

# muktiPulse

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## A BRIGHT AND SHINING STAR

BY JENNIFER ARCHER  
(VOLUNTEER AT MUKTI INDIA)



Anita is a bright young lady who has been at Mukti since 2004. Her mother was a psychiatric patient and her father was physically handicapped. They were unable to care for Anita so at the age of four she was brought to Mukti. When Anita first came to Mukti, she missed her father very much. She was placed in the nursery at first but then joined the Orchid family (a family group at Mukti). Anita's sister Rekha lives with special needs and also came to live at Mukti five months after Anita. Her parents decided to move Rekha to Mukti due to housing and schooling facilities for those living with special needs. Anita is very close with her sister, so as soon as Rekha came to live at Mukti Anita requested to be moved to the Violet family which is the home for those living with special needs. Anita is said to be very dependable and helpful in the Violet family. She has grown up with these girls over the years and enjoys taking care of them like sisters.

God has turned Anita's weeping into dancing and He has brought her into His marvelous light. At the age of eleven she accepted Him as her Saviour. She is now seventeen years old and attends the Marathi Medium

Junior College in 12th Standard. When she completes her studies at the Junior College, Anita would like to go on to study psychology at University and work with those who have special needs. Many say that Anita is very intuitive when it comes to working with those living with special needs. It is Anita's dream that once she becomes a psychologist, she would like to share with God's people all over the world her testimony about how Mukti empowered her to be salt and light in the society.

Anita is a very studious young lady. She was very proud to show me the awards that she had received for her high results in school. When asked what her hobbies were, she said that she likes to read story books, but her favourite thing to do is to read newspaper articles. When she finds an article that she likes, she cuts it out and glues it into a notebook so she can re-read the stories whenever she likes. So far Anita has compiled four notebooks full of newspaper articles that she liked! Anita brought the notebooks for me to look at and I was very impressed!

Anita's favourite part about Mukti is the

fact that she has been able to get a good education, she has a secure place to live, gets to hear the Word of God, and is able to grow spiritually. She also loves the friends she has made at Mukti and the caring house mothers. Anita is studying hard for her board exam to pass 12th standard but would appreciate prayers that she is successful when she sits her exams. She would also like prayers for her older twin brothers who are staying in hostels.

Since their father passed away Anita and Rekha are no longer able to go home for the holidays and rarely get visitors. Anita was very happy when one of her brothers recently came to visit. Anita is a very special girl with a heart for those who may normally be looked down on by society. It was an honour for me to have the opportunity to sit down and get to know more about her. I believe that by God's grace and with her determination she will go far in life. God only knows what He has in store for this bright young lady!

*"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11*

# SHINING OUTSIDE MUKTI'S WALLS (FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS)

- Anupama Dongardive

I consider myself fortunate to have been placed in Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission when I was 10 months old. At the age of four, I joined "Everlasting Family" (one of the family group homes) at Mukti. I was loved, cared and accepted by all the older sisters in the family and since I was the youngest in the family I soon became the center of attention. They all began to call me "choti," which means "the little one." I am grateful for a home like Mukti and a bigger family that holds loving bonds still today.



At an early age I was aware of the spiritual realm and became desperate to see and hear God. I gave my life to Jesus at the age of eight and committed to serve Him all the days of my life. God spoke to me, He said, "You would be a Mother to many." It didn't make sense because I was young and needed a mother myself. But He had placed a seed in my heart and it began to grow through many challenges, pain, and loss. I was blessed to have the privilege to study in a good convent school in Pune because someone sacrificially gave towards my education.

I was led to Youth With A Mission by a friend who always teased me for being passionate about being a missionary. I have now served as a full time missionary with YWAM for 25 years! There I met my late husband, Rev. Silas Dongardive. Together we shared a passion to care for orphans and widows, and so we founded Vanitashray, an NGO ministry in 1999. It still continues to care for orphans, widows, and destitute women in and around Pune today.

In 2001 my husband went to be with the Lord due to a major stroke. I was devastated and left to raise two young daughters alone. Alisha was 6 years old and Sunayana was 2 years old. I went back to the Lord in my despair and He spoke to me again; "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you." Isaiah 54:10. It is by His amazing grace and mercy we began to live "one day at a time," trusting and depending on Him completely. In His faithfulness we have lacked nothing but have seen His promises being fulfilled in and through our lives.

