

THE NEW GENERATION

Delhi , 2009-2010

This has been a great season for our church. We have had a glimpse of what God wants to do through us. Doors have opened all around the city as we've begun to move out. We've learnt God is not interested in a one man show; it's all of us together that make the difference.

We seek to live out the heart of God in our city and nation and serve and bless people around us.

Here are some highlights from the last year!

SAHAITHA

Street Kids Centre

Sahaitha School continues to enjoy the good wishes of its neighbours and friends. In April 2009, a total of 45 students were registered, out of which 40 students attended the school regularly. There has been a slight drop in numbers because many families have moved out of Saidulajab due to the rise in house rents



Some of the bigger boys in Sahaitha

The exciting new development is that this year our school was chosen to be one of the centres for the examinations. This is a great privilege and it was good to have students from seven other NGOs with our students in Sahaitha. Fourteen of our students from different church works have just finished their examinations and wait with baited breath for their results.

We are also very proud of our first ever student–Sapna– going for the Board (Class X) exams. She used to struggle at home because her parents wanted to marry her off (even though she is under-age). We counselled her and Ruth visited her mother for long discussions. She is happy now as she has been allowed to finish her schooling.

Since the beginning of May, some of the older girls joined Mihi (the Atulya production unit) where they learn to make the famous Atulya rose clips and broaches out of ribbons, and earn well. One of our special need kids–Shalu (12 yrs)-who is deaf, is particularly enthusiastic and has proved to be quite good at it.

Bengali Basti School



Schoolchildren singing at assembly

Our school in Vasant Kunj is doing well. The number of children has gone up to 47 and the regularity of the attendance is stabilizing.

There are many new additions in the play group with 23 little kids and a very tired teacher; we need more help!

One of our students from class III and one from class IX has appeared for the open school exam in Sahaitha. We hope a whole lot more will do next year!

It is great because the children are beginning to show interest when Rajan, Betsy, Jemmy and Jaipal teach. They have also

been introduced to computers. As you can imagine they are very excited about computer classes. It has been for them, coming as they do from very deprived lives, technology coming into their cardboard huts.

Jaipal and Jemmy are involved in giving special tuitions and computer training in the afternoons to young adults. Every Friday afternoon we gather young people for some Spoken English lessons and discussions on moral values and life skills related to relationships, attitudes and responses to life. The attendance for this varies.

In February, Betsy and Jyoti started an adult literacy class for women every Friday. Ten ladies come to experience their first ever classes in school.

NEW WORK! Devli Gaon

Devli Gaon is an area that many of the shoeshine boys, who were part of our beginnings, come from. Rajan who has established the school in the Bengali Basti is looking to start a new school here. The school will provide education for children of daily wage labourers who have migrated from Bihar in search of work in Delhi. These families are in a desperate situation of poverty, with hardly any work opportunities and very low income. Many families like these opt to sell one of their children into child labour/brothels so that the others can survive. Education is a total impossibility for their children. A basement has been rented for the school. As of now, the school has opened and there are already more than 45 students with many more asking to join.

ATULYA

beauty for ashes

The heart of the Atulya Hope Home is to welcome girls into a normal family environment where they can be healed and restored. In April 2009, two of the girls who were previously in the home, Sheetal and Renuka moved out and began to live independently. This was a big step for them. Sheetal started her 3 year Fashion Design course at South Delhi Polytechnic, which is an excellent opening for her to study and get a good job. At the beginning of December last year there was a beautiful marriage celebration for Renuka and Mukesh. With some lovely wedding presents they have set up their new home and are now busy settling into married life.



Renuka and Mukesh in their new home

Currently, Angela, from a very abusive background is with us. She works as a housekeeper in the mornings and studies in the afternoons. Quick to smile and giggle we have loved having her around. In June her father will take her home to be reconnected with family.

We are praying for 5 new girls to move into the home by June this year, and with them another carer!

We are working on expanding Mihi, the small production unit we established in 2008. The aim is to provide women with vocational training and tailoring employment, which will equip and support them for their future. The unit is for women in the local slum area as well as for those in the Atulya Hope Home.

