

Shoshana Christmas Letter 2017

Dear friends of Shoshana,

Still in India at my project visit, filled with countless impressions, I started writing my annual report. Until this letter reaches you, I will be back home in Pennsylvania and Christmas is coming near.

The journey from America to India is twice as long as from Germany and honestly I am not looking forward to it. But once I am there everything is forgotten and I am happy to see Bindu, her husband Anil as well all our projects and coworkers.



To see all those happy and thankful people is worth all the trouble I go through. Almost all of our nurses and sewing instructors have been with us from the beginning and are highly motivated. All our projects are running well and to my best satisfaction. To me it is a miracle, and I am not just saying so.



Our donations have been about the same as the last ten years, but nevertheless we continuously start new projects. This is only possible because the local societies took over some of the costs. The other reason is that our sewing instructors are taking in offers together with some former students. It is a follow up education for them and brings in much needed money. This makes them more independent from our donation money.

That is actually our goal so we can go on and help in other areas. Some of our instructor ladies moved already two or three times, others go in the evening to nearby villages to teach even more women and girls stitching and embroidery.



After finishing the class in about one year we help them to get their own sewing machine. Currently there are around thirty women who are waiting for one since we were a bit short on money.

Even though they pay for half of the sewing machine it is quite an amount. A regular sewing machine costs about 90 US\$ and an electric one with zigzag stitching can cost as much as 130 US\$. For most the women this is unaffordable but very much needed to become independent.



Thank you to all our friends who donate on a monthly basis. Many times we use our one time donations to buy sewing machines; hence they are just as much appreciated.

Last week we visited a slum area outside of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The government had created an artificial village with small huts for about 7000 people however most of the infrastructure is missing. A young man had read on our website www.shoshana.org about our Medical Centers and had asked me to come by and check out if we would be able to help there. He is working with some other organization in schooling and youth work and told me about the desperate

need for Medical Help especially for the children and elderly people.



Anthony, the young man, had some people gathered who were looking at us with big eyes and hopes for help in form of a Medical Center. It would be a much needed relieve for them if a nurse would provide first aid care.

This is a situation where I would love to help immediately, but Bindu reminded me, that thirty women have been waiting for quite some time to get a sewing machine. So we will wait until our finances are in better shape, but surely I would start rather earlier than later. God knows about the matter and He has been helping us all these years so I am positive he will keep on doing so. All the honor and Thanks be to HIM! He has done miracles over miracles and sometimes I am speechless and just happy, like a child enjoying Christmas.

This is what I wish for all of you. May the joy in Jesus coming to Earth overrule all the sadness and hardship we or others close to us experience sometimes in our lives. GOD is with us.



His is the Power and the Glory for ever and ever.

With my Heart filled with Thanks and Joy I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Gods richest Blessings for all of you!

With lots of LOVE,

Embi (Martha)

Together with Bindu, Anil and all our Co-workers and all the Shoshana Members