

Ann Matthews – Sept 2009 Turning 30 at St Anthony's

I had mixed feelings about turning 30, so I wanted to do something special to mark this milestone. Something meaningful, something that would make a difference in someone else's life.

Thanks to Google and of course the hand of My Lord, I found the Kathleen Keegel's Foundation online, after a few emails back and forth with Georgie, I made it to St Anthony's last September and was welcomed with open arms.

I felt right at home from the first day. The children were wonderful to say the least and I was so happy to be there and felt very blest. I had an awesome time spending my afternoons teaching the kids English. The rest of the time we read books, played carom, did arts and crafts. I told the children about my country and they had a lot of questions that I was happy to answer! We shared every meal together and we had many laughs together. Being with them was a joy!

On my birthday, Mary made milk rice which is the traditional breakfast for birthdays. I loved it!! She also made me Pol Sambol which is my favourite Sri Lankan dish. Little did I know that Ollie and the kids had a special surprise for me. That afternoon, during English lesson time, Ollie and Gayathri brought in a beautifully decorated pink birthday cake with my name on it. Everyone sang me a birthday song and it brought tears to my eyes to feel so at home with my new friends. We stopped for tea and scones and I couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift.

Fred and Ollie, together with the children and everyone at St Anthony's made my trip a memorable and beautiful experience. I'll never forget it!!

I sincerely believe that changing the world means doing it one child at a time.

And for 5 days, I got a chance to do my little bitty part for these children. Fred and Ollie do it every day! (God Bless You Both)

I love you all and miss you all very much!!
God Bless each and every one of you.

**Ann Matthews
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**