

BIKES again and BEDS

But this time in India. Lotus Outreach India (www.lotusoutreach.org) ever vigilant only granted 60 of the requested 100 bikes because the necessary requirements were not met.

So what are the requirements? Must be in school for three years (this ruled out quite a few girls at the end of their schooling) and live a minimum of 2 kilometers from the school. Actually, without the bikes it would be impossible for many of the girls to attend school.

We visited the school with Suraj Kumar, Lotus Outreach's project manager for India. All in all the 60 girls looked pretty pleased with their acquisition and we were able to photograph each



one and put a name to them for the Singapore donors of many of the bikes.

All of this took place at the Government Senior Secondary School at Rathiwas village in Tauru block Mewat District about 80 kms from the center of Delhi. The school has 475 students from class 8 to 12. Here is the Ven. Sumithananda, head of the Birla Buddhist Temple under the Maha Bodhi Society in Delhi. He walked over one hour to school everyday in Sri Lanka when he was young and so was very

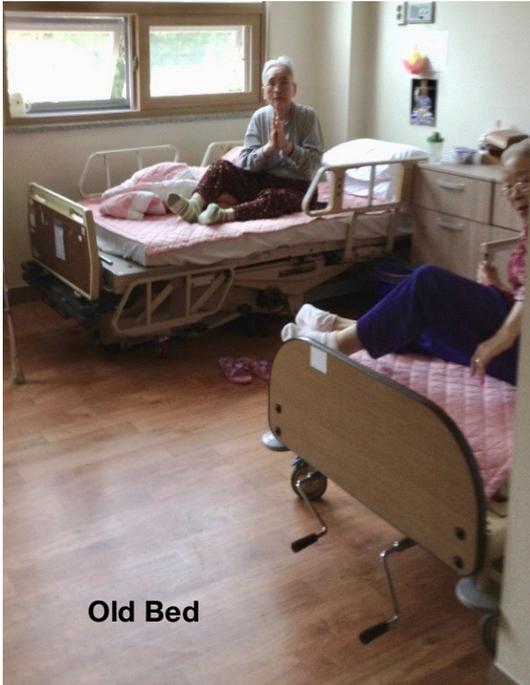


central in appreciating the value of the bikes!

Finally, here are some of the parents. A few admitted that if someone had given them a bike, they would have stayed in school.

Bright Hill Nursing Home, Korea (www.mitasa.co.kr)

A problem has arisen in Bright Hill Nursing Home. Whether you are aware of the problems or not, let us laud and applaud ALL people working with the elderly: they (we?) are not easy.



Old Bed

This year my subject has been anti-aging and the gist is that we must start early to work on our MINDS if we are to age well. The body is getting everything it needs: exercise, vitamins, fantastic food, holidays and more exercise. But the mind? We have forgotten it. We have forgotten to work towards being less selfish and more compassionate...

So what is the problem in the nursing home? Everyone wants a new bed!!!!

Built in 2011, Bright Hill is a perfect example of today's trend in "helping" the less fortunate. Build a lovely building with nothing inside!!!! So they bought 2nd hand hospital beds... We were introduced in 2013 and have done our best to help them keep their magnificent way of caring for the elderly (us in a few years.... Do remember.)



New Bed

You may recall that they were cleaning the 4 floors of 100 meter corridors with mops, washing the clothes of the between 110 and 125 guests in household size machines, washing the mass of dishes by hand and so on. Now they have improved cleaning materials and we have replaced 70 beds to date!

What we appreciate most is that the materials offered are so meticulously cared for! There is no attitude of "easy come, easy go." So it is a joy to give. How many times does one find the broken computers piled in a corner because either there is no-one to fix them or no-one knows how to get them fixed: easy come, easy go!



Director Lee Kyong-ae and Dojoon Sunim

Of course, the director negotiated hard for the beds resulting in enough left over money to buy 8 wall fans (some places in Korea hit 41 degrees centigrade this year with nearly 100% humidity!) Of course there is air-conditioning but the electric bill shoots up: fans are better. Only 55 more beds to be replaced...

Do you wish to see the elderly lovingly cared for?

PLEASE visit **Bright Hill in Umsoeng South Korea (+82-43-873-0108)**

You will be most welcome!

Take care, mujin.