

Sangam News

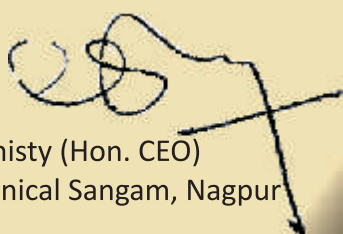
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Dear Friends,

Ecumenical Sangam has added another feather to its cap, by starting a computer program for the village youth, at our Bamhani Base Centre. This is in collaboration with the Government Polytechnic College Nagpur, under its skill up-gradation scheme announced by the Government of India. A batch of 40 students coming from adjoining villages have been admitted for the 6 month course. The same was inaugurated jointly by Mr Nandanwar, the then principal Institute of Hotel Management Government Polytechnic College and Dr Jona Dohrmann, President DIZ (Indo- German cooperation) Germany, in July this year.

The work camp comprising of eight German students was in Bamhani Base Centre for 10 days and was engaged in various activities involving cleaning, painting, white washing, and other activities. This gesture on the part of the foreign guests, has generated a lot of interest amongst our own staff and students, who have also actively participated in the activities. "Volunteering" as a concept is becoming more and more popular and two more organizations have been added to the list Viz Prem Seva, and Comprehensive Rural Tribal Welfare and Development (CRTDP) where 5 volunteers have been placed under the Weltwaerts program of Germany. A mid-term seminar with the participation of 14 volunteers was organized to review the progress of work. We were happy to have Ms Denise Broderson representing DIZ Germany with us during the seminar.

We are happy to welcome 4 students from Germany, under the Weltklasse for a four week stay in India. The young students will get experience of village life and an exposure to our culture.



C.H. Khisty (Hon. CEO)
Ecumenical Sangam, Nagpur

New Weltwaerts volunteers:

"Weltwaerts" is an initiative by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. It enables young people to spend several months doing voluntary work in a developing country.

We heartily welcome our new volunteers who have joined for a six month volunteering



Ms Amelie Frei
Occupation: Health related activities



Ms Anna Fischer
work field: Public relations



Mr Sascha Wilke
work field: Watershed



Ms Katharina Diedrichs
work field: education & advanced training

Additionally, we welcome the "Weltklasse" for a four week stay.

Stiftung Weltklasse's innovative student programs allow high school students to gain experience in developing and transitional countries with all their classmates in Germany being involved.



Mr Fabien Pallasadies
Ms Sarah Kuhn
Ms Fabienne Dresel
Ms Carola Fritsch

Activities at Bamhani Base center

A three month computer course, primarily for the village youth, under the skill up-gradation Program of Government of India was inaugurated at the hands of Mr. Nandanwar, the Principal Institute of Hotel Management, Government Polytechnic College and Dr Jona Dohrmann, on 15th July 2010. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Nandanwar congratulated Ecumenical Sangam for taking the initiative and appealed to the village youth to take



Dr. Jona seen talking to the students during inauguration, Mr. Khisty translating his speech

maximum advantage of the program. Dr Jona Dohrmann thanked Mr. Nandanwar and the Government Polytechnic College for their cooperation and expressed his hopes that this program will become popular with the village youth as computer awareness was a pre-requisite for finding suitable employment. Mr. Khisty, Hon CEO, and Ms Usha Bende, Village Outreach Co-ordinator also spoke on the occasion. Mr Pankaj Bhagat, Farm Co-coordinator proposed a vote of thanks.

The course has begun with 40 admissions.

Micro Finance

The micro finance scheme has been enlarged to include farmers who needed financial help during the sowing operation. A meeting with the villagers at Narayanpur was organized with the initiative of Ms Rabea Foerstmann, Ms Nina Werner, the German volunteers, and Ms Surekha, the M/F Co-Ordinator. The farmers, students and the ladies from the village participated in the program. The meeting was highly interactive and generated a lot of interest amongst the people. Ms



Mr. Khisty addressing the meeting

Usha Bende acquainted the people with the wide, ranging activities of Ecumenical Sangam and appealed to them to take the fullest advantage of the various schemes. Ms Surekha Shende, explained the salient features of the scheme and answered the questions raised. Mr Khisty, Hon CEO, also addressed the group. Ms Rabea and Ms Nina gave a brief introduction about their work in the local language Marathi, which received a wide applause from all. Mr Pankaj Bhagat, Farm co-ordinator, proposed a vote of thanks.

