

# Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

## Happenings of September 2016

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



This month was a remarkable one for all of us to come together to celebrate the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of RTU. While we thank God for being with us in all our growth and development, we also thankfully remember each one of you who always carry our children in your loving arms.



The anniversary was celebrated with staff from all our programme departments marching towards the stage along with our new school band and thappattam (drums). Fr Antony Paulsamy, Director of RTU, welcomed all the members with great honour. Some of them were on the stage to grace the occasion with charming dances and beautiful songs. All the children

enjoyed watching the performance of our staff members and foster mothers, and appreciated them very much. The school band, thappattam, silampattam and devarattam were remarkable events of the day. Sports competitions also were conducted and the winners received awards. Then a delicious lunch was served to all. Three of our staff, Mrs V Gowri, Mrs R Chinnammal and Mrs L Selvi who completed 15 years of service were honoured by our Brother. We now have 49 staff member who have completed 15 years with RTU.



Camp Rainbow, our residential programme for children living with HIV/AIDs, was organised for 5 days in our Anbu Illam Children's Village with a range of activities and life-skills training. In total, 50 children from Theni, Pudukottai and Sivagangai Districts took part, including ten

from RTU. As well as teaching the children how to remain healthy and to take their routine medication without fail, the camp also encouraged them to expand their understanding of HIV, develop life-altering friendships and become confident leaders in their homes and communities. This really helped the children to be happy. Camp Rainbow is a joint initiative of RTU, YRG Care Chennai and Seriousfun USA. To organise the camp, volunteer students were selected from the American College, Lady Doak College, Madurai Institute of Social Work and Anugraha College and underwent 5 days of training prior to the camp.



On 8<sup>th</sup> September the feast day of Mother Mary was celebrated with great joy. All the children and mothers from the Children's Villages and hostels gathered in our main campus along with local families and then joined the procession to Sirumalar Children's Village where The Rev Fr J M Doss, SJ gave a message of the feast. Sweet Pongal rice was prepared by our foster mothers and shared as a sign of thanksgiving.



### Child care

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, the 15<sup>th</sup> Velanganni hostel day was celebrated by the children and the hostel warden. Their performance of dances, drama, skits and jokes was very much appreciated. All the other hostels were also invited for this celebration and they shared their love with each other.



The Wedding bells rang for three of our senior girls who have been raised with us.

(1) Marriage engagement function was organised for C Muthulakshmi and Mr Muthupandi on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in the bridegroom's house at Kodaikanal. After her 12<sup>th</sup> standard Muthulakshmi underwent training in Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. Later she worked in a textile mill and saved some money. RTU extended financial support for her to meet the essential needs for her marriage. Muthulakshmi lost her father when she was a child and her mother is a very sick person and unable to earn a living. So, Muthulakshmi and her younger sister, Lakshmi, came to us in 2000. Lakshmi is still with us and continuing her 3 year General Nursing & Midwifery course at the Crescent School of Nursing, Madurai.

(2) P Nirmala came from Arulagam Hospice in the year 2008 as she lost both her parents due to AIDS-related illnesses. She finished her Diploma in Office Management at St. Luke's Community College, Nazareth and now has a job placement at the Russ Foundation in Madurai which serves HIV children and adults. The Russ Foundation Director found



Mr Kanagaraj who was seeking a bride who is also HIV+ and arranged their marriage. RTU helped her for the marriage. Some of our staff represented her marriage which was held in a temple in Madurai on 10<sup>th</sup> September.



(3) Jeyapriya came to RTU in the year 1995 with her younger brother soon after their mother's death as the father was unable to cope up with them. After 12<sup>th</sup> standard, Jeyapriya did her 3 ½ years General Nursing & Midwifery course at the Leonard Hospital, Batlagundu and then got a job as a staff nurse. She found her husband Mr Rajaraja Chozhan and their wedding was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September at Kallakuruchi.

