

# Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

## Happenings of April 2016

Dear Well-wishers,

It is the end of our school year so we have had a very busy time, as you will see below, with our senior students finishing their college courses, the end of year exams for all the students in our schools, saying goodbye to those who are leaving our care and welcoming new little children into our Children's Villages and schools.

### Our Children's Villages and Childcare Programmes



Two of our girls, Muthumenaga and Meena, successfully completed their BComm CA and BSc Zoology courses respectively in Jeyaraj Anna Packiam Women's College and both of them scored first marks in their examinations. They also participated in a number of college level competitions and won many prizes, and Muthumenaga won the best student award in her department for 2016. The

road to their success has by no means been easy though. Because of their HIV status, they weren't able to live with the other students in the college accommodation but instead lived at Jeevan Jyothi Hospice (one of our partner organisations caring for people with HIV/AIDS) for the duration of their courses. These two students are great role models for our other HIV+ students. They were recently selected at campus interviews and have got job placements with TATA consultancy service in Chennai. Now Meena wants to study a BEd course for two years so that she can become a teacher and she has applied for this course. Both of these young women have been in our care for the last 12 years and we are very proud of their achievements.



21 of our Polytechnic students successfully completed their 3-year Diploma courses in Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, and Civil Engineering in the nearby town of Theni and 4 students completed their Diploma courses in the Government Polytechnic in Coimbatore. Of the 21 students, ten girls have now got apprenticeship training placements with TVS Lucas Company in Pondicherry and one boy has got a job

placement with Solar Energy Systems in Madurai. The rest of our students are currently seeking good job opportunities.

More news from our Children's Villages ... as it is the end of the academic year, most of the children in our care are away for at least part of the long summer holiday with their parents or other relatives in their native villages. However, those who are going to be entering the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard next year are staying with us to attend special classes to prepare them for the Government exams. Half of the foster mothers are away for a two week break whilst the other half are staying to care for those children in our care who have not one relative or any family to return to. We are arranging picnics and other activities for the orphaned children who are staying with us during the long school holidays.

We arranged a picnic with a special meal for all the foster mothers from our Children Villages and they went to Suruli waterfalls where they really enjoyed bathing in the water. They returned refreshed and relaxed.



A month-long intensive spoken English course was organised for the 27 students who had completed their 12<sup>th</sup> standard Government exams, with the support of Rozario's team from Dindigul. Br Arockia Doss and a volunteer from the UK, Mrs. Deidre Macguire, were also resource persons. At the end of the course, a valedictory function was arranged so that the students could show their new-found English language skills. Our Director Fr

Antony Paulsamy, Fr Rozario, the Director of Don Bosco-Community college, and the De La Salle brothers from Boy's Village were on the stage to encourage the students and appreciate their performance. It was really amazing to hear our students speaking in English, and the whole programme was very funny and very well organised.





## Our Schools

New admissions for children hoping to join our balwadi (pre-schools) and 1<sup>st</sup> standard classes in our Arul Malar and St Peter's Primary Schools started at the beginning of April. So far 75 of the poorest children from Genguvarpatti and 68 children from G Kallupatti have been accepted and our teachers visited the children's families and homes.

The annual end of year exams were conducted for all the students of Arul Malar Primary, St Peter's Primary and St Peter's Higher Secondary Schools from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016. All the students prepared well with the support of their teachers and completed their exams successfully.



Then, at the end of the school year, science exhibitions and Annual Days were held in all our schools, both on our main campus here in G Kallupatti, and over on our Bodi site. Parents were invited in to see the marvellous displays of school work and performances on stage which were held with much zeal and enthusiasm. At St Peter's Higher Secondary School, the chief guest was Mr V Mathavan, from AMIE, A.D., Periakulam. Fr Bosco presented the annual report highlighting the achievements of



the school and students during the academic year and also the growth and vision of education at RTU to give the most disadvantaged children a high standard of education and opportunities for the future. He thanked the donors for their constant support. During this function, Br James Kimpton released the 2nd Annual RTU school magazine, Padikkal, and presented the first copy to the chief guest. Students gracefully performed dances, skits and songs on the stage. The functions ended with the singing of the RTU anthem. The day ended with every glittering star carrying a feeling of happiness and achievement within itself. We believe that “Celebration is an occasion for enjoyment as well as a model to show moral values, intellectual creativity, social and respectful attitudes towards children”.



School Annual holidays were announced to the children from 24<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. All the children exchanged their love and thanks with their teachers and friends and went home happily. School reopens on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

### **Community Development Programme**



A one-day training programme on self-sustainability of Self Help Groups under Village Level Federations was organised on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and 12 staff and 15 federation leaders attended this programme. They learned useful techniques and systems for the future development and management of Self Help Groups.

### **Home Support Programme**



Ever since its inception in 2003, many of the poorest children in our area have been receiving our support in their family home from our Home Support Programme in the form of a monthly payment so that they can attend school. We currently support 750 children who are mostly HIV+, or who are being raised in single parent families due to death or desertion, or who are differently-abled children. Out of 750 children, 124 sat their 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Government exams in the month of April 2016. They have written their exams well and we are now waiting for the exam results which are expected to be announced at the end of this month.

It gives us great joy to see the developments and the changes that are taking place in the lives of these children and the poorest of the poor. They are well cared for and brought up. We don't have words to thank you all for your constant support. Your support really enriches the lives of each one of those who are under our care. Once again I thank you for extending the promise of love and affection towards our children.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

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