



STIFTELSEN BRÖDET

Newsletter to friends and supporters

February 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A small Indian village church

Fourty kilometers from the School for the Blind, supported by the SB Foundation, in Cooch Behar in West Bengal, is a small church in the village of Chapatali on the outskirts of the city of Alipurduar, not far from the border of Bhutan. During the autumn we received information that the small church needed repairs. This is how the church looked then.



They asked the SB Foundation for contribution of 15 000 SEK, which was granted in October, and the renovation started. The lower parts of the wall were cast in cement and for the

upper part they chose corrugated sheet metal, which resists weather and wind better than braided bamboo. The small church was soon ready, and at the inauguration, on Christmas Eve, December 24th 2018, this is how it looked.



The inauguration was a great celebration, at which time they were able to present a bible to each family. In India with a population of nearly 1½ Billion people more than 30 different languages are spoken! In West Bengal Bengali is spoken. In Chapatali the young tribal members learn how to read and write as do the middle-aged members, but the elder-

ly members rarely do. Of the Indian population, 80,5 % are Hindus, 13,4% Muslims and only 2,3% are Christians. There is no state religion, but ever since Narendra Modi and his BJP party came to power in 2014, Hindus are being more and more favored above others.



Here the leader of the Lutheran Church in the Alipurduar district is handing over bibles at the inauguration. Twice a week an evangelist takes care of the Church activities and once a month the minister comes here to give a Church service.



The money given for the Church edification was enough to also build a separate toilet, which is used both by Church visitors and people living nearby. Here Svetlana stands by the door opening. In India, WCs are not common, and instead people squat above a hole in the floor. Sadly, there are still many people who do not have access to a toilet.

Our School for the Blind reopened after the Christmas and New Year holidays as early as on January 2nd. The pupils have a lot to learn before the testing starts in a couple of months.

Welcome to the SB Foundation services in Gustav Adolf Church, Stockholm, at 16 o'clock on the following Sundays: 17/2, 17/3, 21/4, 19/5 and 9/6. After worship we get together for a cup of coffee.

Please visit our website www.stiftelsenbrodet.se

Greetings

Stiftelsen Brödet and all board

Lena, Roger, Arne, Bo, Elisabeth, Ivar

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