

LOOKING BACK

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When I read of all the activities of the 80 Club and remember its humble beginning, I am truly impressed how far it has progressed and how it has been blessed.

Brenda K who was a great friend of mine, helped me in the work. I wrote to her of five poor people who came to me for help and I was not able to really help them, as they needed food and clothing etc. Brenda replied that she would help by sending me something each month, this I gratefully accepted. After our discussion she spoke to her friends and started a group in Melbourne to help the poor. We tried to help the children with school matters but we had to give it up, as we could not help everyone. We then decided on a Christmas party for the children to whom "Christmas Day" meant nothing. The gifts, games, food, and Santa were wonderful for the children, who enjoyed every minute.

My visit to Australia brought me in contact with many wonderful "caring people". I must mention Maurine and Cecil Fernando. I mentioned to Maurine that little "Steve" came to my party wearing a pair of shoes with his toe sticking out. Maurine promptly organized a "hopper" dinner and sent me the money, which helped with the money for the shoes. We visited Bata's shoe shop taking our friends with us. Little 1 I year old Steve said he would help his grandmother by buying her a pair of shoes. Luckily for her, I opened the parcel to find that he had bought a pair of shoes for his girl friend!

On leaving Australia, I received donations with which I was able to help a boy to do his Hotel School Course. Today he has his own house and is happily married and has a baby. Another girl was able to go to London as a "companion" - she got a very good job and settled down there and even got her brother out. .

We still have our shoe fund for the children and the adults and an Easter bonus. When I resigned from the Committee most of the pensioners went to the DBU, but I still have 12 other families with me. If anyone from Australia comes to Colombo, I would welcome them to meet my friends and me.

Loretta and Graham de Kretser help me and are wonderful. We meet on the first Sunday of each month to pay the pensioners, have breakfast and a little time together. Brenda must be very happy.

The satisfaction of caring for a needy person is an unmatched experience. God bless the Club and all its members.
