

**Reaching The Unreached**  
**G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203**

**Happenings of February 2019**

**Dear Well-wishers,**

Greetings from RTU.

This month, we were delighted to welcome a group of supporters from Enfants du Monde, Belgium, led by Mrs Kamala from Chennai and UK supporter, Tricia Hamilton. They spent a day here seeing all our various programmes and visiting their sponsored children. All the sponsored children were very happy indeed to meet their sponsors.

**Childcare in our Children's Villages and Hostels**

**Brave hearted student!**

Avudaiammal, one of the young people in our care who we are sponsoring through college, became the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank holder place in her end of year exams at Shenbagam School of Nursing in Madurai. We congratulate for her excellent achievement.



**Case Study (Name is changed)**

Glory came to RTU in 2003 when she was 3½ years old as her mother had died and her sickly father was unable to care for her due to poverty and his old age. So, she came to RTU where he visited her regularly until he died in 2015. Some of our staff went with Glory to his funeral and found her close relatives in their own native place. However, none of them would receive her except her elder brother's wife. She was a good student at our schools, although always very weak and has recently had tonsillitis surgery. After completing her 12<sup>th</sup> standard, we helped her to get into a General Nursing & Midwifery course. With a brave heart, she is successfully studying the GNM course with great ambition and is a very good role model to other students. In 2022, she will be a staff nurse and will be able to start to earn and live on her own. **The loss of her parents and sickness is not a barrier for the brave hearted student!**

**Case Study**

**Wedding Bells**



Muthumasila came to RTU in 2005 as her father deserted the family and her poor mother was unable to cope with raising five children in a very remote village. So, Muthumasila and her younger sister, Shanmugapriya, came to our Anbu Illam Children's Village. Muthumasila studied in RTU's schools and her greatest wish was to become a teacher. Therefore, we helped her join Sancta Fatima Teachers' Training Institute in Dindigul where she completed a 2-year Diploma in Teaching in 2016. After completing her course, she was

able to get a job in a private school. Her mother and relatives arranged her marriage and it was held in Sivakasi with Mr. Gurunathan on 18<sup>th</sup> February. On the previous evening, the traditional betrothal function was held in their own village – Vadakku Valayapatti in Batlagundu block. Our Director, Fr Antony, and some staff members attended the function with a marriage gift. We wish her a happy married life.

## Schools and Education

### Ensuring child's rights through Child Welfare Workshop



A life-skills training programme was organised for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard students (aged 12 to 15) on every Saturday of this month by staff from the Nikhil Foundation. In total, 300 students attended the classes which helped to empower them to aim high and to become responsible citizens in our society.

The De La Salle Brothers organised a 4-day workshop on Child Rights in Boys' Town in Madurai. Eight of our teachers attended the workshop which dealt with different aspects of child rights, child protection and child-related problem-solving skills. Even barefoot counselling techniques were taught to the participants.



As a follow-up to the training, our students also learned about their own rights and duties, and the laws available to protect them. This workshop was held here in the RTU campus and more than 120 of our students from 8<sup>th</sup> standard (aged 14/15) took part including those from our campus over in Bodi.

### Eco-friendly and awareness through educational visits





On 8<sup>th</sup> February 83 balwadi(pre-school) children visited Vaigai Dam on a school outing. All the children enjoyed seeing the huge dam with water, flowers and big trees in the park. They also enjoyed playing in the beautiful meadow and on the play equipment in the park.



On 19<sup>th</sup> February 5<sup>th</sup> standard students visited Kottakudi's river for their educational trip. All the children enjoyed seeing the water resources and admired the flora and fauna. Kottagudi's river flows from Meesapulimala in the foothills of Athiyuthu, Anakarai in the Western Ghats.

### Sports Day celebrations - together everybody achieves more



Sports Day was celebrated this month with much enthusiasm. Fr Maria Antony and Mrs Shanmugalatha were the guests of honour. All the spectators enjoyed the day and felt privileged to be with the children on their joyful occasion. Sports Day was also celebrated in Nirmala Middle School on 26<sup>th</sup> February, over on our Bodi site. Dr Desai, Founder of AHM Trust, honoured the students with encouraging words and distributed prizes.

Practical exams were conducted in all the science subjects as part of the Government Public Examinations for 10th, 11th and 12th standard students. Our children performed very well. The external examiners were very happy with their performance.

### **Medical Department**

#### **State of the Art Physiotherapy Unit**



This month we moved the physiotherapy unit to the estate office opposite the medical centre to give the unit more space. We have purchased cryotherapy (ice treatment equipment) which reduces arthritic pain and short-wave therapy machines which are used to encourage healing, pain relief, reduction of muscle spasm and an increase in mobility. This will be very helpful to our staff in our physiotherapy unit.

### **Rural Housing**

#### **More New Homes for the Rural Poor**

During the month, we completed five houses in JK Nagar and two in Murugamalai villages. Now these poor rural families have new, safe houses to live in. We thank all the donors who have supported us to build these houses for the poorest rural people.



### **Case study**

#### **Bringing true light in the lives of those in need**

Ramar, aged 57, lives in JK Nagar village in Theni District with his family. He is visually-challenged and is unable to go for any work or support the family. He is supported by his wife, Rajathi, who works as an agricultural labourer to manage the family. They have one daughter and one son. Their elder daughter was married but came home after two years due to dowry problems. Their elder son works as a waiter in a hotel in Tripur. At first, they lived in a rented house but from the money their son was able to send home, they purchased a piece of land two years ago and built a small hut. Their hut was not strong enough to withstand wind and during heavy wind and rain last year, their hut was damaged, and they could not continue to live there.

During this time, they came to know about RTU through their friends and asked us to build a house for them. Last month Father Antony and the RTU housing team visited them to verify their living conditions. The house consists of a main room, a kitchen, veranda and toilet. Now the family is very happy to live in this safe house. They are very grateful to RTU and the donor for their great support.

**Water**

During this month, we have drilled one bore well with submersible electric pumps in Sevugampatti Kallar higher secondary school. This bore well has good water yields and the school children are very happy.

You support us to march ahead with stupendous achievements and accomplishments in terms of reaching out to many more children, families and communities. Your valuable gift is helping us to provide long-term support to our children. It is your generosity and belief in us that enable us to perform this service on your behalf. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

Fr J Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.  
Director and Secretary