

muktiPulse

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Top Right: Suwarna with the children she is ministering to in Mumbai.
Above: Suwarna with her husband and their son.

SHINING OUTSIDE MUKTI'S WALLS

Salt and Light in Mumbai



Suwarna came to Mukti as a young, timid girl with her mother, not knowing what the future held for her. She was adorable, cute and caring and won the hearts of everyone around her. Whenever Suwarna would see the pressing needs around her at Mukti, she would walk extra miles to help.

Suwarna is now happily married and has a beautiful son. Today, Suwarna is the founder of Kiran Kalyan Sanstha, an Educational Day Care Centre which nurtures, educates and gives hope to children from 2 to 15 years who are from the Warli Tribe, in Palghar District, outskirts of Mumbai. She has immersed herself in the community, raising the standard of living for those around her who are deprived, neglected and ignored.

The children at the Day Care Centre receive a main meal and some fruits everyday. They are also provided with a safe environment and girls aged between 11 to 15 years are taught bag making skills which gives them vocational training to help them in their future.

Suwarna had a dream to create a healthy, independent community of people among

the Warli tribe, giving them dignity and hope and this dream is being fulfilled.

Many young children from this tribe are forced to join their parents in brickmaking which enables them to have only one meal a day. Most of them live below the poverty line and are deprived of education and medical care. How different are their lives now that they are able to be educated and empowered.

Praise God that Suwarna's life right from her childhood to adulthood has been impacted by Mukti and she in turn is now contributing to society by her efforts to help children who are poverty stricken by giving them more opportunities.

Friends, your timely contributions to Mukti have been making an impact in the lives of our children and women who in turn are shining lights in the world outside.

MUKTI BRIGHTENING THE WORLD FOR AKASH & RUPUM

"Good Morning!" Two lovely bright faces came running to greet me at the doorway. These were Akash and his little sister Rupum. They seemed new to me as I hadn't met them when I last visited the Mukti Gurgaon Centre. This is one of Mukti's Expansion Homes where children of labourers are rescued from child labour and introduced to primary education, which enables them to experience a smooth transition into the local schools.



I thought, wow! what a welcome and a few delicate fingers grabbed my hand and led me to the front hall where about 30 boys and girls come everyday to receive education through a play method. Mrs. Saroj Lal conducts preparatory classes for these deprived and marginalised children who have no other way to receive education. Both their parents have to leave home and travel long distances by foot to work hard on construction sites with little income that is not enough to feed the family and where education is a distant dream.

One afternoon, Mr. Ajeet and Saroj Lal were walking through a construction site. Akash's father and mother were both working hard on the building in the heat of the day. It would be unsafe to keep their little ones at home by themselves so Akash and his little sister Rupam usually accompany their parents everyday. It has been a culture in that area that by the time the child is about 7 years old, they are forced into child labour until their old age. They cannot dream of anything other than this. Ajeet and Saroj, saw these two little ones, Akash (5) and his little sister Rupam (3 ½) sitting on the road and playing with sticks and stones. Their hearts were moved and they decided to speak to the parents and introduce them to the Mukti Gurgaon Centre where the children can receive a better life through education. The offer became more attractive as they were told that the education is free. The labourer couple beamed with joy and the next morning, before the centre opened, the visitors were at the gate waiting for an entry.

Akash and Rupam have added beauty to the centre as they come with enthusiasm everyday, walking 4kms back and forth from their little home to the centre like most of the children who are part of the class. They are given nutritious food everyday and are

taught other life skills which they wouldn't learn otherwise.

What a joy to see these children blossom and grow each day as they learn new things. Pray that they would continue coming to the centre and would progress in life by going to regular schools and eventually make an impact in the society.

"Do not remember the former things...Behold I am doing a new thing...I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!" Is. 43:18 & 19

- Lorraine Francis



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

What a joy to celebrate Women's Day on 8th March with our 300 women who were made to feel special. Ingrid from Australia shared a beautiful message and reminded all of us that we are equal in the sight of God. Pandita Ramabai worked hard to fight for women's rights and her major emphasis was giving quality education to women to make them stand on their own feet. As you can see in the picture, our blind ladies got actively involved in the celebration and entertained all of us by their songs and skits. Each of them were presented with summer coats and a delicious dinner was served under the stars. Praise God for creating women who are special in God's sight.



Above: Ladies at Mukti who are blind enjoying the celebrations on Women's Day.

SPECIAL STORIES FROM THE SPECIAL SCHOOL

- INGRID TEN HOOPEN

During this year one of the aims of our Special Needs School is to include a Vocational Skills programme. This includes activities designed to encourage the older students to broaden and deepen their life skills.

The students are learning skills in each of four groups: cooking, gardening, sewing and paper bag/card making projects. Cooking is very popular with the students. Not only are many able to make and serve chai at morning tea time they have learned how to cook some other popular Indian foods as well. In time this vocational skills project will include Indian donuts and other snacks that can be sold in the Lydia store.



Recently Mukti had a visit from some representatives from the World Cassette Outreach of India, Bangalore, a Bible distribution organisation that blessed the children, blind and older women with audio New Testaments (solar powered) and the younger girls and those with disabilities with audio Bible story players in a soft toy (lion or lamb). What a blessing to especially those who can't read or see. The girls at our school were so thankful for this precious gift.



LYDIA STORE and ANOTHER EMPOWERED WOMAN!

