

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of December 2015

Dear Well-wishers,

I hope you had very meaningful Christmas celebrations and started this New Year well. May God lead you through this year holding your hands!



We had good Christmas celebrations both in the schools and in the Children's Villages.

On the morning of the 24th, there was a Christmas celebration in the schools at our Kallupatti and Bodi sites. The crib at our main campus was opened and blessed by Fr Xavier, the Parish Priest and Vicar Forene of Batlagundu Parish. There were Christmas dances and nativity plays, all excellently acted by the children. Around 25 children took part in a nativity play which they performed in our parish at Batlagundu and the people were very much taken by our children. The audience remind spell-bound throughout.



In the evening we held a Holy Mass at Sirumalar Children's Village and around 1200 children were present, including all the children in our care and those from neighbouring organisations. On Christmas Day we held a large Christmas celebration, with a nativity play and a number of Christmas variety dances. Six of our mothers namely Senthamilselvi, Lakshmi, Mariyayee, Saratha, Thangamani, and Pothumani were honoured by Br James

Kimpton for their ten years of service. Mr. Shivakumar, Theni District Child Protection Officer and Mr. Ragavan, Deputy Block Development Officer, were the special invitees for this function. In the evening there were light music and dances. The whole day went on very well. All the children who are under our full time care in the Children's Villages and hostels were present for the function.



Over the following three days we held our Children's Camp. There were lots of fun and games with evening entertainments. Many children who had never been on stage could be seen with interesting presentations like colourful dances, skits and songs. 917 children participated in the camp. The Camp was organised and run by 64 mothers, 15 staff and 20 volunteers from various colleges like Anugraha College, Madurai Institute of Social Sciences, the American College and Mannar College. All the evening stage programmes were held in Sirumalar Children's Village and Br James took part in all of them.



Over the four days, very sumptuous and delicious meals were cooked and served by the kitchen staff who prepared three meals a day for 1100 children and staff. They managed this very well for the children's satisfaction and happiness, who will be talking about this Camp for the next year. All the staff tried their best to give them the best experience possible.

Our schools





Also on Christmas Eve, new school buildings were opened. A building with 6 classrooms for Arulmalar Primary School and a building with a hall and 4 classrooms on the upstairs for St Peter's Higher Secondary School were completed, having started the building work in April.

The new block at St Peter's was opened by Br James and blessed by Fr Xavier, Parish Priest of Batlagundu. We sincerely thank all the donors who supported this project: Misean Cara, Ireland; Lasallian Foundation, Australia; Mr & Mrs Tony Bernard, Belgium; Miriam Dean Trust, UK; students of St Peter's Secondary School, Bournemouth, UK; and in loving memory of Jim and Mary Hyland, Nantwich, UK. The buildings look very elegant and comfortable for the students. The hall at St Peter's will allow us to hold common sessions for the students, dance practice, indoor games and training for the teachers.

Also in December, St Peter's Primary School celebrated a food festival. It was an awareness day for the children about the nutritive content of traditional food. Many varieties of traditional cereals and pulses were exhibited.





The children in our balwadis (pre-schools) took part in a Sports Day. We call it Balwadi Olympics and all the children were given prizes for their participation. It was a very tough competition.



Our tailoring training units have moved on to new villages namely Genguvarpatti, Devathanapatti and Periyakulam to start courses to give the poorest women and also young women skills so they can earn a living.

Community Development



24 women from our Self Help Groups had two days visiting Krishi Vingyan Kendra, in Namakkal to learn about modern methods of rearing cows, goats etc. It was a fruitful visit for the members. 71 members underwent training on an Entrepreneur Development Programme.

They learned useful skills for small trades like Agarpathi, Phenol, washing powder and camphor.

Housing and Water



Five houses were constructed in G Kallupatti and Genguvarpatti by St Bede's College, Australia. 12 students and 4 staff were here for two weeks and worked very hard to complete them. Their involvement with the children was marvellous and our children were very happy in their presence.

Despite their sad experiences that have brought them to our care, the children are always cheerful. Various activities and functions here contribute to it and we are very happy to do organise them. We are proud that you are part of this programme to keep the children cheerful. May God bless you!

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