

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of March 2019

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.

This month was a demanding one for the older children in our schools who took their 10th, 11th and 12th standard Government exams. They have worked extremely hard with the help of our teachers and we wished them all the best for their exams. Their future professions depend on how well they score in these exams.

Childcare in our Children's Villages and Hostels

Mothers from our four Children's Villages attended the meeting organized on 19th March. Naturopathi doctors Mrs. Shanthi and Mr. Srinivasan explained about the indigenous medicine, pranik healing, cooking, hygiene, food intake and attitudes that could change the altitudes and simple techniques that could be taught to our children. It was very useful for the mothers to follow it up with their children. Bro. Antony Nelson gave practical tips for good relationship with oneself and with others. Mothers felt very happy and thanked them for their useful thoughts.

"Proud of being a woman!!"



On 8th March, International Women's day was observed in RTU as Mothers' Day. All the mothers and hostel wardens went for a picnic. The children celebrated their mothers by reading poems, singing songs, acting skits and dancing. We affirmed the commitment towards the safety and security of women at our work place and learned some techniques of self-defense. They shared their personal experiences of harassment and gave each other tips on how to handle such situations in life. Our

mothers know that on their shoulders lie the responsibility of building the dreams of each of the children in their care. She should be proud of being a woman!!"

More wedding bells!

One of our HIV+ senior girls who did a BA degree with our support and now works in a good job has recently got married. The groom is also HIV+ - he is from a nice family and will be a good husband. The Director, some of our staff who raised her and other senior girls from RTU attended the marriage and wished them a happy married life. We gave her a small amount of money as a gift to help set up her home.

Case study

"Making a difference in the quality of life of the children we care for"



Four girl children came to RTU in 2007 with their father who was elderly and had mental health problems. When he died no one visited them. They all had mild learning difficulties, so we paid for them to go to Lilliam Special School. The elder one, Easwari, (now aged 23) worked as an assistant at Nirmala College Hostel after leaving school. One of her aunts found a good family and a nice groom and approached the Head of Nirmala College Hostel where Easwari was working. She

consulted with RTU and the marriage was arranged on both sides. Their betrothal function was held on 23rd in our Anbu Illam Children's Village and many nuns and the staff attended. The marriage was held nicely on the next day in a temple near Tuticorin in the groom's village. The

Sisters provided all the furniture, jewels utensils etc needed for the couple and RTU too gave them marriage gifts for their future. The second girl Durga has remained at Lillian Special School while the third girl Bhavani (aged 19) is going to replace Easwari in Nirmala Hostel. Bhuvanewari (aged 18) has started work as an assistant in a home for the elderly. RTU is happy to support these children.

Schools and Education



On 29th March, all our schools held an exhibition to showcase the children’s work which was fantastic. The creative talents of our children were exhibited with the help of our teachers. All at RTU, the Director, Assistant Director, the Manager of our Education Department and the parents celebrated this great scientific fiesta. Then from 25th March onwards end of term exams were conducted to our 6th to 9th standard in our St Peter’s Higher secondary school and Nirmala Middle school.

“Enjoying in waterfalls – Kurangani”

On 5th March our 8th standard students from Nirmala Middle School were taken to Kottakudi River and Kurangani Falls. There they enjoyed swimming in the river. This water fall is one of the popular tourist destinations to experience the water cascades. The surrounding area also offers quiet and peaceful settings. It is an ideal place to relax and to spend a day with nature and the thick forest gave the children good shade from the scorching sun.

Medical

“Equipping physiotherapy unit- a today’s need”

This month we have purchased short wave therapy machine for our physiotherapy unit. This helps to increase blood flow and make connective tissue more flexible. It can also help minimize inflammation and reduce the incidence of edema, or fluid retention. By increasing blood flow to the site of an injury, the deep heat generated with diathermy can accelerate healing. Diathermy is used to treat conditions like, arthritis, back pain, sprains and strains etc. This will be very helpful to our staff and patients in our physiotherapy unit.



Community Development

“Indian Parliament election 2019”

As our parliamentary elections are coming up soon, our Vidiyal Women Federation organised an election campaign in villages on 26th March in an auto with loud speakers to motivating women Self Help Group members and others to vote and to vote without receiving any bribes. They also informed the voters how to use our Self Help Group bank passbooks as voter ID if they have none.

Housing and Water

During the month, we completed 10 houses in JK Nagar. 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. For all our beneficiary families, a new home is an abode of happiness and building a house brings joy and excitement to all of us.

Case study

“Increasing the scope in the lives of the underprivileged”



Rani, aged 38, lives in JK Nagar village in Theni District. Her husband deserted the family and remarried 13 years ago. She has two sons and a daughter. Her elder son Siva is 17 years old and studied only up to 8th standard due to poverty in the family. After her husband deserted the family, she struggled to feed her family as she worked as an agricultural coolie labourer and received little money. We came to know about the family, and we joined her in our Home Support Programme so she could afford to send her children to school.

Her daughter Divya Bharathi is 15 years old and is studying 11th standard in the Government Higher Secondary School. Her youngest son Jeeva is 12 years old and is studying 8th standard. They had been living in a mud house with a tiled roof for the last nine years. As it was in a damaged condition, she found it very difficult to accommodate her children and, during the last raining season, she had to stay in her neighbour's house. They have been on the waiting list for a new RTU house for some time due to the terrible living condition of the old mud house. Last month Father Antony and the RTU housing team visited them to verify their living conditions and we were at last able to build a new house. 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.

“Securing access to safe drinking water for rural school children”

During this month, we drilled one bore well to the depth of 450 ft for Panchayat Union Primary School in Sithayankottai. 104 schoolchildren and 4 teachers will benefit from this water facility. All thanked RTU and the donors for providing potable water to their schools.

We want to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to you. These years of association with people like you have been truly great. You have been helping RTU to prosper for the benefit of the poorest people in our area, particularly women and children, and we thank you for your unending support. Your unconditional love and the way you encourage us by your continued involvement are special memories that we will always treasure. Thank you for your inspiration and contribution.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

Fr J Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.
Secretary.