

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of January 2017

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



This month was a remarkable one for us to celebrate Pongal which is one of the biggest festivals celebrated in South India and by Tamil people all over the world in thanksgiving for the plentiful harvest received during the year. We celebrated Pongal with great joy in our schools on 13th January and Mr Xavier Rajkumar, Proprietor of Jegan Construction in Dindigul, honored the function. On 14th January, the special Pongal sweet rice was prepared by our foster mothers in all the children's village homes in the Children's Villages and there was a competition to see who could cook the Pongal rice with a gift for the winner.

Childcare in our Children's Villages and Hostels

The dawn of the new year was a special time for us to make a difference in the lives of our children in the Children's Villages. All the children dressed colourfully and were involved in fun-filled activities such as singing, playing games, dancing and wishing each other a Happy New Year. It was a good opportunity for them to forget past sorrows and imbibing the lessons learnt previously for a wiser tomorrow. They welcomed the new year in the hope that it will invite truckloads of happiness and joy in everyone's life.



A meeting for all the foster mothers was organised for all four Children's Villages and Mrs Pearl Kittu was the resource person. She talked more about self-satisfaction, responsibility and sincerity in raising the children. As a professional counsellor, she also conducted group counselling to the mothers and organised funny games. She presented each mother with a cooking vessel.



On 16th January, Miriam Dean Boys Hostel, which cares for boys who are HIV+, celebrated its 22nd anniversary and our boys exhibited their individual talents in a fantastic way. Their stage performances of singing, dancing and drama were very interesting and entertaining.

Ms A Shanthi who has lost her sight has completed her final year BA in Music at Kalai Kaviri Fine Arts College in Trichy. She performed her final day Arangetram on 29th January in her college and Mrs Latha, Assistant Director at RTU, attended this programme to extend her hearty greetings and best wishes from us all.

Three of our students, Angaliswari, Murugeswari and Deepa, started their 1st year General Nursing course in the Crescent School of Nursing, Batlagundu and had their lamp lighting ceremony on 7th January. They started their new course with great enthusiasm.

Schools and Education

All our schools reopened on 2nd January and the students greeted each other with a Happy New Year. Third term study materials were distributed to all our students and they started the new term's study with the blessings of their teachers.

On 26th January, Republic Day in India was celebrated with pomp and ceremony with a march-past, cultural dances etc. Kavinger Soorian, Founder of Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Ilakkiya Peravai in Batlagundu and Mr Paulraj, of PTP Traders in Pattiveeranpatti, honoured the function and applauded every programme staged on the day. More than 300 students took part in various programmes of the function.





On 30th January, 24 students from our schools participated in the cultural and Thirukural recitation competition conducted by the Iyyan Thiruvalluvar Ilakkiya Peravai in Batlagundu and won 13 prizes and also won the shield. All winners were appreciated by our Director and teachers.

On 27 & 28th January, 11th standard students from our Higher Secondary School had an update on 'healing the inner child'. Fr S Sahayaraj conducted this seminar in order to help them achieve their goals. It was a good guidance and career programme for them and they enjoyed his animation.



On 3rd January, all three tailoring centres for rural women were reopened for new batches of students. 24 interested girl students from E.Puthupatti, 22 from Devathanapatti and 30 from Genguvarpatti started their tailoring course with eagerness. Three days later, 86 women who had completed their 6 months tailoring training received their certificates. The hall was filled with colourful and decorative handiwork and clothes that they made during their training. All the

students were happy to receive the certificates and thanked RTU for this tailoring course provided to them. With the technical skills they have learned, they are looking forward to start their income generation activities with a lot of hope.



Medical Department

Our medical team completed medical check-ups for 1046 students in the schools. They prepared 378 kg Sathumavu (grain powder) and distributed this to our children's homes, day care centres and balwadies. They took 60 students to the ART centre in Theni and helped them to receive ART medicines. The good health of all our children in RTU is well taken care of by this medical team.

Community Development



During this month, we have formed one new Self Help Group in T Bomminayakkanpatti village in Periakulam block. With keen interest, 15 new members attended the initial one-day training at our main campus. Our staff talked about the importance of the SHG concept, rules, bye-laws and SHG's activities during this training. After seeing the growth and development of our original Self Help Groups in our existing villages new members were impressed. The main reason they wanted to join this programme is that they have seen how our old

SHGs have given real empowerment and status to women in rural communities through collective action to get women's rights and benefits from the Government. The individual SHG member's economic status has also improved after joining our SHGs. It is well spoken among the rural communities in these areas that RTU is functioning strong and reliable Self Help Groups which are role models to all.

Management

The annual budget presentation meeting for the 2017/18 financial year was organised on 31st January at Jeevan Jyothi Hospice. 36 senior staff members and managers took part with an introduction given by Sr Anastasia, RTU's Treasurer. Managers presented their budgets and other staff members raised questions and clarified each item in order to fine-tune it.



We have entered into the New Year 2017 with a lot of hope and dreams to provide real life to them. Our commitment is increased more and more to serve our children. We sincerely thank all of you who are the stronghold of our organisation and who stand by us in all our endeavors. Your dedication and extraordinary efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks for holding our children into your loving and tender arms.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.

Secretary.