

BENGALI CHRONICLE 261 OF APRIL 2022

OUR INTERRELIGIOUS HOUSE OF PRAYER OF THE DIVINE MERCY IS AT LAST RESTAURED.



One of the last damage of the 2020 cyclone is at last repaired thanks to some extra-donations. We have to reestablish biodiversity of the trees as also to rebuild the garage..

The fan-shape palm-tree is a Ravellana, the “Traveller’s tree from Madagascar. Its name comes from the fact that the basis of its branches retains plenty of water, where a thirsty traveller can quench his thirst. Every religions has the same purpose to offer its “bhakts” enough to quench their so frequent spiritual draught!

EASTER AND GOOD FRIDAY 2022

I. NEW YEAR BENGALI 1439



Puja exclusively reserved to the five in-charges & workers of the women and girls three sections: Secretary, Gopadi; Tripti and Haru, in-charges; Suporna, teacher: Mampi, Superintendent; Tuku, deaf and dumb assistant.

WELCOME WORDS, SURROUNDED BY TWO YOUNG PARAPLEGIC

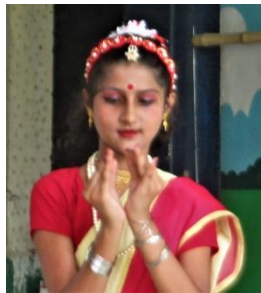


SPASTIC.

Both are with us since more than 10 years, one from Pilkhana, Howrah and the other from the platform of Bauria station.



Our girls start the show and close it.



A friendly dance-group offered us free performance. We do love them!



Young girls are sharing cake and delicacy...and the youngest boys of course are joyously quarrelling!

II. **FOLLOWED BY THE PASSION CEREMONY & THE WASHING OF THE FEET.**



(Internet picture): Two UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN WOMEN ARE BEARING TOGETHER THE CROSS OF THE COLISSEUM “PATH OF THE CROSS” AT ROME IN FRONT OF THE POPE.

During the horrible Ukrainian war, this is a beautiful symbol of love and peace, alas not accepted by everybody!



On morning, special Hindu-Sufi prayer of Swami Ramdas translated and read by Binay that I have commented.

WASHING OF THE FEET OF 12 SUFFERING INMATES



Gopadi is taking the women and I the men from my wheel chair. Most of them were either paraplegic, paralyzed, IMC, blind, deaf and dumb, etc. Markus, Justin and Haru were the assistants. Several people were crying out of emotion.

III. MUTUAL WASHING OF THE FEET AT OUR VIVEKANANDA HALL.

When Jesus washed the feet of his apostles, he requested everyone to follow His steps: "Wash the feet of one another as I have done you". A proposal was made that ICOD members do the same after the Ceremony, but in the large Vivekananda Home.



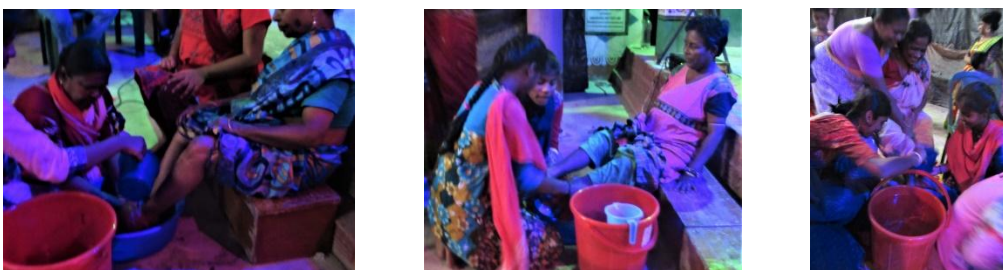
Our girls started with enthusiasm to do it to the Secretary, Gopadi, the President, Binay and myself.



Then everyone washed the others 'feet.



Then after, the girls washed other girls 'or mentally sick women feet.



Finally, a blind and psychiatric woman and their own in-charge Triptidi.

Altogether, it was a new and nice experience of exchanging Jesus love.

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY (Sunday after Easter)
and inauguration of the **ICON** of
“OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP”



Here is the original GREEK ICON dated before the XIV e century and now in Rome
(Ours is a copy on rare woven cloth with golden threads, offered by the Archbishop of Kolkata to me last October),



GOPA , then BINAY, EXPLAINING THE ICON’S MEANING .



To make the link with suffering people of Ukraine, Gopa is reading –sometimes while crying – the Prayer made by Pope Francis for Ukraine and Russian people one week before. It was a very moving text.



