

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of May 2016

Dear Well-wishers,

It gives us joy to share with you the academic results and also the arrival of the new children and new foster mothers into our Children's Villages. We feel proud of our students and their achievements. God has blessed us abundantly.

Our Children's Villages and Childcare Programme

As it was the end of the academic year, most of the children in our care were away this month and spent their long summer holidays with their parents or other relatives in their native villages. The HIV+ children had two weeks holidays so they could return early and receive the good nutritional care they have here, and all the foster mothers had 12 days annual holiday. All the children returned to their Children's Villages or hostels on or before 21st May. A few children were withdrawn by their parent or relatives for various reasons.

Short picnics were arranged once a week for the children with no relatives who stayed with us. They visited beautiful places like a Fun Park, Suruli Falls, Veerapandi River, Vaigai Dam, Madurai and Theni. They enjoyed seeing our wonderful nature and returned feeling relaxed. They were provided with special picnic food and edibles including cake and ice cream. The HIV infected children who are orphans who were referred to us by Sr Anastasia spent their holidays at Jeevan Jyothi Hospice under her care.



On 23rd May 2016, we all celebrated the 91st birthday of Br James Kimpton, Founder and Patron of RTU, at our main campus in a grand manner. The day before, the alumnae of RTU gathered to wish their *Thatha* Happy Birthday. Around 85 former RTU children came with their family members. It was a lovely occasion and good to see them as grown ups leading happy lives. On 23rd children and staff gathered to wish Brother a Happy Birthday. He cut

the cake with those children who shared their birthday date with him. He thanked all the children and staff, and blessed them. During this celebration we welcomed all the new children and new foster mothers. We consider this function as a starting day for our Children's Programme. In the evening we had a special Holy Mass followed by beautiful dances and a special dinner.





In April and May, we admitted 136 new children (71 boys and 65 girls) into our Children's Villages. Among them are 5 children who are HIV+. Usually we find it difficult to recruit enough foster mothers to look after them but luckily this year we have 12 new mothers to take care of our children. So the number of foster families has increased from 65 to 70. This year 42 girls and 19 boys moved from the small family houses in our Children's Villages to the hostels we have for teenagers, so making space for the new younger ones.



Other news in May ... yoga training was organised for five days for 6th to 12th standard children when they returned, in our main RTU campus by the Batlagundu team of Aruvithirukoil. All the children gained a comprehensive understanding of the practice of yoga. They also felt rejuvenated and energised.

Schools

Achievements of RTU Children				
	St. Peter's School		Home Support Programme	
	Class 12	Class 10	Class 12	Class 10
Appeared	57	84	61	81
Passed	56	84	60	78
Pass Percentage	98%	100%	98%	96%
School First Mark	1076/1200 (90%)	485/500 (97%)	-	-
School Average	845/1200 (70%)	372/500 (75%)	-	-
90% and above	01	08	-	10
80-89%	09	23	02	17
70-79%	23	24	05	22
60-69%	15	18	16	14
50-59%	07	10	11	10
Below 49%	02	01	09	08



On 17th May 2016, the 12th standard annual exam results were announced and our St Peter Higher Secondary School achieved a 98% pass rate this year. S Naseerabaanu scored the highest mark of 1076/1200. Six students scored above 1000/1200.



On 25th May 2016, the 10th standard annual exam results were announced. Our St Peter Higher Secondary School recorded a 100% pass result this year. J Sugirdha Princess scored the highest mark of 485/500 in the school. Of the 84 students who sat the exams, 31 scored above 400/500.

The annual training programme for our school teachers was organised on 6th and 7th May 2016. Fr. S Sahayaraj animated the training. It was a fruitful experience for the teachers to review and examine themselves and their teaching methods.

On 30th May 2016, teachers had a seminar on classroom situations. Fr Jayaseelan, author of "*EthuNamaKulanthaikalinaVagupparai*" (It is our Children's Classroom), conducted this seminar based on student-teacher relationships in the classroom. Teachers felt this seminar was very useful as it gave them practical tips to handle their students with motherly love.



Home Support Programme



For our Home Support Programme, we have selected 46 of the poorest families to join the programme this month. Our Director visited each family and checked their circumstances and to welcome them. This means that in total 90 new children are ready to receive our support where their families receive a monthly payment so that the children can continue their education in their own villages and have sufficient food and clothing. Among them 8 families are affected by HIV/AIDS and one child is HIV+.

The 10th and 12th standard annual exam results were announced and, for the children in our Home Support Programme, 60 students out of 61 passed their 12th standard annual exams and 5 students scored above 900 marks. 78 students out of 81 passed their 10th standard annual exam and 17 students scored above 400. We are hoping that some will take advantage of our JK Scholarship Fund where we sponsor them through college courses.

Rural Housing Programme:

During this month, 5 houses at Batlagundu (Bethaniyapuram) - 2 houses at Kombaipatti and Ayyampalayam villages and one house at Kuttikaradu village have been completed. Totally 10 houses were completed within a short span of time. All the family members are very happy to live in these safe houses. They are thankful to RTU for having provided wonderful houses.



During this month Mr. Amaladoss drilled for water in Boominayakenpatti panchayath, Deepam Batlagundu, Iniya Udhayam Diraviya nagar villages and then organised drilling rigs. All three gave a very good water supply. People in the villages were overjoyed to see a very good yield of water and thanked RTU for such a wonderful gift of water. It will make a huge difference to them to have a clean, safe water supply.

We are truly blessed and inspired by your efforts to reach these poorest children in need. With your continuous support we are marching ahead with remarkable achievements and accomplishments in terms of reaching out to the unreached. I take this opportunity to thank all the donors and individuals for their unstinted cooperation in all our endeavours. We all remember you in our prayers.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

Fr. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap,
Secretary and Director.