



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation.*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa).

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## **Newsletter No. 3 June 2004.**

The holiday season is now over in Goa and the monsoons have started. All but one of our volunteers has returned to the U.K. to recharge their batteries and work to earn sufficient money to enable them to return. Hazel is at present 'holding the fort' retaining our contacts in Goa as well as working seven days a week mainly in the Care Home/Hospice.

We have been approached by other needy organisations (in addition to those we are supporting) for financial and practical help but have decided that, due to financial constraints, we must restrict our activities to the projects mentioned in our last newsletter.

The present position on these is:

1. Christobelle. We arranged for Christobelle to visit a dentist but he was unable to help due to the severe state of her teeth and ill health. Our volunteers arranged and accompanied her and her parents to the GMC hospital where she was admitted for three days to assess her condition and remove her rotten teeth. Unfortunately it was reported that due to the fact that she weighed only 18 Kgs and was suffering from muscle wastage and serious malnutrition she would be unlikely to withstand an anaesthetic and the operation to remove her teeth was postponed. We have supplied Complan to her family in order to build her up and increase her weight to the required 25 Kgs. This will be a lengthy process. Her father Peter was declared fit for work and with our financial help was able to secure a job in Pune which should ensure the family are able to cope with the every day housekeeping. Hazel makes regular visits to ensure all is well.
2. Starting Point. The work required to enable them to start the second classroom is now complete and there will now be 20 children attending the school when they return from their break at the beginning of June. We were able to finance this work and will provide the necessary funds to pay for the teacher, transport and meals for the additional class. Hazel will pay weekly visits to maintain contact and provide help if needed.
3. Candolim Boys Home. In addition to the equipment mentioned in our last newsletter we have subsequently provided stainless steel rat proof food bins, stainless steel kitchen shelving and additional recreational equipment. We will renew contact with the home in October, assess their needs, and if necessary make further improvements to their premises.
4. Childline. We offered financial help to Childline so that the family at risk could be rehoused in rented accommodation but they declined our offer and requested that a house be purchased and given to the family, which we felt was not in keeping with our aims even if we had the funds available.

5. Tivim Care Home. This has become our major project, as the Church is unable to continue with the limited financial assistance they were affording. Hazel is helping the two nuns seven days a week and appears to have taken the plight of the children to heart. I understand she catches a bus at 6.30 am arriving at Tivim at 8.00 am and does not return to her apartment until 7.30 pm. If there is a need for her to be there earlier or later she sleeps at the home! That is dedication for you! There are now ten children whose ages range from one month to eight years. In view of the loss of revenue from the church we decided to make ourselves responsible for the financing of the entire project, which will amount to £500 per month. In addition we have provided funds to redecorate the eight roomed home both inside and out at a cost of £225. Hazel tells me that the work is well under way and that it has made a great improvement to the general well being of the occupants. I am advised that at a recent meeting between Dr. Mina and the Bishop of Goa the latter has promised that there will always be two nuns assigned to the Care Home one of which will be Sister Jessie who is at present on a course learning to care for those suffering from the HIV virus and Aids. He has also advised Dr. Mina that the church will donate a plot of land on which a purpose built Care Home / Hospice can be built. Hazel is hoping to go and see the land shortly but understands that it is quite extensive and is at present being used as a smallholding. It will take some time for the transfer of the deeds of the land, preparation of plans to be submitted, and for planning permission to be arranged but our target to see this venture materialise within three years now seems possible – providing we can raise the necessary funds. An approach was made to the Express & Echo, the newspaper serving Exeter and the surrounding district, which published an article covering the front & page 3 of yesterday's issue (May 31<sup>st</sup>), which has already generated interest. Maybe some of you could approach your local papers to run a similar article?

In addition to the newspaper appeal we are continuing to raise funds by way of House to House and Street Collections as well as holding 'Anjuna Market' sales and making presentations to Rotary Clubs, Women's Institutes etc.

We have received very encouraging support from many well-wishers who have sent donations but we must continue to encourage regular monthly donations by Standing Orders as our commitments to our regular projects can only be made in line with our regular monthly income.

Sue Loose and friend Wendy from Birmingham have been putting their heads together to find ways of raising funds and are considering a gig, coach trips to second factories, a fete and holding plant stalls at garden 'open days'. We wish them and anyone else offering support every success and if anyone requires publicity material (photo's, brochures, collecting boxes etc) we will be pleased to supply them.

If you could spare the time it would be appreciated if you could contact your local Supermarkets for permission to hold collections in their foyers – we will provide the collecting boxes and literature.

If you would like to hold street collections in your local towns we will be only too happy to advise you of who to contact and how to go about it.

Please note that our email address is now [admin@novisurvat.org](mailto:admin@novisurvat.org) and it is hoped that we will have our Web page operational very soon and will let you know as soon as it is available.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and if you are going to Goa please consider taking and bringing goods for us – excess baggage can be arranged with some airlines providing we apply in good time, all we need is your flight details.

Our best wishes to you all.