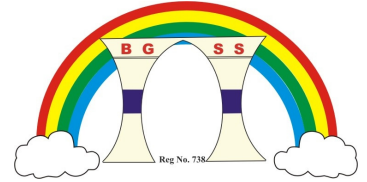


JANUARY NEWSLETTER

BEAUTIFUL GATE SPECIAL SCHOOL



Christmas

Although every month is busy for us, I would have to say December dominates the schedule.

- It started with staff appreciation night at our school campus, consisting of a catered dinner, bonfire and gift exchange. The combined staff of all three schools attended.



- Next was our annual Christmas bazaar, where we sell crafts made by the students and teachers to help raise funds for Beautiful Gate. We also used this opportunity to give away Gideon Bibles to those who attended and I saw the last few Bibles being carried away by some neighborhood kids on their way home from school.



- Immediately following the bazaar was our Christmas program, which we had in a rented hall in the city so more guests could attend. The gospel was preached, the children performed their choreographies wonderfully, and many proud parents and guests raved about the students.



- School remained in session until the 23rd of December, so we decided to have the last Funtastic Friday of 2016 at our apartment. We baked some cookies, had lunch together and let the students work off the extra calories with some action songs.



Ten Years of Ministry

Beautiful Gate Special School is celebrating its tenth year of service to children with special needs. Beautiful Gate first opened in January 2007 with three students



and three teachers, holding classes in the kitchen and living room of a small house.

Now, ten years later, about 15 teachers serve approximately 30 students in three different locations around



our city and we are launching a fourth location this June. Sometimes, we are overwhelmed when we think back over the years and what God has done.

Over the past ten years, we have served an estimated 60 students, of which about 30 remain. Some students have left our school due to their parent's family obligations or work requirements but, some have gone on to "normal" schools because they are high functioning. Sadly, one young girl died but, our greatest joy comes from the students that have been with us for many years.

Amazingly, one of the original three students that we started with, in 2007, is still attending Beautiful Gate.



2007

2017

His name is Sujay and he is now 19 years of age. His best friend, Sumanth, has been with us almost as long, about nine years, and just celebrated his 21st birthday.



New Year / Same Old Vision

Last year, I recall writing our first newsletter of 2016 with the heading “New Year / Old Vision.” I went on to write that after completing the construction and dedication of our new Beautiful Gate facility in 2015, we felt God was re-igniting in us an old desire to open satellite schools around the city of Mysore. In June of 2016 we launched our third branch of Beautiful Gate on the south side of our city and, now, we want to stick with that same “old vision” by launching a fourth branch on the west side in June of 2017.



The Bible college and seminary where I have been teaching part-time for the last several years has given us permission to use one of their dormitories for the next two years. The hall is large and well suited for our needs but will require some minor repairs to make it safe for the students.



We will start the school with our teachers and students who are living near the new location. This will eliminate some of the cost we currently incur for transportation. Additionally, it will free up some seats for new students to attend classes at our main campus.

Land Conversion

The land on which Beautiful Gate is situated is zoned agricultural. It was a coconut and tamarind farm when we purchased it in 2006.



Over the last few years, we have been able to make developments to the land and many of you remember the testimony of how God miraculously provided for the school building that we now occupy.



However, because of the current agricultural status of the land, we are limited in the amount of development that we can undertake. A single farmhouse (Beautiful Gate is built in the shape of a farmhouse), borewell and perimeter fence is about the limit of what we can development without incurring large fines and penalties.

We strongly feel that God is leading Beautiful Gate into a season of growth and that the time for converting this land to non-agricultural status is now. Trusting ourselves to the faithfulness of God, we have started the conversion process, which may take up to six months.

Land Conversion Cont.

The Indian government has deliberately made the conversion of agricultural land a tedious and expensive process to minimize the loss of farmland in India. Please help us pray for favor in the eyes of the government officials and that the fear of the Lord would overshadow their decisions (2 Chronicles 19:7). Also, please help us pray that God would make provision for the funds needed at each stage of the conversion process.

Family News

Harley and Hayden are 15 years old this month. Harley is still being homeschooled and is in 10th grade. Hayden's toenail has not fully healed. After the nail was removed, it grew back under the skin (part of his syndrome). We have been struggling with this injured toe for nearly two years and covet your prayers for his healing.

Sunita and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary this May. We are praying for God's grace to enjoy many more anniversaries (both wedding and Beautiful Gate).



Thank You

We would like to thank all those who have upheld us with their prayers and financial support in 2016. The encouragement we gain from knowing that you are co-laboring with us really helps us to press on in this work of God.

Please help us pray for the salvation of all those with whom God brings us into contact. Pray that we will have opportunities to share the gospel with these acquaintances and that they will respond in faith to the Truth.

