

# Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

## Happenings of June 2016

Dear Well-wishers,  
Greetings from RTU.



The month of June saw the beginning of a new academic year here. All our children happily entered into a new school or into a new class meeting many new friends with the blessings of God. Brother James was present in the campus to welcome the children for the new academic year and all our children greeted him with great joy.

Our hearts overflow with exceeding joy to share with you our achievements with the latest statistics for the past 12 months, which you will read below. It has been a blessed time for us all to work together to achieve so much for the poorest children and families in our area.

### Child care in our Children's Villages



On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we celebrated the annual hostel days for David and Josephine Hostels. Our children living in these hostels performed cultural shows in the evening in the presence of Br James, Fr Antony and all the foster mothers. It was a joyful occasion to remember our sponsors, David and Josephine Cassidy, on their birthday anniversary. A special dinner was organised for the children.

The Most Reverend Antony Pappusamy, the Archbishop of Madurai Diocese, visited RTU on 12<sup>th</sup> June. All our children welcomed him with rose flowers. During his pastoral visit he addressed all our children and blessed them. It was a gracious occasion for our children to see the Archbishop and to receive God's blessing from him. He spent an hour talking to our children and his talk was blissful.







Moral education classes were organised for our children in the Children's Villages and Hostels every weekend with the support of the Brothers' team from Karumathur. They teach moral stories and songs to our children.

In the last year from July 2015 to June 2016, 167 new children (89 boys and 78 girls) came to live in our care in the Children's Villages. Among them 4 were HIV infected. 42 girls aged 13 and 14 boys aged 11 years moved to our hostels, which is where our older children live. While they were happy to join their peers, they were little sad to be away from their foster mothers and brothers and sisters in the small family houses in the Children's Villages.

Centres	Poor		Semi Orphan		Orphan		HIV Affected		HIV+		Total			Families
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	Total	
AnbuIllam	10	20	31	40	6	5	2	6			49	71	120	20
Sirumalar CV	6	25	22	42	4	10	3	11	13	15	48	103	151	20
Miriam CV	7	20	33	34	3	8	2	4			45	66	111	15
Nirmala CV	15	18	24	26	7	4	5	8			51	56	107	15
David Hostel										21		21	21	
Velanganni Hostel		17		19		3		6				45	45	
Josephine Hostel		9		14		7		7				37	37	
Hermann Hostel		11		17		6		7				41	41	
Pushparani Hostel		8		15		4		13				40	40	
Miriam Dean Hostel	1		8		4		3		19		35		35	
Michael Hostel	7		19		6		8				40		40	
Residential School*	11		25	6	5		26		6		73	6	79	
Professional Studies*	4	10	9	32	8	11	10	37	1	11	32	101	133	
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>199</b>		<b>416</b>		<b>101</b>		<b>158</b>		<b>86</b>		<b>960</b>			
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>21%</b>		<b>43%</b>		<b>11%</b>		<b>16%</b>		<b>9%</b>		<b>39%</b>	<b>61%</b>		

(B = boys; G = girls)

\*The centres, where we send our children for special training and education. The rest are directly run by RTU.

The above table could also be summarised as following table.

Category	HIV Infected			HIV Affected			Others			Total			%
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	
Orphan	16	20	36	13	32	45	43	58	101	72	110	<b>182</b>	<b>19%</b>
Semi-Orphan <sup>1</sup>	22	25	47	37	53	90	171	245	416	230	323	<b>553</b>	<b>58%</b>
Poor <sup>2</sup>	1	2	3	9	14	23	61	138	199	71	154	<b>225</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>960</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>9%</b>			<b>16%</b>			<b>75%</b>			<b>39%</b>	<b>61%</b>		<b>100%</b>

(B = boys; G = girls; T = total)

<sup>1</sup>Single parent

<sup>2</sup>Children from separated or abandoned parents, handicapped, blind, chronically sick parents etc. As always we have more girls (61%). At the moment, we have 133 of our children who are now professional students away at college and are studying the following courses:

