

NEEM TREE TRUST UPDATE JUNE 2005

Most of the money raised by **The Neem Tree Trust** last year was used to purchase a new vehicle for the home, a Tempo Trax Cruiser Classic, which replaced their old jeep, that had reached the end of its useful life and was continually breaking down. The picture below shows some of the boys in the Tempo together with a photo of the boys showing their appreciation!



Last year our friend, Jeremy Surr who lives in Sheffield, showed our Neem Tree Trust film of the boys to some friends, who happen to include the parents of Michael Vaughan, the England Cricket Captain.

They were so moved when they saw the boys having fun, playing cricket and getting on with their



Ken "hitting a six" before the cricket equipment was sent out to the boys!

lives in spite of their disabilities that, together with friends, they purchased some cricket equipment. Michael Vaughan himself kindly autographed each item, which we sent out to India by courier. The boys are passionate about cricket but they usually play with very limited equipment and, as you can see from the above picture, they were absolutely over the moon with the gifts, which comprise bats, balls, gloves and spring return stumps.



Patricia Kinzett, who has been a friend of Kathy and Ken for many years and is a fellow Trustee of the Neem Tree Trust, spent two weeks at the boys' home with Kathy last February. She is pictured below with some of the boys.



"What an amazing time I had staying at the boys' home in India. The boys were great - full of fun and laughter and always happy and willing to show me how to play their games. The wardens and Dr Chelliah and his wife, Princess, made me feel so welcome that I very soon felt as if I had been there for months instead of days. I learnt much about Indian traditions and brought back with me many incredible memories. I shall never forget the special time I spent in the tranquil community of the SCHAT Boys' Home, Tirunelveli".



Essakimuthu was affected by polio when he was young and lived at the boys' home for most of his life. He was educated at school in Palayamkottai, and in his spare time had the opportunity to learn music. He has now returned to his village and is living a productive and happy life. He runs a small shop as well as playing the tabla at his church. He is just one of the many boys who have benefited from the support given to them by Dr Karuna Chelliah, the Board Members and the wardens of the home.



Immanuel is one of a number of other boys at the home who is enjoying learning to play the tabla.



Pilome, Sam, Johnson, Justine, Suresh, Campell and Sophia, who were wardens at the home last year, pictured under the neem trees on the campus of the boys' home with little Jasmine, daughter of Sam and Pilome.

As polio in India has almost been eradicated there are fewer families with polio-affected children seeking help from Dr Karuna Chelliah and his fellow Board Members. He is therefore opening the gates of the home to children who have mild cerebral palsy and to orphans of the tsunami disaster, which had such a devastating effect in the state of Tamil Nadu. This little boy joined the home during my visit in January/February this year. His name is Anthony Raj and his smile shows how happy he is to be one of the newest residents of the home.



Last year BML Print Management, Trowbridge helped us launch a new venture by designing greetings cards with illustrations, which had been sketched the boys. The cards have been very popular and we still have some for sale. They are sold in packs of 8 cards @ £3.00 per pack. If you would like to make an order please use the attached form. There will be no charge for postage or packing.



IF YOU BELONG TO A GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE BOYS' HOME AND SEEING OUR FILM, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOLD A COFFEE MORNING OR YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS, I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU!