

**Reaching The Unreached**  
G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203  
**Happenings of October 2015**

Dear Well-wishers,



Greetings from RTU. Saraswathi Pooja and Ayutha Pooja were celebrated in the schools, Children Villages and hostels. Saraswathi is goddess of knowledge and arts. Ayutha Pooja is celebrated in order to honor the instruments that God gave to enhance the world. The usual special prayers were held. The children were very happy to celebrate these festivals and to understand their real meaning.

**Child care in our Children's Villages**



The anniversaries of Sirumalar Children's Village and Hermann Hostel were celebrated with the usual joy and jubilation. It is 10 years since we opened our fourth Children's Village which provides a home for 167 younger children with our foster mothers in the village houses, and also 134 teenagers living in the hostels which are also based at Sirumalar Children's Village. The children



showed their talents in singing, dancing, poems and speech, and it was amazing to have some of the children for the first time on the stage. Brother was present for both anniversary functions.

Jeyachitra, one of our students doing nursing at the Crescent School of Nursing, Madurai, was awarded the 'Best Student Award'. She came to us when she was 4 years old because of her father died and her mother remarried and deserted. Another student, Pavithra, who is doing her first year of nursing training, passed with distinction at Coimbatore Medical College. We are very proud of all our students studying away at college and their achievements.

### Our schools



Mothers' Day was celebrated in all our schools. Even though Mothers' Day falls in the month of May, the schools celebrated it on this day in order to honour the hard work and the sacrifices the mothers make for the children. All the Children's Village foster mothers were invited and taken in a procession to the stage. The songs, dances, poems and speeches were centered around the love and care of the mothers for their children.





Our Mobile School Science Labs visit around 100 Government schools to give children in small rural schools hands-on experience of experiments and science equipment. In order to give the children they teach a platform to exhibit their creativity in science, a Science Exhibition was held at RTU. Children and teachers from 18 local schools came and participated in the exhibition, and all their presentations were very excellent and informative. The explanations given by the primary school students were incredible.

Students from class 10 recently went on a school trip to Madurai and the younger children in class 4 went to a horticulture farm to learn about different varieties of flower plants. It was very good learning experience for them all and they were very excited to go on these trips. For 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> students, a seminar was held by Br Inigo Amalan and it was well appreciated by the students.

### Home Support Programme



International Children's Day was celebrated at RTU with a large gathering for the children in our Home Support Programme. More than 900 children and parents attended the function. Competitions were conducted for the children and prizes were distributed on the stage. There was also number of variety stage

programmes to entertain and to bring out the talents of the children. Children were very happy to have this day and it was good to see them all together under one roof.

36 children from 19 families have recently been newly enrolled and we now have 762 children benefitting from this programme. There was an orientation meeting for the newly enrolled children. They were motivated to continue to go to school, and to have high aspirations to achieve well at school and in their future lives.

### **Community development in rural villages**



A day of awareness on domestic violence and alcoholism was organised for 60 women in the Self Help Groups. The participants learnt what to do during abusive instances and how to handle the situation. Two legal aid camps giving free legal advice were conducted and 98 women benefitting from the consultations. Veterinary vaccination camps were held for three days around the villages to vaccinate milking animals against anthrax and other air-borne diseases, and 586 cattle were given treatment. These camps were organised by us as one of the main sources of income generation for many of our beneficiaries in the Self Help Groups centres around milking animals.

### **Housing and Water**



Nine houses have recently been constructed in Ayyampalayam, Pattiveeranpatti and Old Batlagundu. The families were very happy to have these new village houses compared to the rough shelters they were living in and it will change their lives considerably. In addition, six bore

wells were sunk during the month for schools around Nilakottai, around 20 km from us. Local villagers will also benefit from the new bore wells.

Our services reach many people from all walks of life. Many lives of the poorest people living in our area are enlightened through your generous and sacrificial contributions. We gratefully acknowledge your support for our services. May God bless you!

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