

not started a business, training guard dogs and their handlers and hiring them out to protect people and their property. I am sure that some of you who have a pet dog know that most of them will growl and bark if strangers come so, if you say, "Good boy!" when your dog barks at strangers and, "No, that person is OK," when they bark at one of the family or a friend, you should be able to train him. If we love and care for our animals, they will love and care for us.

God bless you.



## THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET THERE BE - 1 *Assembly 57 – Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2003*

*(Take the framed poster with the Millenium Resolution on it.)*

Do any of you make New Year's Resolutions? When the new year comes, do you say, "Next year, I will take up a new hobby or I will not be horrible to my brother or sister." That is your New Year Resolution – what you are resolved to do. Before the year 2000 came, some people said, "We must have a very special resolution for the Millenium," and they asked the churches of the UK to write one – and they did. Their Millenium Resolution was not just for Christians or people from one particular culture, but something that everyone could agree to – and this is what they wrote – it has been made into a nice poster by a good artist who is also a nun.

In the middle it says "Let there be..." and there are 6 things round it. The first wish is 'Let there be RESPECT FOR THE EARTH.' This is something that we are beginning to be much more aware of than most of our fathers and grandfathers were. Do you speak of Mother Earth in Bangla? Well, it is very easy to take

Mothers for granted, isn't it?. "Good old mother – she will always be there, being nice to me, agreeing with whatever I want..." Yes? Now we are beginning to see that Mother Earth cannot do everything that every greedy person or nation wants. There are limits.

Think of the sea. We are learning that when there are more and more fishing boats with nets with smaller and smaller holes, then fish are caught in larger quantities and if the smaller and younger fish are caught then they do not grow up to have babies and the number of fish goes down and down. Some of the fishermen of Britain are very angry at the moment because the European Parliament regulates the number of fish they can catch and it gets lower and lower and some of them face poverty – but what else is there to do? If they go on fishing as they are fishing now, the fish will die out altogether and then no fishermen will earn any money.

And what about the trees? It is very interesting to me to see the way Bangladesh uses wood in its furniture. You use it as though the forests of India will never grow smaller. In Haluaghat, the lorry-loads of wood from India (some of it smuggled) rolled through the town and I was horrified. When I visited the Chittagong Hill Tracts, I went to a part where all the big trees have gone – taken by those who felt that Mother Earth existed only for them. In Europe, so many of our woods and forests have gone, that some people are getting much more aware.. Many big town trees have preservation orders on them. No one is allowed to cut them down. We collect our waste paper very carefully – 'Save Paper. Save Trees' is the slogan. Many organizations that print cards and writing paper have written on the back 'made from re-cycled paper' or 'Made from wood from sustainable resources.' In other words, every time they cut a tree down, they plant another one. As for the minerals and other products we get out of the ground, the coal and oil, the gas and the iron, the gems and the chemicals – they do not

reproduce themselves! They are non-renewable resources. They have to be used especially carefully

Probably the most important resource of the earth that we should respect is water. In some areas of the world, there is a water shortage and people, usually the women, have to walk for miles every day to collect it and, even then, it may not be drinkable. When the population grows, then even those nations with good water supplies, like Bangladesh, can have problems. We must learn not to waste water but learn how to use it economically. Mend dripping taps and leaking pipes. Respect the earth that is the mother of us all. The earth is very rich in resources but we have to be careful and not selfish or lazy. Mother Earth must not be taken for granted. Let there be respect for the earth. God bless you.



**THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET  
THERE BE - 2**  
*Assembly 58. Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2003*

Some of you went on a visit to a museum last Saturday and another visitor saw your behaviour and saw that you came from a school that organized such an interesting visit. This person was so impressed, that she came to the school and has registered her child as a pupil. I congratulate you and the teachers who organized the trip. Please remember that, wherever you go, you are an advertisement for this school – or the opposite!

We come today to the second Millennium Resolution. What did the first one say? ‘Let there be respect for the earth’. The second one says, “Let there be peace for its peoples.” I cannot think of anything that the peoples of the world want more at the present time than peace. We watch our televisions with great anxiety and

horror as we see some of the results of the war in Iraq. But what does the word ‘peace’ mean?

The word ‘shalom’ in Hebrew is a very big word – it means not only peace but harmony, well-being, everything working together as it was meant to work. When we say, “Salaamaleichum” we are wishing each other this peace. Peace is not just absence of noise. A graveyard, the place where dead bodies are laid to rest, is peaceful but there is no life there. A country with a dictator who murders whoever speaks against him, may seem to be at peace, but where there is no justice, there cannot be true peace. A person who has been tortured, neglected or abused may be quiet, but that situation screams to heaven for help.

This school is often noisy, but, if you are being noisy because of sport or drama or some creative activity, then we are at peace, the school is functioning as it should. People who do not have enough to eat, often sit around quietly but when they have enough to eat, they have the energy to work and play and there are the sounds of both, but one is false peace and the other is true peace. If a murderer or terrorist entered this school with a gun and our policemen friends captured him and took him away, there may be a terrible noise but that would be a sign that the peace-keepers were doing their work properly.

The War in Iraq is very terrible. The Coalition forces are trying to liberate Iraq from the awful influence of a dictator, Saddam Hussein, who has done some terrible things, murdering a million of his own people and thousands of others. But many in the world, including many in American and Britain, say that the method of this liberation is very wrong. Others say that the timing is wrong – either we should have fought this man 20 years ago, or waited for the United Nations to be united about it. Everyone in the world wants to help the Iraqi people to have true peace, but, because so many have not welcomed this ‘liberation’, what is happening seems to be the very opposite of peace and we just hope it will stop soon.