Training program for Micro Finances

A three-day training program was organized for our Micro Finance staff at Bamhani, conducted by Nageshwar Finance and Charitable Trust Nagpur. The participants were given further exposure to the micro finance scheme and acquainted with the latest know-how on the subject. Ecumenical Sangam has been able to advance loans to many needy persons.

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Organic Farming and Watershed

The farmers continue to be provided with guidance and support in promoting organic farming and watershed measures. The members of organic farm staff have been given intensive training by Mr Manohar Parchure, Consultant and an Expert on the subject. The primary focus now is to identify 20 farmers from different villages who would start their own model organic farm. Ecumenical Sangam will continue to provide assistance on a long term basis. The Micro finance assistance to the farmers has been widely appreciated.

Leap Activity



Mr. Prabhavalkar being felicitated

The Leprosy Eradication and Awareness Program (LEAP), under the overall supervision of Mr Dilip Sathe, Co-ordinator is making a positive impact in the villages. The selective special drive (SSD) for the year 2009-2010 has been successfully undertaken in the three districts i.e. Nagpur, Bhandara, and Wardha, with the involvement of 8 service NGO partners. The continuous medical education program (CMEs) for awareness building amongst different sections of society, has reached the first milestone, when it completed the 50th program for the MBBS students of Lata Mangeshkar Medical College on 20th August 2010.

The eminent faculty, Dr Saoji, Dr Deoghare, Dr Hiwase Medical Practitioners and Mr Kingsley from ALERT India, were felicitated on the occasion.

Slum Centres and Welfare

An eye diagnostic camp was organized in Motibag and 11 cases of cataract were identified and provided assistance in getting their eye operations performed. A nutrition program was organized from 26th to 29th July in which 25 ladies took part.



Fair Trade Activity

The fair trade work is slowly becoming popular amongst the resident of Saraswati Nagar Slum. Four ladies have got fully involved in stitching pillow covers, which are taken to Germany by our visitors. The ladies are able to earn a modest amount for the labour put in by them.



Counseling Cell

Ms Prachi Bhople has joined us as a Counsellor, in place of Ms Gabne and, working at the Buti Bori Police station. Prachi has done her post graduation from Matru seva sangh and has good experience of community service. We welcome her in our team.

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Our outgoing volunteers



A fond farewell was accorded to Ms Rabea and Ms Nina on the eve of their departure to Germany, Mr Philip Kuruvilla, Asst CEO appreciated the work done by the volunteers and the contribution they made during their stay. He especially mentioned about the Volunteers handbook which has

been published giving all the information about the volunteers, their areas of work from the inception of the volunteer program. Mr Shrikant Bhalerao, also spoke on the occasion. A memento was handed over to Ms Rabea and Ms Nina at the hands of Mr Khisty. Ms Rabea and Ms Nina cut a cake and thanked every one for their support and cooperation. A special thanks was also mentioned for the good work done by Mr Thorsten the outgoing volunteer.

Independence Day

The independence day was celebrated at Bamhani Base Center, Sub Center at Narayanpur, Shedeswar, Gondwananagar and at the Rainbow guest house. Col Isaac Gophane, Member of the Governing Body hoisted the flag at Rainbow guest house. Shri Amrut Patil Ex-Principal of Tidke Mahavidyalaya and now a local farmer hoisted the flag at Bamhani Base center. This was followed by a cultural program by the KG children, the student of Technical School, Sewing class girls the VHSWs, and the staff members. The work camp volunteers from Germany actively participated in the program.



Col. Gophane addressing the gathering

Ecumenical Sangam

is a community health and development organization based in Nagpur, which is located right in the heart of India in the state of Maharashtra. The aim of Sangam is to empower the poorer sections of society through promotion of health, education, skill-building and awareness-raising activities.



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