3 siblings called Mahalakshmi (10 years), Muthaiah (8 years) and Ramkumar (11 years) were admitted to our Children's Villages on 29<sup>th</sup> September as the father deserted the family. The poor mother is a housemaid and was getting a very meagre income so she admitted her three children into an orphanage near Dindigul. For some reason that orphanage closed and the wards were sent out. So the mother managed to get information about RTU and came with them to RTU.



During the quarterly holidays, 488 of our children from the Children's Villages and 50 young people from the hostels went for a day trip on different days to Vadipatti Temple which is located on top of a hill. All the foster mothers and wardens also accompanied them and they really enjoyed climbing the hills. They were also provided with ice cream and snacks.

However, our 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students stayed with us and attended special classes in our St Peter's Higher Secondary School to help them prepare well for the half-yearly exams which will be held in December.

### Schools and Education



One of the Hindu festivals called Vinayagar Sathurthi was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> September in a meaningful way in all our schools. The teachers explained about the life of Lord Vinayaga and the benefit of worshipping Him.





On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Teachers Day was celebrated in a grand manner in RTU's main campus. RTU's childcare staff, on behalf of the children, took the initiative to make that day a memorable one. Mr Sivakumar, District Child Probation Officer, Mr Suba Marimuthu, retired teacher & orator in debates, and Mr Kalimuthu, Manager, Parasparam Trust were the guests of the function and their motivational talks were very inspiring to all the students and teachers. During the celebration a teacher who had

completed 8 years of service, Mrs A Rani was honoured by the Director. In a similar way, on 6<sup>th</sup> September, Nirmala Children's Village foster mothers and children celebrated Teachers' Day at Nirmala Middle School campus to honour their teachers.

In September all the students had the first terminal exams. All the students prepared well for the exams with the support of their teachers and then had a week-long quarterly holiday.



On 21<sup>st</sup> there was an inauguration of RTU's Smt Savitri Oza Reading Room in the RTU campus near the roadside. This reading room has been opened mainly for the public and will provide good newspapers, periodicals and books. Children and people from the local area have already started using this reading room.



All the teaching staff had their quarterly review meeting at the Rassing Centre to evaluate their performance and discuss the new syllabus that was formulated in May. There was much emphasis on concentration for the slow learners and motivation for the brighter students.

Our balwadi (pre-school) teachers arranged meetings with all the parents to discuss their child's progress. In the meetings, we emphasised the need for the children to attend regularly and also to be accompanied to and from school by their parents or carers. The parents were very happy about the commitment of the teachers and the improvement in the lives of their children.

### **Medical Department**

Foot reflexology therapy has recently started from 29<sup>th</sup> June by Mr Bastin and his team members from Batlagundu. So far 165 patients have benefitted from this treatment including our staff members. Some of them got great relief from their long time pain and problems.

### **Community Development**

In order to create awareness of their government entitlements, RTU organised a Legal Aid Camp for our women Self Help Group members in our target areas at K Meenatchipuram village. Advocate Chinnasamy from Batlagundu was the adviser for this camp and he gave more awareness to the Self Help Group members on how to get tri-certificates, land documents through the new e-service centres without having to make any bribe payments to government officials. 27 members from this village participated in the camp and got awareness through this Legal Aid.

Income Generation Programme training was organised on 14<sup>th</sup> September at A Vadipatti village. Topics such as starting a new modernised method of cattle rearing and of calf, goat and country

hen farming were covered during this training. 38 members of the Self Help Group in this village attended this training and some of them are planning to start hen farming soon.

### **Housing and Water**



During the month, eight new bore wells were drilled, two of them were in primary schools, one in a Higher Education College and the rest were in surrounding villages. Now they 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.

With the unwavering commitment to the underprivileged in our society, RTU has reached 42 years of tremendous services with stupendous achievements and accomplishments in terms of reaching out to many more children. This is made possible because of the generous supporters like you. Your contribution really brings hopes and love in the lives of the poor children. We are always grateful to you for your unstinted cooperation and support. Our hearts are full of gratitude to you. Thank you.

May God bless you all!

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