

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of October 2016

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



This month was a remarkable one for us to celebrate the Hindu festivals of Saraswathi (God of education) and Ayudha Pooja (God of labours and weapons) on 10th October. On 7th October, the children in all our schools arranged for a special prayer service to thank God and offered their books to the Goddess Saraswathi who is known to bestow knowledge and wisdom to all of her worshippers. The teachers explained about the Goddess and Ayutha Pooja and the benefits of worshipping Her. And then on the day itself, all the children in all Children's Villages celebrated the festivals with great joy and enthusiasm. Special prayers were said offering all our talents and the instruments, like notebooks and writing materials, that bring wisdom and wealth. They were provided with chick peas in the evening.

Childcare in our Children's Villages and Hostels



On 29th October, all the children and mothers celebrated Diwali with great joy. All the mothers prepared a variety of sweets and shared them with their children and every child was given a new dress from their parents/relatives or from us if they have no family members. All the children were provided with variety of sweets and crackers to make fun on that day. The Diwali day began with everyone in the Children's Villages taking an oil bath before sunrise. After the oil bath, the children wore their new clothes. In almost all the village houses, items like idly, chutney, sambhar, jangri and vada were prepared and served to all the children. Firecrackers were burst by the children soon after the breakfast. Children wished each other a Happy Diwali. The whole of the campus was with full of joy, light and sound. In the evening the older teenage children in our care in the hostels spent the evening with the foster mothers and their Children's Village families.

Schools and Education

On 14th October, Nilavembu Kasayam (a type of herbal medicine) was received from the Government Primary Health Centre in the nearby village of Genguvarpatti and was provided to all the students in our primary and higher secondary schools to protect them from seasonal illnesses such as colds, fevers and water-related infections. It is one of the best herbal medicines normally taken in the villages.



Diwali was celebrated on 28th October by all our children and teachers in our four schools with lights and firecrackers. A special prayer service was organised in the school campus. Fr Antony Paulsamy and the teachers lit the Kuthu vilakku (vilakku meaning 'deepam' or 'lamp'), symbolizing knowledge; removing ignorance as light removes darkness.

On 4th October, our 14 senior level students from St Peter's Higher Secondary School participated in the throw ball competition held at Educational District Level in Theni and won first prize. The winners were appreciated by Fr Antony Paulsamy, Director, the headmaster and teachers. They were also encouraged to develop their talents and get more prizes in the future.

District Level athletics competitions were organized on 13th, 18th and 20th October in Periakulam town and our students from our Higher Secondary School won 3rd prize for 200m running, 2nd & 3rd prize for 400m running and 2nd prize for 400m relay. They were awarded with bronze

and silver medals. All the winners were appreciated and encouraged by our Director, headmaster and teachers, who wished them for a bright future.



In order to promote creativity, innovation and originality in our students, a creative exhibition was conducted on 27th October in our Arul Malar School. It was very well displayed and explained by the children. Some of the children exhibited the Red Fort in thermo-cool sheets, and various sculptures made from vegetables, clay and grains, which were amazing. Their creative thought was very much appreciated by our Director, teachers and spectators.

Our former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam's Birthday anniversary was organized on 15th October in Nirmala Middle School, over on our Bodi campus by Lions Club members. They conducted competitions among the students and distributed prizes to the winners. It was a remarkable day for the children to think about our former president and to dream for their bright future.



Medical Department



Diwali gifts were provided to all the elderly and infirm people in our care before the festival. We purchased new sarees for ladies, dhotis and towels for men and celebrated Diwali with sweets. Their joy was boundless. All old people sincerely thanked RTU for their continuing support.



Community Development

On 17th October, 32 women members from three of our Self Help Groups in the villages of Endapuli, Mela Endapuli and J K Nagar went to the Collector's office in Theni District on the Grievance Day and submitted 7 petitions to the District Collector. He accepted their petitions and promised to consider them as soon as possible. One of the main petitions is about the re-allocation of new land in a safe place, as the Government took all their old land for new fast highway construction. This has been a request from the Self Help Groups for a long time and they hope to get a solution soon.

Two women members from the village of A Vadipatti received free cattle-feeding equipment under the National Cattle Feeding Development Programme with RTU's guidance. We created awareness among the women about the benefits available to them from the Government and how to access these.

Home Sponsorship



The Theni HIV Positive Network and Arogya Agam jointly organised an advocacy meeting on 19th October at their offices. Representatives from 6 NGOs and 50 HIV+ people attended this meeting and received awareness on how to access benefits from the Government. Mr Karthick Thasildar from Andipatti Taluk was the chief guest and addressed the meeting about the availability of help from different schemes and departments to support HIV+ people in

need. It was very useful to our staff and our beneficiaries to learn about what is available from the Governments schemes and also to pass on their knowledge to others.

Housing and Water



During this month, three houses at Genguvarpatti village were completed. All the family members are living happily and safely in their new homes. We thank the 11 young volunteers from Leapnow USA for their tremendous contribution in helping to complete these houses on time and appreciate all their hard labouring work. The people living in these houses expressed their sincere thanks to all the volunteers and to RTU for providing these houses.

We are blessed by your continued support and encouragement. Your thoughtfulness is a gift for us and will be always a treasure. It is a great blessing for our children to grow with safe and unending love. 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.