths are taking interest to serve as volunteers at faraway places instead of concentrating on their studies and career. But also the background information about the German Educational System and the weltwärts program itself was new for many and interesting for most of the participants.

During group sessions the participants worked out what needs the society, but esp. the young people are facing in their different places and how to address these issues by an active youth work with the support of our German volunteers. And so, many new ideas came up of what could or even should be done by the youths and of how to involve the volunteers to benefit from their skills and motivation.



It became quite obvious that the fact that young people from faraway Germany are willingly coming here to help the youths organizing themselves and addressing social issues, motivates our local youth members to participate in the various activities.

Now, our two first volunteers have started their works at their respective places. In Rajgangpur the youths engage their volunteer Christoph in the following activities: regular group discussions (practice of spoken English), construction work (boundary wall on the compound), campus cleaning, music classes, sports, exposure programs to the surrounding villages, theme-afternoons (for example about 'life in Germany'). Every morning he assists in the pre-school class education of one English medium School on the Compound.

In Ranchi the youths have one big aim. They are having a big plot allotted for youth works and a building which had been unused for many years. Since one year now they have started to shift maximum of their activities to that building to fill it with life again. But still, there are many things to do to make this building a cozy place. So far walls and even the floor are not plastered.

The iron frames of windows and doors are all rusted over the years. Every afternoon a group of youths including the volunteer have started gathering to free the iron frames from rust and paint them before the monsoon time enters. Then slowly they want to start plastering and painting the walls. There is still much work to be done.

Katharina also teaches German and English and also here there is a regular meeting of youth for discussions about different topics of interest and planning the various events and activities of Ranchi Youth Fellowship.

**Rev. Idan Topno**  
**Volunteer's Mentor, GELC**



G.E.L. CHURCH



Imprint:

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Newsletter prepared by Romana Porey on behalf of the DIZ and its partners.