



Happy Christmas

આનંદી નાતાલ



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Dear Gyula & Agi,

CHRISTMAS is here once again ! It is a time to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our lives. It is a time to re-emphasize the Christmas message of Hope, Justice, Peace, Love and Joy. It is a time to remind ourselves that the focus of Christmas is the Crib, the Child Jesus born in our midst to redeem us. Yes, Christmas is a time for change !


HOPE, says the poet, "is eternal in the human breast". It is at the heart of any change. Things will not change if we do not have the audacity to Hope ! Familiar words indeed. They peal like bells..... but in India, during this past year, we have seen plenty of violence, very specially, against Christians and other minorities. Those who are at the receiving end, still wait in Hope for a better tomorrow.

ACTION is change in praxis. Unless we get involved, take a stand for Truth and Justice, be proactive in responding to the hate, prejudice and violence that engulf us, we will never bring about change. This past year has demanded that we not only become more active but more articulate against the issues that plague us and be more available to the people who need us. It has been a series of activities all through : protest rallies, workshops, seminars, debates and so on. Actions do speak louder than words. The overriding theme of the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus was that "each one of us becomes a fire that enkindles other fires". This will never happen in a vacuum or when one is in a dormant state.

NEWNESS is the obvious outcome of any change. A breath of fresh air. We depict it in our new logo for the ESP. Children in solidarity, turning around a revolving earth. They do so by supporting each other with a myriad of colours. Unity in diversity ! And as they do so, the fire that symbolizes Hope, Justice, Peace, Love and Joy.... gets enkindled. This is what the ESP has been and meant to thousands of children these many years. Our logo too has gone through dramatic changes.....this new one, we hope, will capture in more meaningful ways, all that we stand for, all that we dream of.....

GRATITUDE is a Christmas sentiment. We are grateful for the generosity and sacrifices which has brought about much change. You have accompanied us on this journey. This would not have been possible without you. This Christmas, our prayer will be one of Special Thanksgiving for what you mean to us. We also pray for your families, friends, your colleagues and for all that you do, wherever you are. Thank you !

EDUCATION for Change is our motto. Our desire to be a small but meaningful intervention in the lives of children who come from poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities. Education which will help them grow to become world citizens, where there are no barriers, no divisions, no hate, no prejudice, no fighting.....Where they will be able to hold their heads high and walk in freedom as children of Mother Earth. This is our Hope ! This is our Belief !



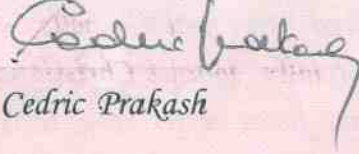
We will soon enter a new year. A year, in which all of us look forward to seeing many changes across the world. We pray that these Hopes are not belied. It is also a year designated by the United Nations as the 'International Year of Reconciliation'. It is a time to have the courage to say "Sorry", to "Forgive" to "Heal" yes, we do need CHANGE; but each one of us has to BE the CHANGE we want to see !

May this Christmas Season be the beginning of this CHANGE.....A change for the better ! May the New Year 2009, see its realization in every possible way. Many blessings to you and your dear ones !

We look forward to hearing from you.

With our gratitude, love and prayers,

Your Brother,



Cedric Prakash

Christmas 2008

Please note : *If you have been sponsoring a child / children through our ' Education Sponsorship Programme', the Annual Progress Report /s is / are enclosed herewith. Thanks once again for your sacrifices and solidarity !*

Please note :

Donations to the EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME may be made by cheque / draft, payable to :

GUJARAT EDUCATION SOCIETY

which is a registered charitable organization : No. Guj.-366/Ahmedabad

