



**A big 'thank you' from Bethlehem Creche! Your gifts of love were much appreciated. God Bless you Uncles & Aunties!**

In December 2008 nearly 500 individual gift parcels were distributed to disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka.

The 100 children attending the Bethlehem Creche were amongst them.

The Creche situated in a slum area is run by the Carmelite Nuns and a small band of young women who lovingly care for these little ones while their Mums go to work. Most are single parents—some widowed or abandoned. They all have their own sad stories. Some work as domestics, on building sites or sweep the streets. Their daily wage is barely enough to keep themselves alive let alone house, feed and educate the family. The new set of clothes is something they cherish & cannot provide because of the poverty cycle they live in. Most don't own a pair of shoes!

Since the tsunami Sister Alex - Our Partner in Sri Lanka has been helping tsunami women start micro enterprises.

**Quilted cards** (a skill learned from 2 Aussies who visited the area) is being turned into a small business. These cards are now available on order 2 for \$3. The last shipment was of a high standard and sold like hot

# 'Ripples' Network Heaven News

A heartfelt 'Thank You' from the children & families in Sri Lanka



**These little ones at the Creche are wearing their new clothes & holding on tight to their bundle of goodies.**



**This little group are not interested in the camera shot—they are busy checking out their gifts. The library bags were decorated & donated by Year 8 girls from Mercy College, Chatswood**



**Girls at St Joseph's Orphanage in Sri Lanka sent this 'thank you' poster to friends in Australia who have helped them celebrate Jesus birthday!**

## Fair Trade cards are now available on order

cakes! The next shipment is expected in March 09.

The '**Cross stitch Christmas cards** are a 'speicalty' card for 'special people'. The embroidery is by disadvantaged girls at St Josephs Orphanage. The quality of workmanship is of a very high standard and the cards are assembled in Australia. They sell for \$15 for a pack of 2 cards. All profits go to the education fund at St Josephs Orphanage. There are over 130 girls at this Orphanage and they are dependent on donors to feed and school the children. **Contact Anne** to make an enquiry or place an order.





# 'YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2009'

To Sri Lanka with Love ..... be a volunteer?

Movers & Shakers needed on 1st & 2nd October 2009

Sorting & Packing starts Sat 3rd October to Sat 10th Oct 09

Time: 10am to 5pm (excluding Sunday) at Frenchs Forest Baptist Church

617 Warringah Road, Forestville NSW 2087

Storage space is needed in the Warringah area to store goods purchased and donated through the year. A small store room or 1/2 garrage would be fantastic.

Enquiries about Network Heaven can be made by contacting: **Anne** on 0409329096 (M) or **Winsome** on 9451 6097 after 7pm week days



Hundreds of children down south in the tsunami affected area of Galle, Sri Lanka were among the recipients of gifts co-ordinated by Network Heaven. The group of children in this picture are from a low country tea plantation. They patiently waited for over 4 hours as the distribution party was delayed. Their patience was rewarded as they delighted in their gifts and said 'the time spent waiting in the heat outside was well worth the effort.



Network Heaven works with local partners in Sri Lanka headed by Sister Alex from the Sisters of Charity in Galle. Sister Alex works amongst the poor and disadvantaged. Due to the global economic melt down these families earning under \$3 per day have had the number of work days cut from 30 to 12. They face severe hardship with no help in sight. The christmas gift parcels mean a lot to them. You too can help make a difference in 2009.

**A small selection of culturally appropriate dresses made by volunteers in the district some as young as 84+**

## Some of the things we are looking for in 2009

- Donation to print the Network Heaven story
- Donation to print 'Network Heaven News'
- Small 2nd hand scanner(s) in good condition (can be put to good use in Sri Lanka)
- 2nd hand digital cameras —for Orphanages
- 2nd hand mobile phones—can be put to use by women when setting up a small business
- 2nd hand printer (small to medium) in good condition (to start up a small business)
- Recycle your Christmas cards they are used to generate funds to pay for medications at an elders home in Galle Sri Lanka
- Funding for freight & wholesale purchases
- 2nd hand transistor radios (very practical and useful and in big demand)
- Volunteers to hold an outdoor BBQ or fund raiser
- Do you have access to obsolete 'Corporate gifts'. We are looking for shirts, pens, stationery, mugs, caps, bags of all types, umbrellas or (anything practical) that Companies dump because they no longer need it or not quite up to standard (these can be put to good use by poor families)
- Bargain hunters, dress makers & volunteers to do all sorts of things are welcome



**[www.networkheaven.org](http://www.networkheaven.org)**