

# Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

## Happenings of August 2016

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



This month, you will see how busy we have been in our schools. We have also been out in rural villages working together to achieve our target to bring clean, safe water to village people and school children. This is something they would never have dreamt of and it was a great relief for them. We are amazed at the way we are led by God to the unreached places bringing His love to them.

### Child care in our Children's Villages



Everyone at Miriam Children's Village celebrated their 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The children and the foster mothers presented a wonderful cultural programme which was very much appreciated by others. All those who came appreciated the mothers and managers for their magnificent support, and their total commitment to care for the children.



In order to improve our children's confidence in reading, our 11<sup>th</sup> standard students have started one-to-one reading practice with the younger children for an hour after school every day in the Children's Villages, particularly helping those children who are struggling to read. There is already a marked improvement in their reading.

All the HIV+ children who live in our hostels underwent dental check-ups at Leonard Multi Specialty Hospital in the local town of Batlagundu. Six of them required small surgery, tooth extraction and cleaning.

### Schools and Education



On 15<sup>th</sup> August, the 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in India was celebrated in a grand manner in our main campus with the children from all our schools in G Kallupatti, who demonstrated a very colourful programme. The newly-started school band was introduced in the march past. Mr Karunakaran delivered a beautiful speech. Independence Day was also celebrated in Nirmala Middle School, over on our Bodi site. Dr Kumaran hoisted the flag there and delivered a highly motivating speech, promising to support us as much as possible. The children came on motorbikes with the national flag which was the highlight of the march past on that day.



Another celebration, Krishnajeeyanthi (the birth of Lord Krishna), was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August in all our schools. A day full of festivities marked the celebrations and the campus came alive with songs and dances as students decorated floats depicting scenes from Sri Krishna's life. Students enacted as Sri Krishna and Gopikas, participated in the programme and they looked graceful. Sweets were distributed to all the children.



We have had two academic exhibitions in our schools this month. A science festival was conducted by 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard students at Nirmala Middle School over on our Bodi site. Children exhibited science technologies they had learnt in the classroom. All the exhibition items were very much appreciated by the viewers and they were encouraged to perform well in future. St Peter's Primary School students organised a Mozhi mela (language festival) to stress the importance of languages. A Tamil essay competition, elocution and singing were organized to show the children's talents and interests.

We have also had two field trips for students this month. A visit was arranged for St Peter's Primary School students on 25<sup>th</sup> August. They had a wonderful opportunity to see the fruit garden and Manjalar Dam, and gained knowledge on water resources and the importance of fruit gardens. They got awareness on creating a kitchen garden in their homes. On the following day, 4<sup>th</sup> standard students from Arulmalar Primary School went for a field visit to Annai Nursery near Genguvarpatti village. They enjoyed seeing various plants and flowers, and learnt the names of them. The trip gave them awareness on growing plants and flowers, and how to protect the environment.



Students from St Peter's Higher Secondary School participated in the recent State zonal level sports competition especially in the events of football, kho-kho and throw ball. In the junior level, our boys came first in football and our girls in kho-kho. In senior and super senior level, our senior girls came first and super

senior girls came second in the throw ball competition. Our St Peter's Higher Secondary School students also participated in the chess and hurdles competitions.



At Nirmala Middle School, Lions Club members donated 10 sets of desks and benches which will be used for the students in the 8<sup>th</sup> standard classroom who will now have enough space to study and write well without any congestion. We appreciate Lions Club members for their generous support. Also at Nirmala Middle School, Ms Malathi refreshed the students in abacus training. The students cherished her

teaching and learnt very fast about two digit multiplications in a short method.

Recently, 66 students on our tailoring course sat their 'Craftsmanship ID Card' test at JA College at Periakulam. We hope they will get the ID card very soon which will help them with future self-employment needs such as getting a loan for a tailoring shop.

All our 1<sup>st</sup> standard and 5<sup>th</sup> standard children in our schools had recent vaccinations as part of a Government scheme - Diphtheria Pertussis and Tetanus was given for 1<sup>st</sup> standard and Tetanus Toxoid for 5<sup>th</sup> Standard.



## Housing and Water



During the month, nine new bore wells were drilled, six of them are in or near to primary, middle and secondary schools. The wells are in the villages of N Panchapatti, Ammapatti, Rajadhanikottai, Pottichettipatti, Genguvarpatti, Malaiyakavundanpatti, Kannarpatti, E Pudhukottai and Melmangalam. RTU has brought some relief to these school children and village people who now have clean and safe water to drink. They are grateful to RTU for having provided the water facilities in their villages and giving them the means to lead a healthier life.

We are blessed by your continued support and encouragement. Our hearts are overwhelmed to see the developments and the changes that are taking place in the lives of our children and the poorest of the poor. With your support and encouragement, our level of commitment and involvement increases. We don't have words to thank you all for your constant support. Our hearts remain with gratitude. Thank you.

May God bless you all!

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