



Anthony's Charity

# ACB News

Quarterly magazine - n°15  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2007

« Educating the children for a better world »



Children in the newly built conference hall of Saint-Anthony School watching a magic show. 500 children can fit at one time in this hall.

Another 130 children have newly joined *Saint-Anthony School*, making its total strength 550 ! The bigger children have gone to Class 4, Three more new lady teachers are coming from the South (*Kerala*). And, our struggle to find local teachers still continues. More informations in our next edition...

## **Polio is in the villages !**

Communicable diseases like Polio, Leprosy, Tuberculosis, etc. are still a big threat to the majority of Indians. The state of *Uttar Pradesh* has highest of all these disease and with a population of 50 millions, it is one of the most underdeveloped states of India. The programs run by the government to eliminate these communicable diseases has not yet been effective enough.

India is the most populous of the polio-endemic countries. Pulse Polio Immunization programs

started in India in the year 1995 and beginning in 2005, the Government of India and its partners intensified eradication efforts by implementing additional immunization and surveillance strategies. However in the year 2006 more cases were found. Intense local transmission continues in certain areas, specially in western *Uttar Pradesh*. Recently, *Moradabad* in which district *Saint-Anthony School* is, hit the head lines, because many cases of polio were detected by the *World Health Organization*, after all these years of implementing Polio Eradication programmes.

In our project area we are collaborating with this programmes. Women whom we are educating in the villages become more conscious about the different diseases like polio, cholera, diarrhoea, malaria, tuberculosis, etc. and they are being taught how to prevent these diseases. However, it is a long way to bring radical changes in these highly populated villages. In most of these villages



people and animals are defecating in the open places, water is stagnant near the public well and multiplies mosquitoes, all the waste is thrown outside the houses, and the drainage system doesn't work,... We now have a lady doctor who visits the villages daily and conduct mobile clinics. Though our main concern is to help women and children, we take care of all patients. We will bring more news about this in the next newsletter.

*Vipin* is 13 years old and lives in *Dugawar*. He was affected by polio when he was one and a half years old. We found him in his house, unable to walk, we sent him to St. Stephen's hospital in *Delhi*. After the examination, it was found that surgery cannot help him since the deformity is in an advanced stage. He spent a few days in the hospital in *Delhi* and special pair of shoes was made to enable him to walk.



*Vipin* is happy that with the shoes and crutches, he can walk now ! He is happy to go to the local school walking !

It was a big news among the villagers that *Vipin* walks and news like this have better impact on the people than our teaching them !



Women from the villages are given training to conduct polio vaccination. Every month they go from house to house to vaccinate the children. They keep a record of the vaccinated and non vaccinated children, and go back to those children who are absent again. As you may see in the picture, these vaccines are kept in a Thermocol box, to keep it cool, but in the summer, with a temperature between 35 and 45, how far the vaccine is able to keep cool is a big question.



Polio is a viral disease which affect the central nervous system. It was one of the most feared and studied diseases of the first half of the 20th Century. Vaccines have essentially eliminated the disease in developed countries, but it continues to be prevalent in developing countries. Polio is more common in infants and young children and occurs under conditions of poor hygiene, it is predominately spread through the feces. In India, children receive oral Polio vaccine, in Belgium the vaccine is given by injection with an Hexavalent vaccine against 6 diseases around two months.

*Œuvre des pains* asbl, rue A. Delzenne 9, 7800 Ath.  
Site internet : <http://www.OeuvreDesPains.org>  
CCP 000-3000291-81 (Attestations fiscales, 30€ min.)

**France :** *Œuvre des pains* asbl, c/o Adom sarl, 2 avenue de la Villedieu, 78990 Élancourt. CCP Paris 25.984.20.A,

Editeur responsable : *Marc Valentin*, rue A. Delzenne 9, B-7800 Ath