

August 26, 1995

STUDY VISIT TO ZANKHVAV TO STUDY MEDICINAL PLANTS
AND COLLECT MEDICINAL PLANTS

The Talasari Mission has been working very hard at trying to find for the local tribals, a relevant health system which will be within the economic reach of the tribals and at the same time, practical. In pursuit of this goal, the Mission has been trying to develop indigenous medicine. The Mission has at present 8 herbal medicine gardens spread out in different village centres. It has also organized a number of short term courses for traditional Village Medicine men and women and women village health workers. As a result, a lot of interest has been created in tribal and medicinal herbs among the people of Talasari.

The Mission has always been in search of sources which could enrich its store of medicinal herbs and also its knowledge of these plants. We had heard a lot of the work of Sr. Mariamma of Zankhvav and were very keen on visiting the Project in order to profit from her store of knowledge and of herbs. Although this visit was planned over a year ago, it did not materialize because of the difficulties of distance etc. Finally we did manage the visit and all of us feel that it was very well worth the trouble.

Sr. Alphonsa, the Co-ordinator of Herbal Health in the Mission, accompanied by Srs. Asha, Veronica, Pakuli and Fr. James visited Zankhvav on 21-22nd. August 1995. Sr. Mariamma after giving us a brief introduction to the Project, took us round to collect herbal medicinal plants not available in the Talasari area and to explain their various uses. The tour around the garden was very informative and instructive. To our store of knowledge, we added a whole wealth of information. And to our herbal gardens, we brought a whole new set of medicinal plants.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Sr. Mariamma of the Zankhvav Mission for all the knowledge with which she enriched us and for the big number of plants and seeds which she gave us. We are also grateful to the whole Zankhvav sisters community for the excellent hospitality which they extended to us and for the very good arrangements made for our boarding and lodging there during our stay there. There is no doubt that this visit to Zankhvav has helped to boost our herbal Project here in the Talasari area.

Sr. Alphonsa F.C.

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