	Course	Duration	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	Total
01	GNM (General Nursing)	3½ Yrs	10	9	16	20	55
02	ANM (Auxiliary Nursing)	2 Yrs	4				4
03	D.M.L.T (Lab Tech.)	2 Yrs.	1				1
04	I.T.I (Industrial Training)	1-3 Yrs	3	8			11
05	Polytechnic	2-3 Yrs	3	13	11		27
06	Engineering	4 Yrs	1	2		1	4
07	B.Com. (CA)	3 Yrs	1		1		2
08	BBA	3 Yrs.			1		1
09	B.A. Music	3 Yrs.			1		1
10	B.A. History	3 Yrs.	1	1			2
11	Dip.in Office Management	1 Yr.	1	4			5
12	Dip. in Special Education	2 Yrs.	6	3			9
13	Teacher Training	2 Yrs.		1			1
14	Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)	2 Yrs.	1				1
15	Waiting *	2-4 Yrs	9				9
	<b>Total</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>133</b>



\*The admissions in the government-run paramedical institutions and teachers' training institutions begins later in the academic year, therefore we have a few who are waiting for their courses to start.

In the last academic year from July 2015 to June 2016, 76 students have completed their professional courses. (GNM-15, ANM-1, Polytechnic-28, ITI-6, Engineering-1, Diploma of Office Management-4, Special Education – 6, Teacher's Training – 5, Lab Technician – 1, Medical Record – 1, MPHW – 7 and B.Com. (CA) – 1.

### Schools and Education

All our balwadies and schools opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 440 new students were admitted for this new academic year.



A day trip and picnic was organised for all our teachers by our education department on 11<sup>th</sup> June to the hill town of Kodaikanal. 71 teaching staff and 20 non-teaching staff joined this picnic and enjoyed seeing beautiful scenery and the gift of nature in and around Kodaikanal with delicious food.



On the birthday anniversary of our famous Tamil Poet, Kannadasan, competitions were organised for the school children on 22<sup>nd</sup> June in Kumarappa Chettiyar Memorial Higher Secondary school in Nilakottai. From St Peter's Higher Secondary school, our children Lavanya and Divya participated in the competitions. Lavanya who is in the 10<sup>th</sup> standard won first prizes in the speech competitions and Divya from 5<sup>th</sup> standard won third prize in the singing competition. Their winnings gave very good recognition to our school.

From 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July, three days of house visits were carried out by all our teachers. They visited all our children's parents to explain about the importance of education and to motivate them to send their children to school regularly. It also gave our teachers a good idea of the family background so that they could care for and educate each individual child based on their family circumstances.





Elections for Balarshaba (the school parliament) were conducted in our four schools. It was a good occasion for the children to practice their democratic voting rights. The candidates went to each class and department and talked about what they would do to promote the welfare of the students. The swearing-in ceremony has been organised for elected members on different dates in our four schools. The promise and the commitment of the elected members were appreciated by all the students and the teachers. The Balarshaba elections and the swearing-in ceremony brought out many leadership qualities amongst the students.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> June, school toppers in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Government exams were honoured with valuable prizes in order to encourage the other students. There were two centum one in social science and another in science in 10<sup>th</sup> class. The school toppers were encouraged to continue their higher studies and perform well. The prizes were given in memory of Smt K Savithri, M/o Dr D K Oza and by the JK alumnae of RTU.

We have introduced in our St. Peter's School a music-band, which brings out the music interests of the students. It also cultivates an attitude of co-ordination, co-operation and adjustment among the student's club. For this troop, students were selected from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> standard classes. Twice a week music classes are held for two hours in the morning by Mr. Alphonse,



a retired RMTC band master from Dindigul. In total, 52 boys and girls receive this initial coaching session. Thanks to Dr DK Oza, RTU's President, for his initiative to introduce this in RTU.



Six days of special courses on "Healing the Inner Child" was animated for 11<sup>th</sup> standard students by Fr Sahayaraj. This course helped our students to heal their wounds and the struggles which disturb them from their unconscious minds. Students felt that this course was useful as it gave practical tips to handle their emotions and become free from all stresses.



A function was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> June in St Peter's Higher Secondary school to distribute certificates to all those who completed their tailoring training. About 69 women from different villages received the certificate from Fr Antony Paulsamy, Director. Sr Sahaya Sangeetha, from

Annapackiam Community College was the chief guest and delivered a speech on women's empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Apart from the students in our full time care (960), we reach out to around 8,500 children to give them good educational opportunities.

