

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of November 2008

Dear Well-wishers,
Greetings from RTU.



Almost every year around Christmas we get a Child Jesus in the form of an abandoned child. This year too, at the end of November we got a two months old girl child 'Darshana'. She was abandoned by her mother who is HIV+ and her relatives, since the little baby was found HIV+. Therefore she will be the child Jesus for this Christmas.



14th November was observed as Children's day in remembrance of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. Since RTU is for the children this day was celebrated at all levels. Due to this the month of November looked like Children's Festival. On this day in the CVs the mothers gave good cultural programmes, gift and sweets in order to make the children happy. They took so much pain to perform dances, singing, reading poems etc on the stage. Otherwise only the children appear. All the schools had various competitions like Elocution, drawing, composition, fancy dress and dances. There was a common function to give away the prizes for the winners. I was very happy to see many new faces on the stage to receive the prizes. Our schools also took part in Children's Day celebrations in Batlagundu organised by the Lions Club. They got so many prizes that Arulmalar Primary School and St. Peter's Hr. Sec. School became champions of primary and Hr. Sec. schools respectively.



We shared the joy of Children's Day with other school children by inviting the government schools that otherwise they would not have any such celebration in this area. 50 schools participated in various competitions. The students and the teachers expressed their joy and satisfaction of this function. Usually our schools participate in it and take away many of the prizes. Therefore this year our schools did not participate in it in order to give more chances the government school children to win. The teachers of the

respective school have taken so much effort to train the students to take part in these competitions.

There was RTU Executive committee meeting on 29th November. It was an important meeting, for the continuation of RTU's work after Brother was assured by the unanimous

acceptance of the board members and Franciscan Capuchin fathers. Franciscan Capuchins have agreed to continue with the administration of RTU. While accepted in principle, the other formalities are on the way. Most of the board members and 4 representatives of the Capuchins were present for the meeting.



Our midday-meal kitchen was renovated by giving comfortable place for vegetable cutting and more area for steam cooking. Accounts department was also modified a little giving more space for the transactions.



Dr. Albert Otten, the head of the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe Foundation and his wife visited RTU and all its programmes.

Children Villages:

Height, weight, blood CD4 count, HB measurements were taken regularly and the health of all the children especially HIV+ children are carefully monitored by our staff. One of our boys Thamilarasan who is infected by HIV+ and chronic skin disease was completely cured of his skin disease and is back to our CV. He took part in the children's day competitions and won a prize. Heartfelt thanks to Jeevan Jyothi Hospice especially Sr. Anastasia and her team for treating him very patiently and with full of love. On 2nd November all the deceased children who were buried in Anbu Illam cemetery were remembered. The inmates of Anbu Illam and others gathered together pay homage and to pray to them. All the mothers were taken for a day of outing to visit RUADT's new centre "Pushparani Children's Centre". They enjoyed the trip and returned refreshed. Two French volunteers came to film our HIV/AIDS Children's care and support in RTU. This film will be telecasted in the French TV.

Schools:

All the staff had two days seminar on "Soft skills for teachers". The teachers were very happy and satisfied with seminar and wanted to have many more of this sort. A student from St. Peter's Hr. Sec. School won in the district level cycle competition and is selected for the state level.

Rural Health:

Refresher training was conducted for the youth and playing materials like Carom Boards were distributed to them. A Community hall was opened in a village called Viralipatty.



Community Development:

The staff went for two days training workshop on “Certify yourself Barefoot Auditor” at KKID, Coimbatore. The manager attended a meeting arranged by SOIR-IM for its partner organisations on network and capacity building workshop. These training help our staff for more exposure to other organisations. Our SHGs are going on well and our staff animate them very well that many neighbouring banks managers come forward to give loans. One such event you see in the photo.

**Medical**

More than 6,000 patients have visited our clinic last month. The HIV infected children, one part were going to Madurai and another to Theni. From this month onwards they all go to Theni. Trip to Madurai is longer, tiresome and one should wait a lot at the hospital due to heavy rush. Our children get extra attention in Theni government hospital.

Christmas is fast approaching and our child care department is preparing hard for one more children’s festival at the end of this month. I come out next time with this news.

Wishing you all the seasonal greetings and blessings,

Yours fraternally

Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.
Director.