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## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

### A WORKING VISIT – ELSBETH AND TANJA

What a warm and generous welcome we received when we went to stay for two weeks in the Kelaniya orphanage!

It was a pleasure to be able to spend a number of days together with the sisters and the children. It made us feel as though we really belonged there! Eating, singing, doing chores, laughing and playing games... all we saw were happy and cheerful children who looked so well in their neat clothes. They also get more than enough healthy and tasty food with lots of fruit. It was so good to see that, thanks to the support of our foundation, they are doing so well... it made us so happy!



One of our visits was to their school, where we also received a warm welcome. It was good to see that everything was well organized and the children really loved it when we shot films and took photographs.

The girls from the orphanage can follow computer lessons and where necessary, extra lessons to keep them up with the others. They also receive support in dealing with the traumas they have experienced, which is quite often necessary. For this, a psychologist comes every week and dances, sings, draws and talks with the children. This is very important for their future development.

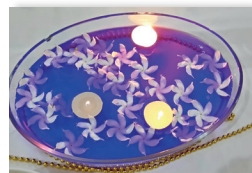
We also had some interesting discussions with the sisters – what a group of loving and cheerful people they are. They perform all their tasks without even a thought for themselves. We have a great deal of respect for them. During our visit, we also went to the other orphanages and it was nice to be able to spend some time there too.



The regular school examinations are now finished, and the Christmas holidays have begun.

The children have the whole month of December off and while we were there they started preparations for the Christmas festivities. The Christmas tree was decorated and we heard the girls singing Christmas carols. On the final evening of our visit, they had decorated the dinner table with candlelight and before we sat down to eat, the children presented a lovely Christmas play for us! What a wonderful way to spend our final evening.

Our farewell feast was very moving and we will not forget it easily.



**...WHOEVER SAVES A CHILD SAVES THE WORLD...**



## ALMS GIVING:

A nice tradition in Sri Lanka is 'Alms Giving'. Whenever there is something to celebrate people like to share, like bringing something nice or even a complete meal to others less fortunate.

We experienced this tradition in two of the orphanages.

It was very memorable!



## YASANTHI:

In the course of our working visit we saw that Yasanthi (who is recovering from heart surgery) was doing quite well. She had been back for a check-up and happily, everything was positive (although she still needs a lot of medication). It is also nice to see how the sisters and the other girls care for her. During the meal, at 8.00 pm every evening she has to take her medication. She always keeps a careful eye on the time... with the help of a nice wristwatch she was given as a present!

## POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS :



In recent months, we have had the pleasure of showing a number of Powerpoint presentations. For interested parties we would be happy to offer such a presentation.

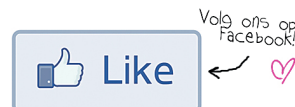
These present aspects of the history, religions and way of life in the beautiful island of Sri Lanka... and of course, our three orphanages. Should you wish to organize a presentation at your school, association, church, service club etc. do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We will be happy to come and arrange one.

## DONATIONS AND THE TAXMAN!

Since 2014 the opportunities for claiming tax allowance for donations have been altered. You can find more information on this subject on our website: [www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl](http://www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl), or you can contact our treasurer.



WITH OUR BEST WISHES  
FOR A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND NEW YEAR!



**OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS,  
GIFTS AND SUPPORT DURING 2015!**

With warm regards,



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in Pamunugama

 **Katupota Children Home**  
in Katupota

 **SMI Child Care and Development Center**  
in Kelaniya