The present strength of the beneficiaries is as follows:

Schools/Centres	Teaching Staff	Non Teaching Staff	RTU's Children			Day-scholars			Total		
			B	G	Total	B	G	Total	B	G	Total
ArulmalarPS	12	2	34	29	63	75	96	171	109	125	234
St. Peter's PS	13	2	69	65	134	70	84	154	139	149	288
Nirmala MS	12	3	103	67	170	13	11	24	116	78	194
St. Peter's HSS	25	5	60	316	376	63	87	150	123	403	526
Pre-schools x 8	9	8	10	10	20	74	102	176	84	112	196
Day Care Centres x 2		4				37	28	65	37	28	65
Supplementary Sx13	21	12				238	333	571	238	333	571
J.K. Scholarship <sup>1</sup>						12	36	48	12	36	48
Scholarship to Staff's Children						8	12	20	8	12	20
Mobile School Science Lab x 3 <sup>2</sup>	6					3331	3010	6341	3331	3010	6341
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>3921</b>	<b>3799</b>	<b>7720</b>	<b>4197</b>	<b>4286</b>	<b>8483</b>

PS = Primary School; HSS = Higher Secondary School; MS = Middle School; S = School

<sup>1</sup>138 students have completed their studies under this scheme.

<sup>2</sup>Our Mobile Science Lab reaches out to 99 schools in 77 villages.

### Medical and Healthcare

Our health clinic has served 29,319 visits by patients in the last year and the mobile clinic has reached 4,356 sick people from 4 villages. 106 elderly and destitute and 24 infirm people from 23 villages receive a small amount of support for their daily sustenance.

Medical check-ups were carried out for all our school children through our Pushparani Clinic team from 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. In total, 1214 school children underwent medical check-ups. The children who had chest problems and other common illnesses were referred for immediate treatment.

### Home Support Programme (HSP)

750 children from 459 families living in 84 surrounding villages receive assistance for their education. Among them, 125 families (202 children) are affected by HIV. 46 families have been newly added to the programme this year.

60 children from the Home Support Programme in rural villages have passed their 12<sup>th</sup> standard Government exams and among them 8 students (Polytechnic -3, ITI- 1, Diploma -1 and B.Com degree -1) are now being supported through the JK Scholarship Fund for their technical and professional training courses. Another 11 students will be supported through teacher training and nursing courses.

### Community Development

There are 99 Self Help Groups from 28 villages with 1,568 members. The Groups also run 12 evening study centres or supplementary schools for the poorest children in their villages and 521 children attend these. We provided the children with notebooks.





RTU has been raising awareness among the Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages since the programme started to help women claim what they are entitled to from Government schemes. Recently, 15 SHG members from Sri Angala Parameshwari SHGs and Nagammal SHGs in JK Nagar claimed 15 iron boxes from the Government which were very helpful for their traditional work. In order to thank RTU for having helped them to claim these iron boxes, the SHGs organised a function in their village. Fr Antony Paulsamy, Director, was the chief guest and delivered a message on collective efforts to claim the rights from the Government. 40 other SHGs members from nearby villages also participated in this function.

### **Housing and Water**

During this month, 11 houses at Bangalapatti have been completed. All the family members are living happily and safe in their houses. They expressed their sincere thanks to RTU for having provided wonderful houses.

In the last year, 100 houses have been constructed in 17 villages (Genguvarpatti - 11, G. Kallupatti - 9, Ayyampalayam - 21, Pattiveeranpatti - 7, Old Batlagundu - 1, Thoppupatti - 7, Nagamanaickenpatti - 6, Kottur - 1, Batlagundu - 6, Eluvanampatti - 1, Ranganathapuram - 2, A.Vadipatti - 1, Kuttikaradu - 7, Ganesapuram - 2, Aadusapatti - 5, Kombaipatti - 2 and Bangalapatti - 11). This increases the total number of houses that RTU has built for the poorest families to 8,609.

In the last year, 25 water facilities (bore-wells with motor fitting) have been drilled and the total number of water facilities that have been provided in our target villages is 2,437.

The above mentioned statistical details show that all your generous contributions and sacrifices which bore fruit in sixty and hundred folds. Through your kind support you have made a real difference to the lives of our poor children and people we serve. We believe that your co-operation will help us to take one step forward in ensuring a better world for our children. Our deepest heartfelt thanks for all your support in executing this project. My heart is always filled with profound gratitude for you.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

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