Manjeeri (Manju) is very happy working in her small business, a shop serving customers both from inside and outside Mukti. Her little shop sells such items as soap, washing powder, biscuits, shampoo, and even has a fridge with cold drinks and also a coffee machine. It is a very popular shop and many people visit her to purchase items and to say hello. Manju smiles and goes about her work with dedication and diligence. She loves the Lord and loves her job.

Manju came to Mukti at the age of six. Until then she had lived all her life in the hospital in Pune where she was born. Being born with a disability to her left arm and leg Manju's mother could not take care of her and her father had died. The social worker at the hospital said to her mother that Mukti Mission would take care of her daughter.

And so Manju came to live at Mukti. She joined the Morning Glory Family but was very sad, not playing with the other girls. As she grew up she joined other families and now lives in the Home of Love, and is very happy there. Her room is beautifully decorated.

Her life changed at the age of 18 when she accepted Jesus into her life. Margaret Williams, a long-term missionary at Mukti, led prayer times with the girls and encouraged Manju to always read the Bible. At one of these prayer times Manju accepted the Lord. From being an angry and stubborn girl, she now found peace with the love of Jesus in her heart. She was changed and others noticed the difference!

Manju was educated up to 10th Standard and then joined the Mukti Reception staff where she worked for four years. She went



to school outside Mukti to complete her 11th and 12th Standard. Vaishali, her Guardian in the Orchid Family, encouraged her to study hard and gave her advice on what to do.

Glenda deJ from Australia took a special interest in Manju and encouraged her to apply for a loan to open a small business, the shop. Glenda C and Vaishali also encouraged her, teaching her how to run a shop.

In 2008 Manju was given a microfinance loan to open the shop and purchase items to sell. She has already paid back her loan and now makes a profit. Manju keeps accurate records of all her transactions. Running the business has taught her how to handle money, treat customers, and about stock control and bookkeeping. The shop has made her very happy.

The shop is called "Lydia Store", named after Lydia in the Book of Acts who was a seller of purple cloth and who worshipped the Lord. It was built by Doug White and his sons, Jamie and Mitchell, when the Nelson family spent a year at Mukti in 2008.

Manju loves singing and in her spare time loves to walk around, with the aid of her crutch, and talk to people. "Mukti is my home!" she says. Her favourite verse is Jeremiah 29:11 — despite her physical disability, the Lord is unfolding a wonderful plan for her life, with a future and a hope!

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

LAUNCHING A NEW PROJECT

Priti Sadan Renovation



Above: The ladies who call the Priti Sadan home (photo courtesy of David McCullagh).

These are the women who live in the Priti Sadan. Most of them are elderly now. They came to Mukti many years ago, some as long as 50-60 years ago. They came as young wives, young mothers, even as pregnant women. They were abandoned or cast away by their husbands and in-laws for many reasons. It may have been that they could not bear sons to the family; or because of their Hindu faith, the husbands wanted to have more than one wife and felt that their present wives are not good enough; or it may have been a dowry problem. There are many reasons for them to take refuge and solace at Mukti. That is why Mukti is there, to provide a safe, haven for these destitute women in the name of Jesus.



These ladies have kept Mukti going by working hard from dawn till dusk. Some of them worked in the kitchen from 4am to provide meals for the Mukti family, some worked as nannies in the nursery, some as house mothers and some in the hospital as ward aides. Now, in their latter years, we want them to be comfortable.

The Priti Sadan means a lot to them, it is their home. They have great attachment to



these buildings, with the high roof and large open spaces. They say they want to go to heaven from here. Lorraine says "I can hear their voices ringing in my ears saying, 'Please don't shift us anywhere else!'"

There are large holes in the roof, which hasn't been a problem in the current drought. However the monsoon will come, and as the ladies keep all their worldly possessions in the shelves by their beds, we need to do something! The toilet block has fallen into disrepair with doors off their hinges, cisterns falling off the walls and a general lack of maintenance.

The NZ Council has decided to start fundraising to renovate this lovely old building. We are currently in the tender process and are yet to decide how much work we can afford to do. It would be absolutely wonderful to be able to renovate the entire area, but it will require significant funds. We are encouraged, however, as we have had a great beginning. We already we have had some very generous donations with \$10,000 being given so far.

During the International Conference I spent much time sitting in the church staring at the verse at the front. "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated, they will renew cities that have been devastated for generations." Isaiah 61:4 I thought about rebuilding, restoring and renewing. It is very easy to think that it is more important, more spiritual even, to be rebuilding and restoring lives. However, we can't say we care, and still allow these women to keep living in the buildings that they love in their leaky, rundown state. Let's see how much we can do to improve their living conditions!

If you would like to be part of making these women more comfortable, please mark your donation Priti Sadan.

OTHER PROJECT UPDATES:

Barve Stuti Wall - Completion of this wall continues to be stalled by two disputes over the boundary, and will be completed when these are resolved. Please pray the barriers to resolving this dispute be removed now.

Water Filtration - Iain Johnson, a water specialist from Australia, is at Mukti for six weeks. He plans to purchase the equipment for the water filtration and purification plant and oversee its installation.

Mamta Sadan - Lorraine reported that the "Mamta Sadan ladies have joyfully moved into their new place. We had a nice staff devotion time this morning with tea/sweets and lovingly remembered you and the NZ Council for this very generous and enormous gift to Mukti." We will have some photos for you in our next edition.

QR Code for the NZ
Mukti website



DONATIONS

Bank Account Details: ANZ Bank,
Wairau Park 06 0294 0001729 00

For Electronic payments please
include your name and details gift is
for. Cheques can be sent to the PO
Box below.

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