

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

Tiwala has entered into a busy season and has encountered many challenges this month, but by God's grace we have pressed through and have overcome various obstacles.

Street Child Family Intervention

Tiwala conducts regular home-visits to the families of the children enrolled in our street child program, should we be able to trace these families, in order to manage the children's cases. One of our boys, Bam, is one of 14 children living in a tiny bamboo hut in an overcrowded village. Bam chooses to spend much of his time on the streets to beg for food and occasionally returns to his family to wash/change his clothes or perhaps stay overnight. During a recent **Tiwala** feeding



program Bam was wounded in the head by another street child, which resulted in a mad rush to the hospital. Thankfully the injury wasn't serious but should Bam have been without support that night he could have lost a lot of blood and ended up in a worse state. **Tiwala** has distributed medicines to Bam daily since the incident, as his parents are often not home, leaving Bam's older brother to care for the many siblings. Another child in our program, Carlo, dislocated his wrist and proceeded to hide for 3 weeks, enduring the pain, as he is terrified of doctors and none of his relatives were willing to accompany him to a hospital. He now has to live with a slightly deformed wrist.

Although Bam and Carlo are due to be admitted into **Tiwala's** foster program where they will be properly cared for (once we have the necessary facilities), we believe that we still need to encourage them to bond with their original families, despite their obvious neglect. Another purpose of our weekly home-visits is to encourage the parents or relatives to adopt a more caring attitude toward their children, despite their poverty, which is often used as an excuse. Instead of removing the kids from their families completely with no communication, we hope to develop a family therapy program, focusing on developing unity and positive relationships within these families.

Blessings In A Bag

Blessings In A Bag (BIAB) is a charity based in Singapore that seeks to help charities across Asia, such as **Tiwala**, in various ways. BIAB'S main focus is in gathering donations in kind for charities according to their specific needs. Pictured right are the **Tiwala** kids rummaging through a box of blessings sent by BIAB in January. BIAB has a network of individuals, groups and organizations that they collaborate with in order to provide assistance to such charities by initiating support programs and offering their time, creativity, human resources etc.



Tiwala is privileged to become one of BIAB'S first beneficiaries. This month BIAB'S Founder, Emily Teng (below middle) and co-workers, Desiree Foo (below left) and Joyce Fong (below right) spent time with **Tiwala** and got acquainted with our kids and communities. BIAB was able to conduct a needs assessment, especially with regard to the women in our village and are currently working on ways in which to establish various livelihood projects for the benefit of the



families in our community. BIAB also brought medical supplies and other donations in kind and greatly encouraged the **Tiwala** team, kids and villagers by their care, concern and enthusiasm to help us. *More on BIAB at www.blessingsinabag.org.*

Many thanks to all our friends for your valued support and much needed prayers!

Gail Narramore
Founder