

BODHI News Archives January-March 2011

March

Some wonderful news from Sister Cyril at Loreto College, Kolkata, India regarding Youth Buddhist Society teacher training. 'We have rarely had such a good and cooperative group. Everyone seemed to take to the training like ducks to water ... We would be very happy to have them back as they were so eager to learn and so ready to take in whatever we could give them.' More.

Congratulations to the JEEVAK Trust, BODHI's local partner in the Undernourished Nomadic Tribes Children's program in Pune, India, which received an award on International Women's Day from the Maharashtra Government Women and Child Welfare Board for the best work done in the Pune region. More + photo.

Here's a Times of India story about the SNEHA school in Arunachal Pradesh, one remote school that has changed the lives of refugees by teaching their children to survive, thrive and dream.

Funds in memory of Jim Meyers keep rolling in. His widow, Charlotte, has requested that the USD600 received over the last two years be used for school supplies or play equipment. Half has been sent to SNEHA School in northeastern India, which educates indigenous children, for a table tennis setup and fire extinguisher. The other half will go to Moanoghar School & Orphanage in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

In search of the lost clan. In his dedicated attempts to preserve Jumma culture, BODHI adviser Kulottam Chakma recently travelled from Australia to Burma searching for inaccessible Chakma communities. The Jumma are indigenous Bangladeshi people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Please see Kulottam's ground-breaking Trip Report, or Chakmas of Arakan for a shorter version. Images of the Chakmas of Burma are also available.

BODHI supporter Professor Frank Schofield died last month in Brisbane, Australia. Frank met Colin and Susan in the early 1990s and was very supportive; indeed one of Colin's early PhD proposals (to help test a vaccine for rheumatic fever then under development in Brisbane) evolved after Frank read a comment in an early BODHI Times newsletter by Mr Chaudhary, lamenting the high rate of rheumatic fever in Bihar, India.

'He worked in Papua New Guinea as Assistant Director for Medical Research in 1958 after teaching in the London School of Tropical Medicine and research in Gambia,' said colleague Professor Roy Scragg. 'He provided an academic presence that facilitated the development of the epidemiological culture within the medical profession in PNG. He left PNG to join WHO in 1965 and undertook research and teaching in Ethiopia. His main contribution to world health was his discovery and confirmation at Maprik that tetanus vaccine of the pregnant mother would prevent the development of neonatal tetanus.'

Sir Isi Kevau, Executive Dean & Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea, said: 'As we take steps in PNG to improve Medical/Clinical Research here, we are encouraged by the pioneering work done here by people like Professor Schofield and others. We will continue to emulate them.'

January-February

Food, medical care and education for Gosawi tribal children and income generation for their families in Pune, India slum here.

Kathmandu Valley, Nepal traditional healers refresher/training course report and photographs now available here.

Report and photos in for Denis Wright Memorial Scholarship award ceremony in Moanoghar, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.

Brig Gen Ahmad (Retd) has sent Kohinur Akter's acceptance speech.

3 recipients chosen for Denis Wright Memorial Scholarships in Bangladesh, one a working girl child and student in Dhaka, the other two students at Monoghar school in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. More.

Mass health promotional event in Nepal in memory of Jim Meyers. On January 5, 2011, BODHI's local partner Green Tara Nepal held a mass health promotional event in the isolated Tamang community of Bhandarkharkha, Nepal. One of the event's aims was to attract people who might not otherwise be hearing perinatal health messages. More.

NGO accounts management training. BODHI is funding two people from the Youth Buddhist Society in Mainpuri, India to attend an NGO accounts management training seminar in Delhi, put together by Mr Susanta Chakma of SNEHA. Cost: about USD/AUD300.

Grassroots education in UP, India. BODHI is funding ten days of teacher training and all associated costs for the Youth Buddhist Society's 40 teachers. Training will occur in March at Loreto College in Kolkata, as recommended by Mr Susanta Chakma of SNEHA. Cost: USD/AUD 2000-3000.

United Nations indigenous human rights report (PDF 428KB). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, S. James Anaya. Addendum: Summary of cases transmitted to Governments and replies received.

Denis Wright Memorial Scholarship for Underprivileged Female Working Children in Bangladesh. BODHI has instituted three scholarships to honour BODHI Director Dr Denis Wright. He specialises in South Asian history and culture and requests that the scholarships be for female education.

Welcome aboard, Michelle! Michelle Engelsman is BODHI's 1st Development & Mobilisation Manager. Michelle is an Australian Olympic swimmer and a campaigner, passionate about human rights and the environment. She has been a BODHI volunteer for years, helping with publicity and maps for the website. Her new duties include publicity and online fundraising. Contact Michelle at www.me.net.au and www.twitter.com/MEngelsman.