While raising my daughters and serving the Lord, I finished my B.A. (Bachelors of Arts) and my M.S.W. (Masters in Social Work). I then completed my Post Graduation in Human Rights. I was recently appointed as Executive Director for Maharashtra State by All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties and Social Justice, Delhi. God's

faithfulness has brought me thus far and I pray that much more of Him shines in and through me for such a time as this. I want to be an influence of His Truth and to set the captives free in every sphere of society. It is a great honour to serve the Lord in the given capacity!

*"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:14

## UPDATES FROM MUKTI INDIA

- Lorraine Francis

Praise God for a successful session of VBS led by Pastor Johncy from Mumbai! The theme of the VBS was "Sing for Joy." The girls who attended this 10 day event learned new action songs and enjoyed short stories using props. At the end of their time at VBS, the girls exclaimed, "VBS should go on for a month! Not only for 10 days!" We are thankful that the girls showed such enthusiasm for what they were learning and pray that their interest to learn about God continues!



Rain beautiful rain! Praise God that He has sent rain to replenish our dry land and wells! We have been experiencing a very dry season in our area. Please continue to pray that our Heavenly Father will provide us with enough rain to meet our needs for irrigation, drinking, and general use. We are confident that God will supply our needs through continued prayer.



After nearly a year of renovations, the ladies of Mamta Sadan were thrilled to move back into their home. Praise God for the generosity of many friends who gave to this worthy cause. With the funds available, the Mamta Sadan home underwent a complete renovation including new beds for all residents. The ladies of Mamta Sadan were well pleased with their new surroundings and happy to be back in their home.



On June 20th we were able to celebrate the dedication of two new tractors Mukti was able to purchase thanks to donations from many generous friends. We have been praying for over three years for new farm equipment and praise God that they have come! The large tractor will be helpful in leveling the ground at the farm so that when the rains come and when we irrigate, the water will be evenly distributed. The small tractor will be helpful in plowing the ground. Both pieces of equipment will help to increase the productivity at the farm and enable us to have more provisions here at Mukti.



## IAIN & RUTH IN INDIA

Iain and Ruth Johnson, Australian volunteer consultants, recently returned from an 8 week visit at Mukti India. Iain has been offering his time, skills and knowledge at Mukti as a Technical Consultant for several years now, and this trip brought the additional blessing of Ruth who was able to draw upon her many years experience working as a community nurse to bless Mukti's hospital.

Much of Iain's time was devoted to the water project. Access to clean drinking water at the Mission has been a pressing issue for many years, and this trip Iain worked alongside local Mission staff to order and install water treatment systems at key water sources and secure a water tanker to transport the clean water around the campus. Iain also coordinated the installation of a solar power generation system to provide the Mission with access to more reliable and cost-effective power. In addition to this, Iain also found time to consult on the purchase of a polyhouse which will be used to grow winter vegetables, on the new renovation work at Priti Sadan, and on an array of other projects at the farm, Bartimi Sadan (blind ladies home) and the Primary School. All this in 40+ degree weather!

Ruth's time was spent in the hospital reviewing and working with hospital staff to improve patient care protocols and procedures. Thanks to her recommendations Mukti's hospital is now better equipped to serve the sick and elderly in the community.

***On behalf of everyone at Mukti Australia and Mukti India, we wholeheartedly thank Iain and Ruth for their service.***



## CREATIVE LIVES - Kate Carter

Martha came to Mukti in 2000 when she was just 8 years old. She joined Lotus Flower Family and built close and loving relationships with her house 'sisters' and 'mother'. She also threw herself into the life of the Mukti community and embraced the many creative pursuits offered there, such as music, singing and dancing, handicrafts and tailoring. Martha enjoyed attending Mukti's School along with the other girls, though she struggled a little with her studies, and in time came to discover her aptitude was more in the sphere of creative arts than academic study.

Mukti's Creative Arts School exists for girls just like Martha – bright and creative girls who either don't wish to, or cannot, forge their future through academia. In India, girls and boys like Martha are often left behind with little hope for their future beyond menial labour vocations. Academic streams of learning are exalted above all others, and the education system is geared towards left-brain learners, who excel in logic, rote learning and who perform well in standardised testing. Things are changing, but students who are right-brain learners and excel in creativity, imagination, and holistic thinking often still struggle to find their way through school and into meaningful and rewarding vocations. Taree Zameen Par (Stars in the Sky) is a great Bollywood movie that highlights this issue, and well worth a watch!

Mukti offers creative young girls lots of different opportunities to explore their creativity, find things they are good at, and feel proud of who God has made them to be. The students at the Special Needs School make candles and paper crafts as part of their vocational training program. At the Creative Arts School, Mukti girls learn skills such as sewing and jewellery making – skills that they can use to produce items that can be sold and provide an income. Currently the Creative Arts School produces necklaces, earrings, bracelets, bags and iPad covers, which are in turn sold both in India and Australia.

