



Jim's visit to the UK



September proved to be a very special month for both Vidiyal and NewDawn India as it held Jim's first visit to the UK for 10 years. It was also 7 years since Jim and Neville had last met and proved to be an emotional and encouraging time for both of them.

Final confirmation of Jim's flight was delayed so a last minute action plan was quickly put into place and proved to be very successful. Many people were anxious to meet Jim and entertain him in their own homes as well as attending the organised events.

Jim's 2 week stay in Capel St Mary was very full, with a mixture of speaking to groups, socialising and sight-seeing. Jim was able to attend three schools in the area and to work with the drama and RE department in one of these.

During visits to groups and homes, he met a large number of supporters and sponsors and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to hear about the progress of the children with whom he works, especially those who were able to learn more about their own sponsor children.

Jim enjoyed the opportunity to see more of East Anglia with visits to Pin Mill, Woodbridge, Felixstowe, Lavenham, Kersey, Bury St Edmunds, Sizewell Hall and Cambridge. His trip to London included the London eye on a lovely clear day. Every where he went he took numerous photos to show to the children on his return.



A drop-in session with a cream tea was held on the first day of the visit, which allowed many sponsors the chance to meet Jim and have their photos taken for Jim to take back to the children.

The traditional curry evening was also held during the 2 weeks of Jim's stay and was, as usual, a big success. It was good to be able to hear Jim talk first hand about the work at Vidiyal and the needs of the street children in Madurai.

The farewell meal was another special evening as it also coincided with being 20 years since the trust was first founded. Guests gathered at Suffolk Food Hall to say goodbye to Jim and to celebrate the work being done by Vidiyal with the support of NewDawn India.





The farewell evening and 20th anniversary celebration



Pictures from the Jungle Camp

On Jim's return he sent this message:

I trust this letter finds you in fine health and excellent circumstances. It was great being with you for two weeks. I enjoyed every bit of my stay at Capel. Enid looked after me like a mother. Thanks to every one of you who made it very special and memorable. I enjoyed the English food and taken note of the English culture. I was moved with your hard work and the dedication you have for our children.

I reached home on Sunday and enjoyed the fish curry at home. I met the children at the shelter home for a short while and the heavy down pour came. When I arrived here it was just 35 degrees. When I left Capel it was 7 degrees. But the heavy rain cooled a bit which is nice.

Yesterday we had a big gathering at the shelter home. Children belonging to the sponsor team gave me a warm welcome. I shared my experiences, showed the albums which the children enjoyed, gave the gifts and letters from their sponsors, and made them to think about the importance of staying connected to Vidiyal and the sponsors. It was nice to hear their thoughts and I was moved by the statements made by a child "Vidiyal is like a Father and Mother to me". I was able to give them an account of your love and how much these children are there in your hearts and homes.

I had to alter my schedule to go for the camp yesterday evening because of an invitation from UNICEF to share a session on Right to Education, at Tirupur. I waved hands when they left for Pabanasam for the Jungle Camp (The camp site is located just at the bottom of Kalakadu – Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve) and assured them that I would join them on the 29th.

Please do convey my best wishes and thanks to every friend of us. Thanks again for your Godly love and compassion.

Jim.



NEWDAWN INDIA

A message from the fund-raising team:

Do you have a jar in which you save your small change? If so, please think of the street children of Vidiyal when you empty it. If not, why not start one and help to change a child's life. We cannot all be everywhere but we can all make a difference to someone.



Fund-raising team with Jim

Sponsors:

Please remember to send your Christmas gift money and labels as soon as possible to either Sandra or Neville, so that we have time to forward them on to Jim.