GB Road

Last year, a new work was established in GB Road, one of the neighbouring streets to New Delhi Train station. This road is the centre of prostitution in Delhi. There are many brothels here, filled with ladies and young girls, from many different places in India.

By June 2009, a room had been rented to start a medical unit and by the beginning of November we were able to open our apartment for the ladies to come visit our medical unit or just to come and chat. Our centre is now open Monday-Friday from 9am till 5pm.

The team working there has expanded during the year. Hasina, a very street smart woman with a big heart joined as full time staff member in June. She has a lot of contacts in the area and knows pimps and ladies in different brothels. Together with our nurse Apraise, Hasina makes daily visits to the brothels to see if anyone is sick and needs medicine. We have also been able to help several ladies receive treatment either from the local government hospital or, where it's more serious or they have needed to be admitted, taken them to a Hospital that we network with. In early March 2010, we found a doctor who has a heart to work with the ladies in GB road, which is a big development for the centre and hopefully will meet the needs of the ladies.

A highlight of the year was our Christmas lunch. We invited some of the ladies we have gotten to know over these last few months and about 35 said they would come. We had around 27 ladies and 5 children come for the lunch which was very encouraging.

RAFA HOME

In July 2009, Rafa extended into two apartments; with a big hall, space for a library and enough rooms for class rooms; everyone feels like they have a little more breathing space.

A house full of boys is never quiet or boring is it? The school of 7 boys, now has 3 full time teachers. Three of the boys have just finished their National Open School Exams for classes III and V and 4 of them are currently finishing their internal preparatory exams in the Rafa School.

Khupsiangn, a 16 year old boy from Manipur, joined the home in January of this year. His mother and father passed away a few years ago. He and his siblings were passed on to relatives. Since he was the only HIV+ child they did not want the responsibility of looking after him anymore. Health wise, the CD4 count of the boys has increased and there is a steady increase in weight. It has been a good year with fewer to the hospital for most of the boys. Chaman, however, is not doing as well as the others; we continue to support and help the boys to enjoy life to the fullest.

Besides school, the boys also have time for recreation and outings during the year. They also love to help around like painting the house in different colours. Unfortunately, they all have different favourite colours and so each room is different! They also enjoy helping out in different programmes organised by others in the community. Pankaj is particularly interested in sound and has been an amazing help in music events organised by others in the community or for our Sunday meetings. He may become a famous DJ one day!

The boys enjoy the different volunteers who come to teach and be with them in the home; though it is sad to say so many goodbyes. There were several volunteers in 2009.

Commotion

a sound in the nation

For Commotion, this season was very busy and extremely challenging. Thankfully our team grew to include Betsy (half time worker) and Dexter and Roger (volunteers). We were grateful to say the least! The sad thing is they were all with us on a temporary basis.

We established the Youth City Council (YCC) this year as a vehicle for change. Our aim is to inspire students to stand up for what is right and make a difference for good. We get schools to become members of the YCC. A core group, chosen by schools, come together to discuss issues of concern in schools, in our society, and our cities; and then implement plans of action together.

The YCC was inaugurated on 7 November 2009. Towards this we organised an interschool competition, 'Step up 2 Make a Difference' on 31 October 2009. YCC core groups chose dancers, musicians, artists, poets, writers, and photographers from their schools to compete. Each core group selected a theme they felt was relevant for their peers such as Peer Pressure, Anger, and Stress. We were amazed at what was produced.



YCC Inauguration

At the inauguration prizes were distributed and the first YCC magazine was launched!

We are now organising workshops with every member school around a relevant issue. This will lead up to an inner school campaign, and will end with an inter school carnival during the festive season this fall. We aim for 50 YCC schools by the end of 2010.

We've discovered a way to bring college students into a place of awareness and responsibility is to involve them in exploring issues of concern through creative forms and expressions. Since there is a university festival season

which university art societies practice throughout the year towards; we have established an annual Commotion Festival.

