

Dear Friends,

Living amidst the tea plantations and having nothing to do with it would be really a strange thing. We do strange things but at the same time we are ordinary people and desiring to remain so, so just look at these Nepali tea garden 'workers'!



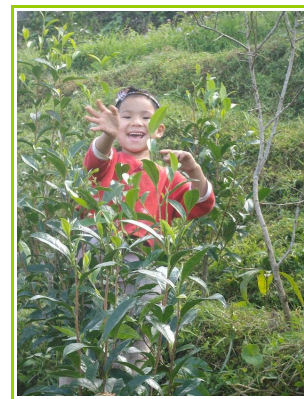
I hope you understood
how far I can reach with my 'tea

businesses'. Besides that they
off the tea bushes of all their
so that the modest shrubs
red in embarrassment, I
eventually had to collect the
and that on my knees!, because
became a warrior. On the end
our baskets and proudly
factory. However we had to
of the baskets once we
crop of Makaibari tea



stripped
leaves
became

remaining from the ground,
Arpit from tea gardener
we did manage to fill up
reached the Makaibari tea
hide our pride at the bottom
compared our crop with the
plantations.



But Mr. Raja Banerjee is an inspiring man. After examining the quality (and ignoring the quantity) he not only accepted our tea as good quality, he also proposed to do for us the processing so that we can get a real good, organic green tea. We entrusted our 'green gold' into his care shortly to



return to collect our belongings transformed into ready to sip. We also got free tour inside the factory with the full explanation of the whole processing of the tea leaves. It was very educational adventure.



Chiachiu in her innocence was searching for the leaves which she plucked and,

what is important, insisted that she got 'her leaves'. But seriously, we will pack our produce in small packets bearing a label something like "***grown in Flame of Hope tea garden, processed in Makaibari tea factory***". I hope that in our enthusiasm we will not pack more than we produce. Possible. I read sometime ago that in tea market the amount of Darjeeling tea sold was much greater than it could be produced. So when you hear that we produce more than 2 kg. you may legitimately doubt us. But we won't endanger our credibility. Beforehand I told you the facts. However, if you are among the lucky people to get our tea, you are the luckiest because



this is the very first flush, very first crop ever, ever collected from Flame of Hope tea garden. So...rush because limited amount....

The school exams are over. Starting from 1 December till last day of February we have winter holidays.

Like in any other school it was not a time for jokes (except during lunch break).

Pavitra as a good



‘Big sister’ made sure that all look ‘tamed’ and not scary as they march to school. It is not at all easy work.

For Meena it was double stress because



she was on the eve of her surgery. Serfraj’s successful treatment gave her some consolation but obviously there was fear in her heart.

The surgery was successful and now she is recovering, going up and down to hospital for



different medical assistance. Usha had opportunity to refresh her knowledge as nurse as she was keeping duty day and night. On Christ the King Sunday we had very big celebration as our three 'queens' Pavitra, Meena and Sabrina-Maria (Ciaciu) along with other 11 children from our parish received their First Holy Communion. Luckily, the doctor agreed to give Meena few days 'holidays' from the hospital and Usha brought her early on Sunday to take part in the Event. They all were very happy and the day

itself was so warm and beautiful that there was nothing to add to it. What greater can happen than God dwelling in our hearts! He got three new dwellings that for sure delight Him.



After 5 weeks Meena will have a surgery on another leg but the doctor now is more confident. Meena's deformity is more severe than that of Serfraj's and doctor being good doctor took time to prepare himself so she is in good hands and under the Eye of the best of fathers- the Heavenly Father.

Serfraj is doing very well. He has to wear the special shoe for awhile, about for three months but the foot is just in normal position and he walks better and better as days pass. Thank God for the science especially in medical field.



I can't tell you how rewarding and encouraging it is when you can see the improvement in children's health. I almost worry that I got my reward already and there will be nothing more left. But don't think that I ask God to 'reduce' my consolations here on earth. We need it to 'recharge' us with new strength.



GAIRDIN DOCHAIS project- Scouts bringing hope to India. Instead of my poor explanation I cite the piece from the news paper from the Irish Catholic where it is mentioned that our children are "to have a specially designed 'Garden of Hope', through the generosity of 20 teenage Dublin scouts who want to give them a very special garden where they can play, be happy but also explore, develop, and learn from and delight in the beauty of the nature that surrounds them'.(My curiosity is on the peak). Nora is the one who initially started to take interest in

us and who introduced us (positively) to the group. She never omits our home whenever



she comes to India. The project will be implemented in December 2012 but the scouts are already fully absorbed in it.

So these are our last news before Christmas. All the good news we pass over to you are the Christmas gifts for you. We wouldn't be able to gift you with these gifts if first you did not gift us with your help and support. May you get God's reward in abundance, especially in this hopeful time of Advent and Joyful Season of Christmas. We all keep you in our prayers and hearts.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS *from Flame of Hope Family*

