



# Ebenezer Gardens

*Gathering flowers for a fragrant bouquet*

## Newsletter

Social Service Registration No: L-76711

No. 16, Beach Road, Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 11 2714528, 0757256467 | Email: [info@ebenezergardens.org](mailto:info@ebenezergardens.org) | Web: [www.ebenezergardens.org](http://www.ebenezergardens.org)

### June 2016

Looking back over the past 19 years... we have much to thank God for. We thank Him for the way in which He has provided for us, given us the courage to press on in times of difficulty. We thank God for the small but faithful band of people who supported us with prayer, finances and in numerous other ways. Renovations to the house have been completed. We are also thankful that we now have a cordial working relationship with our Probation Officers.

Looking forward ..... due to changes in Probation rules and government policy regarding Childrens Home, we now face many challenges. To adhere to all their rules and regulation and at the same time provide a child friendly environment which is modeled after a small family unit is becoming increasingly difficult. We have had two visits from government officials this month and another meeting is fixed for 30<sup>th</sup>. Their focus is to send children back to their families as soon as possible. This will disrupt their stability and the long term education plan we currently have - sending them to good private schools will not be practical. We are in the process of discussing and trying to work out a system where we can continue to minister to children in an effective way. Please keep this matter in constant prayer.

An update on our girls ... **Chrisanthi** is now 15 +. She is a member of the senior choir, band leader and President of the History Club at school and we are told that she carries out her duties extremely well. She fared well at the sports meet - obtaining 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 200 meter event, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 4 X 100 meter relay and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 100 meter event. She enjoys her swimming lessons and is now learning to play the piano. **Christa** is 13 years - still very much a tom boy. She enjoys swimming and is learning to play the piano. She plays the trumpet for the school band and is an active member of the school choir. She too fared well at the sports meet - winning 1<sup>st</sup> place for Long Jump and 4 X 100 meter relay, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for 400 meter race and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 200 meter relay. Her school work is average, but she generally obtains the highest marks for English. She is Secretary of the Model United Nations Club at school and has been selected to

participate in debating and drama. Both girls attend Sunday School, Awana Bible School and Youth Fellowship. Both won certificates and the swimming meet.

8 years old **Wasana** fared well in her school work specially in Maths and English. She is a very active child - very naughty both at school and at home. **Sethumi (Rizna)** who is also 8 years old is settling down well in school and picking up on her studies. She has done very well in Sinhala. Both of them attend Sunday School and Awana Bible School. We have enrolled both girls in a Christian Bible Club organized by Back to the Bible. Both follow swimming lessons through school. 5 year old **Dhinuwari ( Rizana )** started her schooling at Logos College in January. She is happy to go to school but observing her it seems she has learning disabilities. She is extremely weak in her studies and cannot remember anything she has been taught. We are making arrangements for an assessment to be done so that we can see how best to handle her education. She goes for swimming lessons. She is extremely naughty and due to this often gets into trouble.

(Fathima Farzana) **Jerusha** - Jerusha is now 4 + She has grown tall and there has been considerable improvement in her speech. She is a very inquisitive child who wants details about everything. 4 ½ year old **Abishah** loves to sing and dance. She performed extremely well at the nursery concert her teachers were thrilled with her performance. She is a happy child, always with a smile. Both girls fared well at the nursery sports meet and were awarded certificates. Both will start schooling in January 2017.

**Natalie** will be 4 next month. She is a happy go lucky type of child who loves to sing and dance and is extremely naughty. **Nisansala** is 3 +. She has been quite difficult to manage for the past few months and has been very unsettled. Both attend nursery school. 2 year old **Sangeetha** joined this year She settled down very well - a chubby little toddler, still unable to speak clearly, but tries hard to say words and recently has been trying to sing. She was a very obedient and tidy little child when she came, but now is turning out to be quite naughty.

**Banu**, now officially not part of the Children's Home, but is our "sponsor child". She is doing very well at Mowbray College, Kandy - fully involved in all school activities and is progressing well in her studies and numerous other activities. We visit her and keep close contact with her.

News of our older girls ... Ruwani now works at Mayfair College; Waruna continues at Colombo Theological Seminary; Dilshani & Manju are fully involved in their church ministry in Polonaruwa. Sajini, who moved out after pressure from her family is back after 2 years - she moved into our working girls hostel in April this year and is now working at Back to the Bible. Please pray that she will find a good Christian partner.

A new Matron is expected to take up duties next month; we are still on the look out for someone to take over either the cleaning/washing or as a caregiver for the kids. Vasanthi and Rebecca continue their services with us.

Thank you once again.

God bless you all

Shanthini

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**A Home Away From Home**  
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