

"Inverell couple helping teach Indian kids"

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Reporter : Kerri-Ann O'Sullivan

Craig and Rose Walsh of Inverell, will embark on a fifth trip to India in October to assist with starting a high school and three more primary schools.



The couple has travelled to India for three months most years since 2000, helping provide a better standard of living for poverty stricken communities and the sick, including lepers.

This trip the couple will take stationery, books and library bags which the students will use as their school bag.

Mr Walsh said he imagined the bags would be treasured items for kids and added that donations of a shipping container or part

shipping container to send things to India would be useful.

"People give us clothes and things to send overseas, but it costs a fortune to send," he said.

The couple's plan to start a high school would be of great benefit in the community.

"At the moment there is a kindergarten to year six, but we hope they will have a high school soon, otherwise they will not be able to graduate," Mr Walsh said.

He said that during their 2004 trip they realised the only way to break the poverty cycle was to educate the children.



"It's only through education and learning skill that they can possibly imagine to gain employment," he said.

Between 2004 and 2005, a location for a school building was found by the Walshs's co-workers.

"To go back and see it was really edifying," Mr Walsh said.

Now there are three primary schools-the biggest with 78 students- two orphanages and a pre-school scattered in the Chenglepattu and Paddapai regions.

"Before starting these schools the children didn't go to school because they were too far away and unaffordable," Mr Walsh said.

Pastors and village elders recently asked the couple to help initiate three more primary schools in the Chandrapur region in the north of India this trip.

"This may involve providing accommodation for the homeless students in these schools," Mr Walsh said.

If you wish to help through donations, the couple can be contacted on 0428 284 568 or mail sent to Mamre Ministries International.

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