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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024 – IMPRESSION WORKING VISIT FROM JANUARY 23RD–FEBRUARY 6TH

On arrival in Sri Lanka, we were welcomed by Sister Amatha's brother and he took us to the home in Kelaniya. All the children and the sisters were waiting for us outside. What a lovely welcome. We were so happy to see them all again. After 5 years!!



VISIT OF THE AMBASSADOR:

At half past 10 the ambassador arrived: Mrs. B. Horbach and employee Mr. H. Bergwerff. The children were wearing their most beautiful dresses and their hair was beautifully done. They were warmly welcomed and given garlands of flowers. The sisters had placed tables outside on which items were displayed that the children had made themselves: cards, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, embroidered pillowcases and napkin rings. Everything was examined in detail. One of the girls welcomed the Ambassador and Mr. Bergwerff, in English. Afterwards, all the girls performed several dances. In the meantime, the Ambassador asked all kinds of questions. Then they were offered a tour of the home. Finally, there was tea and cake. They were very impressed with what the sisters have achieved. They expressed their appreciation to Sister Amatha and our foundation. They find the home to be beautiful and clean. But above all, they are very impressed with the fact that the children are so healthy, clean and happy. And that there is such a pleasant atmosphere in the home. We were very pleased that the sisters received this appreciation. What a pleasant and special visit!



IN THE HOMES:

We received a very warm welcome in all the homes. We enjoyed dancing, playing games and singing together. We had brought puzzles, games and boxes of loom bands. Together, we made bracelets from these. When we work together like that, you can see that the children are enjoying themselves and a bond is created between us. They taught us some Sinhala words and how to count to ten. We taught them a few Dutch words. In Katupotha, after dinner, the children took us into the garden and we admired the countless stars in the sky. And then we also saw fireflies in the garden. It was just like a fairytale, so beautiful. Fortunately, we can speak English with the sisters. We discussed how the children are doing and of course all kinds of other topics. This way we can learn a lot about life in Sri Lanka.



SEWING WORKSHOP:

In Ja Ela the chapel has been transformed into a real sewing workshop. We were very impressed by this. They are now sewing polo shirts for a company, where these shirts are worn as company clothing. It's marvellous to see what they are doing and it's so good that they get such great assignments. They also earn quite some money from it. They bought 2 new sewing machines, on credit. Sister Amatha indicates that it is good for the girls to pay for the machines themselves. It gives them accountability and that is important to learn as well. We helped them with cutting the shreds off. The girls also cooked delicious food for us!



TRIPS:

We visited the old Buddhist temple in Kelaniya with a few girls. Everything was beautifully lit, because it was Poya festival. This is always celebrated extensively in January.



Sister Francisca invited us to her brother's wedding. This was very special to experience. We received a very warm welcome and they were very pleased that we had come. Family members came to greet us and tell us how much they enjoyed having us there.



Sister Joanna invited us to lunch with her parents. Her father is a fisherman. After lunch we went for a short boat trip across the lagoon to the sea. The nature in Sri Lanka is so beautiful! We received a very warm welcome from her parents and grandmother. Two more sisters came along. It is nice to see that the sisters have such a good bond with each other. And that their parents are also so concerned with the children in the homes. They regularly receive dried and fresh fish from sister Joanna and Francisca's parents. Both fathers are fishermen.



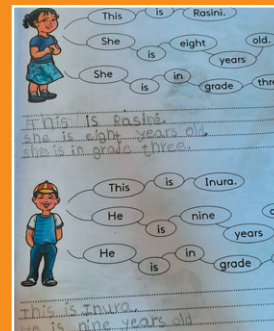
NEWS:

We spoke extensively with Sister Amatha about the ins and outs of all the homes.

Because so many children live in Kelaniya, there is extra help there.

*An English teacher comes 4 times a week, a psychologist comes 2 times a week and a mathematics teacher comes 2 times a week to provide tutoring. He works with small groups, 3 to 4 children at a time.

*School will not start again until February 5th. Normally they would start in mid-January and the exams should have taken place before Christmas. But the schools are still not running as they used to. There is still a shortage of paper, so schoolbooks are very expensive.



LAST DAY:

And then the last day arrived. Together with Sister Rafaela we went shopping with a tuk-tuk for stuff for our stall, which we use at markets. The children went back to school today. When the children came home, we had a nice afternoon, playing games and singing lots of songs together. After dinner we were spoiled with gifts, beautiful homemade necklaces, earrings and bracelets. Of course we put them on straight away. They all shouted: beautiful, beautiful! We crocheted a heart and a lucky doll for all the children. And then it was bedtime for the children and we had to say goodbye... that was a very moving moment. After much waving and kissing, they went to their bedrooms. How we enjoyed our stay with the children and the sisters. It was very special to stay in the homes and experience their way of life. We experienced two very special, pleasant and educational weeks!



MORE INFO?

Do you wish to read more?

There is an extensive report with photos and videos on our site:
www.stichtingnederlandssrilanka.nl



With kind regards. the board:

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Our four children's homes in
Sri Lanka are situated in:

