



Astrid's News

New Delhi, April 2007

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

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Please pray for:

- Finances for my last month here and for coming back
- Strength for the time here as summer is very tiring
- Good transition for our team as we are getting used to a new leader
- My Swedish Test in May, that I will pass so that I will be able get into Collage studies.

New Delhi

Now summer has truly come after a long and lovely winter and spring. Upto even two weeks ago I was sleeping without a fan on and a sheet covering. Now the fan is on high and I really don't need a cover. About a week ago I started on this newsletter and was really struggling with how to put into words these past three months in Delhi.

It has been a hard time not just for me but for us as a team as well. Margriet was gone a lot in the beginning and we had quite a few visitors, which is nice but it means adjusting to new people many times. Than we got the wonderful news that Margriet, our leaders is getting married but the sad news is that she is leaving Delhi and consequently our team.

The leadership is now going to somebody else in our team. Just this morning I realised and saw that through these tough times our team has grown more mature. We have had to, and are still dealing with certain things that need change. Before seeing this I had already chosen the scripture above and this has been a scripture that speaking to me at this time.

Changes...

Isn't there a saying that goes something like this: “The only constant thing is change”? This sure seems to have been my life for the past 5 years. Since my DTS in 2001 I seem to have moved from one place to another. Now again there is change coming up. This June I will go back to Sweden to start Nursing School. How did that happen? Well I hardly know myself. But in November somebody said something very wise. “Look at where you want

to be in 10 years and than start working at that, like getting further education.” My reaction was that if God wanted me to do that He would show me clearly, not thinking He would. Since than God has taken me step by step by the hand. He is so good in that. I have seen God provide in miraculous ways and see Him open doors that could easily have been shut. I have a job for the summer and an apartment, my brother is rebuilding his basement

so I can live there! After Nursing School, which is three years in Sweden, I want to do Public Health. With this I hope to be able to make more of a difference in India in the future. It is kind of a strange thought that I will be in Sweden for the next 5 years and not in India. Please pray for me as I am making a big transition. So June 2nd I will fly out of India not knowing exactly when I will be back...



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Schedule for the upcoming 3 months:

May 15th: Swedish test, to qualify me for college studies.

May 20th: Start my 30 hour train journey to Guwahati, Assam, North East India.

May 23rd: Margriets wedding in Guwahati, Assam

June 3rd: Fly back to Sweden

June 25th: Start working in an old peoples home in Ljungskile.

July: Move into my apartment and next newsletter.

(new address: Svalörtsvägen 3, 459 32 Ljungskile, Sweden, can be used from June onwards)

August: start Nursing School

CHECK OUT MY UPDATED WEBSITE



Testimony

One Thursday night I started talking to one lady in our clinic, that also always comes for our Thursday night meetings. On thursday nights we always have our clinic open and then we have a sort of church service outside for the people in Jasola ("our" slum). She and her husband have been christians for many years. She told me all about her physical complaints and, like many Indians she blamed her problems on evil spirits. I told her that she should not speak these things out because this only invites enemy to work more freely.

While I was talking to her I just realised how much easier the Hindi words came out and how she seemed to understand me! Even my prayer was flowing better in Hindi. I could see that God was really giving me the words to speak to her and also giving me the ability in Hindi to speak them out. Please do continue to pray for her though that she will really put her trust in God and know that "He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world"! (1 John 4:4)

Since I have been back I have been able to enjoy spending time with people more than before. Through the language barrier becoming smaller I am able to make more and more contact with the people in our slum. I have fun with them, listen to them and can now even say something back! God has been so faithful over the past two years to teach me the language and in using it!

Thank you for standing with me in prayer, in e-mailing, giving and just being there for me! You are my heroes! May God bless you with all the blessings that He has for you (and they are many).

Astrid