

TO INDIA WITH LOVE

Reporting From Kolkata

October 15, 2007

OCT.13-NOV.8, 2007

Christian Life Relief International



Leaving Toronto

The day has finally arrived. The ordeal of packing and re-packing is now complete... the 44 lbs of clay, the pottery wheel and equipment, the 1000 clay brooches hand-made for the women of India, and the 960 Canadian pencils. We met Onofrio Miccolis and Reynold Rutledge, our leaders and fellow travelers, at the airport, checked in our luggage with only a few glitches...only 1 carry-on allowed. We had a bit of a scramble but God granted His grace to us, and we were able to check in another piece of luggage for FREE! And so, the trip to India begins. What an opportunity. What an adventure. We look forward to all the God will do in us and

through us. May His name be glorified!

The Streets of Kolkata

The heat and smells of the city flooded our senses as we landed late Sunday evening. We moved through the baggage pick up and custom lines fairly quickly and loaded into the jeep that had been assigned to pick us up. Driving to our hotel we saw hundreds of people lying on pavement, sleeping. And so begins the sights and sounds of India! The next morning we went for a walk. People with their little 'cookerries' rolling out pitas, frying them on their small fire, putting some mush on it and selling it, others rolling a bit of food into a leaf and selling it, a small child washing dishes in a pan of water to earn part of the family's daily required income, a fence in the middle of the road that becomes the clothesline and a mother and child's job-washing laundry and having it to dry on the metal fence, a man sitting on his blanket repairing a leather shoe with skill and strength with only a needle and leather strand, people getting ready for Puja-the festival that's coming and that we will be in the thick of when we return. They are getting their gods ready, much decoration is going up. At the end the gods will be dumped into the river. What an overwhelming, stimulating city.

At The Blind Centre

What a welcome we received! As we drove into the building complex we were welcomed by all the children on each side of the path singing a song for us! They were so excited to see us. Cynthia presented on her wheel, which was translated into their language through a translator. What a beautiful message for these children to hear....God's specific plans for each one of these children's lives! Of course, for Cynthia there was the extra challenge of relaying the message with very descriptive words, so that blind children could understand the imagery, without seeing the actually pottery wheel. To the right here, you can see 'Uma' totally enjoying the feel of the clay and its movement on the pottery wheel. We were also honoured to be part of the distribution of shoes to each of the children here, thanks to the many donations to Christian Life Relief International. Again, the joy that these children expressed as they received their gift is something not easily forgotten!!



Proclaiming God....*the Creator and Re-Creator*