

India Kolkata Action Team

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Prayer Letter October 2009

Hello everybody!

Welcome to the first Kolkata Action Team prayer letter. Thanks for taking the time to read this, we are really excited to tell you about our awesome month of training.

We'd like to give you a flavour of the team to begin with for those who do not know all members.

Katie Butts is 18 from London and comes packed with powerhouse prayers, as well as being loving and naturally selfless. Next is **Josh Close**, who is 18 and from Solihull, who is servant-hearted and encourages the team.

Charlie Kennedy is 19 and from Leamington Spa. He has a great sense of humour, is uplifting and has a big heart. **Kim Marshall**, also 19, is from Oxford and she exudes life with her bubbly personality. Her catchphrase is "Can I ask a question? I'm not really sure if it's relevant..." Finally, **Bethan Uitterdijk** is 18 and from Chester, she is thoughtful and her passion is contagious.



For the past month we've been living at the International Mission Centre in Birmingham, training for our time overseas. Now, as we come to the end of our four weeks we can safely say it's been exhausting and testing, but we've loved it. Throughout the month we have encountered various tasks that have shaped us a team and helped us to grow in our love for God and India. Did you know 80 per cent of Indians are Hindu? It's facts like these that we have had to get our heads around in the 'culture conscious' classes, which



have helped us to begin to understand what we've gotten ourselves in for. At the same time, we have been introduced to the graphic, but exciting, tales of previous Action Teamer's exploits in getting to grips with the new environment.

As well as learning about culture, we've had daily devotions, movie nights (often ending in tears... even Cool Runnings!) and we've danced our way through the Old Testament. Literally. There has also been a series of seminars called 'Deep faith'. They've allowed us to get to grips with why we are here and the biblical meaning behind mission. All in all, it has been a thorough month of preparation for everything and anything.

We also must mention Min-Y-Don, the outdoor activity centre we spent four days at. The prospect of Min-Y-Don was daunting, especially for city dweller Katie who could not handle the hills or the fresh air. But for us as a team these four days in Wales were enlightening, strengthening and essential for us to grow. We learnt each other's gifts, where we stand in the team and the things that tick us off. We can't stress how important these four days have been, giving us team-working skills and bringing us together as a unit.

On two of our weekends we travelled to the land of Harborne to meet our training church, Harborne Baptist. They gave us a packed schedule that allowed us encounter new people, places and situations as a team. We took part in two church services, a harvest supper and taught lessons at a

local private school, which gave us an opportunity to get used to planning as a group. Also we had plenty of time to relax together for once which was really nice! The whole experience inspired and challenged us with the passion and welcoming attitude that this small church shone with.

That brings us on to the debrief culture of IMC. It seems like every five minutes we've been analysing our performance as a team and trying to correct the mistakes made. We may joke about the ridiculous amount we have had, but in fact they've been some of the most revealing times, in which we have resolved many cracks in the team and discovered ways we could just generally do things better and quicker. So it seems almost natural to finish this prayer letter with a debrief. Training has prepared us in so many ways to tackle the Indian culture, last minute planning and those moments when things don't go quite as swimmingly as we'd hoped. We are by no means ready to go and do God's mission, but that's the point isn't it? We will never be able to do it right, which is why we need to rely on God throughout everything. With this in mind we know we can tackle anything and everything that is thrown at us and we can't wait to get out there and serve the Lord!

Prayer points:

- That we will be able to continue to grow as a God-centered team.
- That we will be as prepared as we can be when we fly out on the 12 October.
- That we will adapt to the new culture quickly and be able to get to grips with the language.
- That we would be able to fully rely and depend on God in all we do, despite our own pride.

Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Katie, Josh, Charlie, Kim and Bethan
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