

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of January 2016

Dear Well-wishers,



This month we marked the harvest festival of *Pongal*, which is celebrated by Tamil-speaking people of all religions all over the world. Here it was celebrated in the schools and Children Villages. Firstly, in the schools, we had a number of colourful dances with the songs of *Pongal*. Sweet rice and sugarcane are special features of *Pongal* and all the children in the school were given *pongal* rice and a piece of sugarcane. Over on our Bodi site, local Lions Club members came to Nirmala Middle School for the celebration gifts for the students.



In Anbu Illam and Nirmala Children's Villages, all the families came together in one place and prepared *pongal* while the children were going around the cooking pots having fun. In

Miriam and Sirumalar Children's Villages they came together and prepared common *pongal* in a big container. After preparing, the *pongal* was offered to God as an act of thanksgiving with small prayer services. There were a number of competitions and sports races conducted for the children. Two guests from the UK, Sharon and Bob Haigh, were here attending all the celebrations and also helping with speaking English to the older students for 10 days.

Childcare in our Children's Villages

The New Year celebrations went on very well in the Children Villages with a variety of entertainment. The older teenagers in the hostels went home or to their relatives for a few days holiday and returned refreshed.



This month there were four marriages of our children who have grown up with us in our care: Mageswari and Sasikumar, Muthu and Pandiraj, Philomina and Infantraj, Murugeswari and Leo. All four marriages went on very well and we are very happy to see our children going into the next phase of their life. Philomina and Murugeswari were both orphans and so we arranged all the marriage formalities for them.

Our schools

After the Christmas vacation the schools started back for the new term on 4th January. As it's the final term of the school year, the teachers are very busy preparing students for the final state-level Government exams which they will sit in April.



The 67th Republic Day of India was celebrated on 26th with pomp and ceremony. It lasted for two hours with a number of thought-provoking items and with a lot of students taking part. Republic Day and Independence Day are celebrated very extensively here throughout India.



48 students on our tailoring training programme got their certificates having completed their 6-month training course. A small function was held for them at the RTU Campus.



Our medical team completed the second round of medical check-ups for all the students in the schools. They play a vital role in keeping up the good health of everyone at RTU.

Home Support

A special motivation session was held for both the 10th and 12th class students that we support in Government schools as they also prepare for the final state-level exam. Mr Thirupathi, a retired professor from Nilakottai, animated the sessions. The students found it very useful in increasing their confidence and helping to remove unnecessary fear of the exams. 87 students benefitted from this programme.

Management



RTU would not survive without the great attention to detail we give to our finances and budgets, and the dedication of our staff. On 29th, all the senior staff and managers held a meeting at Jeevan Jyothi Hospice to finalise the annual budget for the year 2016-17. Beforehand, all the respective departments had discussed

their proposed budgets with the accounts departments and at that meeting they presented their budget to members of other departments who could raise questions or clarifications in order to fine-tune it. This presentation took the whole day.

Teaching staff and the foster mothers have regular training but for the other staff members, there was two days of staff retreat. They went to an animation centre near Nilakottai and Fr Sahayaraj animated these two days with various input sessions and activities. The staff benefitted and returned relaxed.



In addition, four members of staff attended training on Counselling arranged at Dindigul by the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust. Another four staff attended a follow-up session on HIV/Aids by Camp Rainbow in Madurai.

Through various activities we try to instil good traditions in our children and encourage them to be good citizens, as well as giving them an education and good prospects for the future. We provide a lot of different experiences to increase their self-confidence and responsibility. We may be at the forefront to provide this to our children but we are always aware and grateful that you are backing us up. May God bless you!

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