**Devotional dances from our young girls with oil lamps.
Four faces, four religions, one single prayer.**



The revolving Dove of Peace above the Buddhist and Hindu lotus in top of the Muslim dome again restored!

FLOWERS' BLOSSOMING JUST BEFORE EASTER





FLOWERS'TREES AND CLIMBING PLANTS .



Canon ball-tree (Curupita)18 m.)



Wild lilac :10 m.



Kaelianda 3m.)



Chinese pride, Hybride in 3 shade : 3 m.



“Lahura tecoma: Temple gold tree »: 3 m. Unknown, 2 m. This white flower blossoms very rarely and in the summit only: 6 m.

'Cactus specialis' in front of my room : 2,50 m.



Three of the « Krishna Chura» planted with plants from our four giant fell down by the cyclone of 2018. It is their first bloom, and very pale, since leaves appeared before the flowers.



Old one with broken branches.... White Bougainvilleas above the Security's guards roof. .



Burmese honey-sucker (« Madhobi lata ») are enjoying our eyes everywhere...



The old crumbling garage is collapsing under plants' weight!

TWO NEW ADMISSIONS



1. Re-admission of UDOY, paraplegic from birth. I made him admitted in several institutions since more than 15 years, but he has remained several years with us. Orphan, but he has terrible family problems with exploitation, quarrels and expulsion. I obliged on the road (?) his auntie to give us all his papers, inclusive Bank account that she previously refused adamantly to give.
2. Last picture: ODOP, deep autistic: he just can perpetually smile, but never one word!!

VISIT FOR KALI PUJA ,IN SITA'S HOUSE



She is completely orphaned. Gopa just prevented her to get married with an old man at 14. Since this time, she is in ICOD. We could give her in marriage to a nice and trustful young man at 18. Now, her 13 years old daughter invited us (photo with our 2 orphan girls) Beautiful successful marriage.



Local Kali Puja organized in a forgotten hamlet at 35 km from ICOD. At midnight, there were thousands of people.

SHOPNA, POST-POLIO, TWO LEGS PARALYZED



She is orphan without relatives. We have welcomed her many years, without hope of marriage. Eventually, a poor rickshaw puller felled in love with her, and she often come with her 13 years old daughter. Rare love marriage, but they are extremely happy together.

SHOPNOMOY. BINAY'SON? FIVE YEARS OLD.



With Gopa her grandmother, he is quite proud of his first certificate of drawing: second out of 55! Schooling therefore becomes interesting!

CENTRE ONG PARAS PADMA (24 Parganas, Sundarbans)
founded in 2000 by Evadat and Meena, and co-founded by the grand-uncle, myself!





Thanks to the French physiotherapists women of Belari (Shyampur), then to the professionals of ABC- Kathila of Sukeshi and Papu her son in Asha Bhavan Center (ABC-Uluberia), and at last to the practical help of Fabian (founder of Asha Bengal-Switzerland, this NGO has more than 200 beneficiaries in its physiotherapy or orthopedic workshop and its several sub centers.

THE RETURN OF THE PONY



After 8 years, the pony and its master came back to ICOD, at the enthusiastic welcome of the children.

Other animals, but wild.



A tailor-bird is taking bath in a plantain leaf, after having just sewed two leaves for its future nest in our garden.



One Tickell' small bat landed on my Kurta by fear of a cat...but quickly left!



A purple sunbird (souïmanga) is looking for its suspended nest close-by.



Very rarely seen Ground Zosterops from Himalaya. I have seen it only once some years ago and the day before, at the same place, along the canal of the pond.

**SOME THOUSANDS OF CORMORANTS, GARZET EGRETS , CATTLE AND PADDY HERONS
COMING FROM THE FOUR HORIZONS EVERY EVENING.**



Cormorants are the first to roost, around 5PM. (We can apperceive our 'Gandhi Bhavan' Home at the upper right of the first picture)



Some egrets follow earlier and settle on bamboos, like Japanese prints...endlessly quarrelling and cackling, waiting for the large groups to arrive...



When twilight starts around 5.30 PM, large flights arrived cautiously forming impressive spirals, always lower...



They take time to find their final place, while Mother Teresa statue supervises them...



From now on, they won't move, and we can approach very close their island with a torch.
It is 6 PM. "Good night"

NOTE : Those pictures are taken on the north face of the large island in ICOD (which is a biologic preserve) The other thousands occupy the three other faces, far from the "Gandhi Home"