Last year many students wanted to participate and we had to turn many down. We will aim for a 5 day festival in 2010 so that none are turned away. Colleges from outside Delhi will be invited to participate as well.

After a full house for all four of the above events and other smaller events Commotion is pretty well known amongst school and college students.

We continue to explore ways to have influence in the corporate sector. We will launch an anti child trafficking campaign in collaboration with other likeminded groups during the Commonwealth games. We continue to meet with older girls from Sahaitha. We continue to raise awareness about current issues of concern and have already organised a few events around issues such as atrocities against the North East community.

Munirka

Munirka, an area in Delhi, is full of young people from the North Eastern part of India. Without family, in a hostile city in which they are treated like foreigners; and no help to be found, many of them are jobless, addicted to hard-core drugs, and very hopeless. Our church has been looking for ways to reach out to these young people and Munirka has been on our minds.

Awmtea and Sylvie, amongst others, feel they have a calling in this area. In the beginning of 2009 they packed up and moved into Munirka with a desire to build community and bring the hope of the Father. As they began to build relationships we came to a realization of the immense brokenness and desperation of these people.



One group performing during "I have One Life to Live"

To introduce Awmtea and Sylvie to Munirka, and establish ourselves as a church there, we organized a live music hangout 'I have One Life to live' there on December 5. The location was in the middle of one of the most crowded streets in Munirka. Around 100 people came, some families with kids; many were drunk and high on drugs. This was a time to celebrate God, life, and Christmas. We had a quite a few good musicians (some from Munirka!). Awmtea shared a message of hope through his own testimony; and we ended with some worship songs by our worship group.

Awmtea and Sylvie have now rented a flat to gather people, build relationships and offer them a place where they can experience God's touch in their lives. There are three weekly meetings with around 10 to 15 people coming regularly. Our goal is not to provide a detox or rehabilitation program, but rather to help them turn their eyes off their problems with addictions, and onto Jesus.

Seminar and Retreat

An important pillar of our church is training and equipping. We meet once a week in two different groups; one for mainly English speakers and one for Hindi. The teaching is based on where we are as a church and the season we are going through at the moment.

During the spring, about 20 people have been intensely engaged in a Prophetic Art workshop, in which the prophetic ministry and the use of arts have been explored in many different ways. We hope this will unleash the prophetic amongst us in a greater measure. Soon, a second group will start and in August we will continue with Part II of the course!

Annual Retreat

On 31 October 2009, 70 adults and children from Delhi and Dehradun came together for our annual retreat in Delhi on the theme 'Let Your Kingdom Come'.

With 7 sessions of prophetic teaching by Martin Hannington and Sanjiv Ailawadi as well as great times of worship, and yummy food, we all wished it was longer. We were challenged to live in the reality of the Kingdom of God in our midst and demonstrate the Kingdom with our lives.

Cross Currents

As a follow up on the debate of 'The Kingdom of God and the Emerging Church' (mentioned in last report) 'Cross Currents' (a panel discussion) was organised on 29 November 2009 in the India Habitat Centre.



Panel Members at Cross Currents, India Habitat Centre

Discussions included 'How can we serve within a post modern context? How do we become missional and reaching out? What should we do in plural cultural urban contexts? What about the role of the church to influence our city? Are we meant to be alternate communities?'

A panel of 7 members from varied backgrounds and experiences of social work, church and mission (C.B. Samuel, Dr. Santosh Mathew, Sanjiv Ailawadi, Victor Nazareth and Tony Johnson) business world (George Abraham) academic (Joy Pachuau) deliberated on the theme of the seminar. About 300 people from different churches, organisations and institutions attended the seminar and many participated in the discussions.

"Cross Currents" was followed up with a Round Table Discussion hosted in our meeting place on March 27th, 2010. For this time, invitation had gone out to people that had shown an interest in taking the discussions further. It was a very good day as people from many different churches came together to listen, learn and discuss how we can live out the Kingdom of God in the midst of us.

We give praise to God who has given us this ministry of hope and reconciliation, and thank each one of you for standing with us in loving prayer.