Why is Mukti so dedicated to vocational skills training? Because vocational skills lead to income generation – and for disadvantaged girls and women in India, the ability to earn your own income makes all the difference. Without your own income, you are dependent on others to survive, and therefore your life and your future is insecure and tenuous. Dependence makes girls and women vulnerable – to poverty, homelessness and deprivation, but also vulnerable to the exploitation and abuse of those upon whom you are dependant. Women who earn their own income are less likely to experience domestic abuse. But apart from this, women who earn their own income have a measure of control over their own lives, and can exercise this control to protect and promote themselves, and their children. Women usually invest a higher proportion of their own income in their families and their communities than men, which means a bigger investment in the education, health and nutrition of future generations. In short, having the vocational skills to earn an income is life changing.



But back to Martha! That bright and creative girl who was given the opportunity to explore her creativity is now in charge of Mukti's Creative Arts School! The school currently has around 25 students and Martha spends her days

teachings other girls the skills that will empower them to pursue their God-given potential in life. Martha is also a house mother to a family group of teenage girls (take a moment to imagine what that might be like!). She's an amazing young woman – and if you'd like to meet her and hear more of her story then come along to one of our 'Encounter Tour' (previously known as Deputation) events in Victoria, New South Wales and Canberra – see back page for more details. You can also purchase items made by the Creative Arts School through our online shop at [www.mukti.org.au/shop](http://www.mukti.org.au/shop)

# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## THE MAMTA SADAN LADIES RETURN

- Carol Bagrie & Penny Eaton



Above: Ladies returning.

One morning recently, I opened up the computer to find that the ladies were home. I found myself rejoicing that, after what had become a year-long journey, they were back. They had been living in the Priti Sadan but had felt dispossessed of their own home with its private garden. And, oh happy day, here they were back.

The Mamta Sadan (or House of Kindness) is for women of any age with mental health needs and require specialised care. The ladies operate just like a family, the more able ones, helping the others with their washing and dressing. Vidya and Sara are in charge of the Home and with Sara's flare for art there is lots of time spent being creative.

Right: Thank you God.



A typical day starts with reading/hearing the Bible together followed by discussion, a time of worship and then prayer. They are so compassionate and empathise readily as for them Mukti is a safe haven and they have all known terrible suffering. When it is their turn to take the monthly residents' prayer day in the Mukti church, they love the microphone and raise the roof with their tambourine playing and singing.

Then comes exercise. Indian women can easily touch their toes to their nose and they marvel at the inflexible Western women who cannot! Their favourite pastime, is art. Coloured pencils, paints, glue, scissors and glitter come out to make cards of encouragement to give to Mukti residents. They adore colouring in and pin it up around their beds to decorate their small

personal space. Jewellery making using beads is another favourite, and Christmas decorations start being created very early!

The 2 ladies who are blind particularly like playing catch with an array of balls of differing sizes, weights and textures creating a rhythm of sounds. This is often accompanied by shrieks of laughter as balls go wide, miss their mark and bounce off the walls.

These are a bunch of inspiring women and they have seen or endured such shocking treatment, that we can hardly imagine. They are such great over-comers and it is we, who have been privileged to be part of making them more comfortable.

### Let's meet some of the ladies:

Right: Reema.

Reema speaks excellent English, she loves singing, praying and watching movies. Her favourite movie is "The Sound of Music".



Above: Kamal.

This smiling lady is Kamal, she has 2 daughters and a son, and also has a number of grandchildren. She is a quiet, gentle lady who loves going to stay with her family during the holidays. Reema and Kamal are sitting on their new beds funded by generous NZ donors.

Right: Nisha.

Nisha came to Mukti in 1992, she has no family. She is another quiet member of the Home of Kindness family, and loves to help the other ladies. She enjoys singing and prayer.



**(You can be part of their lives by sponsoring one of these Mamta Sadan ladies, please contact the office if you are interested.)**

## THE PRITI SADAN RENOVATION HAS BEGUN

We have been thrilled by the wonderful response to this renovation project. From wondering whether we would be able to manage to reroof the large building, we have been able to agree to the entire overhaul and we are grateful to India who has agreed to fund 20% of the cost.

The project started recently with prayer for protection of the roofers, working high up off the ground and we were thrilled to receive photos of the progress shortly afterwards.

You can still be involved in this awesome project to make the living conditions for these women comfortable. Please mark your donations "Priti Sadan".



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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