

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of August 2015

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



Br James is doing well and there is a lot of improvement in his health. A physiotherapist, Dr Shyam, comes regularly from the nearby town of Batlagundu for physiotherapy sessions. After a long time confined to his bed, Brother has now started to go out in his wheelchair getting fresh air, and the cheers and warmth of love from the children and the staff. A few times he has even come to the office and school campus in his wheelchair.

Two volunteers from Germany, Julian Salber and Laura Klein, were here last month. They visited our programmes and made small documentary movie clips on various projects. We appreciate their dedication and passion for the project, and we wish them every success in their future careers.



A new piece of land was bought recently adjacent to our playing field with the help of a generous legacy from Martin and Margaret Henry. They were good friends of Br James and both were trustees of RTU in the UK for a long time. They used to live in Madurai and visited RTU many times taking the most care for the wellbeing of the children. This land will be used for expansion

of our projects so we can reach more orphaned children when we have the funds to do this and, until then, coconut and fruit trees will continue to be cultivated on the land. We sincerely thank all their family members for supporting this purchase.

Child care in our Children's Villages

A day of training on 'tender loving care' was given to our childcare staff in two groups by Sr. Anastasia and her social work team from Jeevan Jyothi Hospice. Our foster mothers found it very useful with a lot of practical tips to understand and care for the children.



On 15th August Miriam Children's Village celebrated its 16th anniversary with the usual variety show of their wonderful talents. Some of the hostel girls who grew up there also took part in the function and recalled their love and affection, and the enjoyment they had living there.



Ms Punitha, a staff nurse who was brought up by us, got married to Mr Shameem Kumar, a professor in a college. Her mother works with us as a foster mother in Nirmala Children's Village. We wish them all the best in their life together.

Two of our mothers, Mrs Annamma and Mrs Chennammal have been promoted as hostel wardens at Josephine and Pushparani Hostels respectively. Mrs Jeya Rani, who was warden of Pushparani Hostel, has been promoted to Manager of Sirumalar Children's Village. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

Our schools



There were colourful parades of the talents of our students on 15th August, India's Independence Day. The dances, a march-past, yoga, dramas and displays of our students simply captivated the audience and the two-hour programme went on very well without any feeling of it lasting such a long time.



Language (Tamil and English) academies were held in our schools to stress the importance of the languages. The students expressed their expertise of languages through dramas, poems, dances and speeches.



Class 12 students had a day of training on 'Brain Gym'. Fr Sahayaraj, a Capuchin Priest, gave them this training. The

students found it very useful as it increases the power of understanding and retention.

Our healthcare programme



We have started a new Physiotherapy unit in our healthcare clinic. A physiotherapist, Dr Shyam, came forward to offer his services to the people, including Br James, through RTU. He is originally from the nearby village of Genguvarpatti and now lives in Batlagundu. He was also a student of one of our evening study centres that we run in rural villages to improve the educational

attainment of children from the poorest families in rural villages. We have installed the necessary equipment and instruments in our clinic to serve the poor. The doctor also visits twice a week and the patients are given daily treatment by our nurses as per the instructions of the doctor. A number of our own staff with pain are benefitting from this new unit.

Community development in rural villages

Four of our community development staff attended three days of training on 'Non-communicable Diseases' and gained useful knowledge about the prevention and treatment of diabetes, blood pressure, cancer and heart disease. This team supports our 99 Self Help Groups for rural women, and part of their role is to raise awareness about basic health issues in the villages to help people gain access to proper medical care. You may remember that we have also run training for health volunteers from the Self Help Groups so that they can attend to the sick in their villages and give them guidance about the facilities available at medical centres.

Housing and Water



After a long break when we have had a period of good rain, there is again demand for more bore wells. Last month we drilled 8 bore wells for villages, schools and NGOs. All the bore wells produced good water, apart from one. The people were very happy. One was done in our Nirmala Middle School campus and there was excellent water. There had always been water scarcity in that campus and we were fully dependent on the Panchayath (local civil administration) water which was not regular. Now we have sufficient water at this school. The staff and the students are extremely happy to have this new bore well.

Everyday many receive some sort of relief for their life from RTU. We are proud of doing this for the poor. Your contributions and support make it possible to reach out the poor the needy. We gratefully acknowledge all your support.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally,
Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.,
Secretary.