

# Helping People

## One Drop At A Time



### Field Report From India

November 6, 2005

Hi Friends,

We have had a busy and productive first few days here in India. We arrived at 5:45 on the morning of 11/2 and by 4:00 that afternoon we were in a meeting with the Rotary centennial district governor of Rotary District 3190, Rotarian Yogananda. We had dinner with our dear friend Haroon, who lives here in Bangalore and then we boarded a train at 9:30pm that evening. Quite a day! We slept (kind of) on the train that night and arrived at 7:30am the next morning. We showered, had breakfast, and then were picked up at 10:00am by members of the DHAN Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Madurai that conducts training sessions and builds and distributes the bio-sand filters.

The DHAN Foundation personnel ended up providing us with a three day program that consisted of meetings, site visits, education and an evening of sight seeing. What wonderful people. We feel like we have made some new friends for life. They brought us to two villages that are using the bio-sand filters and we were able to talk to the local people (with interpretation). It was extremely helpful. The local people are all so friendly and the young children followed us around in groups giggling every time I turned around and smiled or waved. We were also able to see some other water projects the DHAN Foundation is involved in such as rain water harvesting (tanks and ponds that collect water when it rains for used in the drier times for agricultural irrigation).

We went to the metal fabricator's shop (tiny!) and saw the mold that he made for us. There was a slight problem but he agreed to modify it by 5:00 that same day (3 hours later) even though it was a major holiday and a lot of businesses were closed. Wow! The next day we went to DHAN's production workshop and concrete was mixed to our specifications and poured into the mold so we could test it. We went back the next day for the demolding. There were some problems due to the wetness of the concrete and the size of the aggregate (stones) that were used. All in all we are satisfied that we can make good filters from the mold. The mold is being trucked to Kolar Gold Fields, a town about 12 miles from Kolar, where we plan to set up a workshop.

Last night we once again boarded the overnight train back to Bangalore. We arrived at 6:15am and by 9:00am we were at PDG Yoganunda's house for an Indian breakfast of Masala Dosai, Iddlis and other Indian

# giving

U.S. dollars go a long way  
in India.....for example:

<b>Adopt A Family:</b> (Donation of one water filter to a needy family who is unable to purchase a filter)	\$ 25
<b>Adopt A School:</b> (Donation of two water filters to a school accompanied by a clean water education program)	\$ 100
<b>Adopt A Village Partnership:</b> (Donation of up to 60 filters to a needy village, subsidy of up to 30 filters purchased by villagers, soap & educational program for village children, community steward for one year)	\$ 2,500

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delights. A past president of the Bangalore West Rotary Club was also there. They seem very interested and are willing to help us if they can. Yoga has arranged for us to meet with a Rotarian from one of the Kolar Rotary Clubs tomorrow morning so he can show us around and we hope he can help us find a site for our workshop. So....we have had a busy schedule but it has been very worthwhile and rewarding. We are still going strong!

We are at an internet café and are out of time, so we must go for now.

Cathy and Mike

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