

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of March 2016

Dear Well-wishers,



International Women's Day was celebrated here in our main campus by our Vidiyal Federation with great zeal and passion on 12th March to help raise awareness of women's rights. A total of 1716 women from our Self Help Groups and children from our village study centres participated in this celebration. Mrs Ponnuthai, the State Secretary of the Indian Democratic Women's Forum, was the chief guest and she delivered a

wonderful message on women's rights and independence. This function helped show how collective action could be taken by women to claim and protect their rights. The women and children presented many beautiful dances and dramas about the rights of women which were really inspirational. Finally they sang folk songs which were very much appreciated.



International Women's Day was also celebrated by our foster mothers in Sirumalar Children's Village campus on 8th March. Br James and Fr Bosco greeted the mothers and showed their appreciation for their services to the children in their care. Our guests, Mrs Pearl Kittu, counsellor and trainer, Dr James Playfair, trustee from RTU-UK and his family, and Mr Kenny Preston also expressed their good wishes and appreciation to the mothers. The mothers performed dances and fun-filled skits. All of them enjoyed the day with delicious food. In order to express their love, affection and gratitude to their mothers, the senior children from all the Children's Villages organised a celebration to honour them with greetings, songs, slogans and dances. Women and children are our main target group for all our programmes at RTU so this day is celebrated here for women with as much ceremony as we celebrate International Children's Day.

Children's Programme

The 11th anniversary of Michael's Boys' Hostel, over on our Bodi site was celebrated and the boys presented dances, debates, art and drama which were very much appreciated.





13 of our young students successfully completed their 3½ year Nursing and Midwifery courses and they all have now got job placements in multi-specialty hospitals where they can start earning. Most of these students have been in our care since they were small girls in our Children's Villages and we are very proud of their achievements. A few of these girls are planning to get married soon.



On 23rd one of our girls Ms Leela Rukmani got married to Mohan Raj. From 26-04-2001 onwards her mother was a foster mother and then warden and now working as in charge of Professional Course students. She studied BCA (Bachelor of Computer Applications) and later did Masters in Computer Applications. We wish the newly married couple all the best in the new family life.

Our Schools

The main state-level public exams for our 10th and 12th students started and will take place over several weeks. All these students have been preparing well with the support of their teachers.



We have organised a range of field trips for some of our other students in order to enrich their learning. On 2nd March, 5th standard students from Arul Malar School went to Vaigaidam as their field trip and enjoyed seeing the dam. The purpose and benefit of the dam and usage of water was explained. On 11th, March, 8th standard students from our St Peter's Higher Secondary School went to a fruit garden and Vaigaidam. They gained knowledge on a variety of fruits, including their botanical names and their benefits. On 18th March, 7th standard students were taken to Annai Nursery to get practical knowledge about growing plants and flowers. On 16th and 18th March, 8th and 5th standard students from Nirmala Middle School went to Kottakudi River and learnt about the importance of water.



On 24th March, a food festival was celebrated in a grand manner in Arul Malar Primary School and the teachers explained the importance of food and good nutrition.

On 19th March, Fr Antony, Director of RTU, opened the newly refurbished balwadies (pre-schools) in memory of Jo Cassidy. This opening ceremony took place in the presence of our children, the teachers and our staff members. We thank the family and friends of Jo for their donations in her memory to establish these wonderful classrooms for our children.





Community Development Programme



A two-day training programme was organised for our Vidiyal Federation leaders and executive committee. The Vidiyal Federation is the independent management committee for all our Self Help Groups. 18 members attended the programme in CCD- Kariyapatti to gain more knowledge on the concept of Women Farmer-Producer Companies.

Rural Housing Programme



In March, 16 new village houses were built including 6 houses at Gutti Karadu, 2 at Ganeshpuram, 3 at Ayyampalayam and 5 at Adusapatti. All the family members are now so relieved to have a decent home in which to live. They are very grateful to RTU and the donors for having provided houses for them.

Management

The RTU board meeting was held on 5th March 2016. All the board members attended this meeting and discussed the current programmes in RTU. Mr K Ramakrishnan, Manager of the Accounts Department, presented the budget for 2016-17 which was approved by the board members.

Mr Kenny Preston, an architect from the UK, volunteered his services for a month. He surveyed, drew and inspected all the buildings in our main RTU campus and presented his feedback. We also thank Mr Kenny for his significant contribution towards our housing programme.

We want to thank you all for your valuable help for all our programmes to help the poorest people in our area. We are encouraged and supported to commit ourselves more and more for the betterment of underprivileged children and people. Thanks for joining hands with us to share the joy in serving the poor. Your support is really making a big difference in the lives of so many people.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

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