

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of January 2010

Dear Well-wishers,
Greetings from RTU.



Last month we were busy with our budget preparation. It is one of the important annual features of RTU to get ready the budget well ahead of time. There were week long discussions with the different departmental heads and the final consolidation was done on 25th at a Retreat Centre in Nilakottai. There were 30 participants. Our auditor Mr. Shivakumar was also present for this final session.



14th was the **Pongal** (harvest festival) celebrations. It is one of the very typical festivals of Tamilnadu. On this day *pongal* (boiled sweet rice) is offered to Sun God as sign of thanksgiving for the good harvest and blessings. Tamil New Year was also

celebrated on this day. In the school this feast was celebrated in a grand manner with all cultural dances. Usually the whole family gather as the *pongal* (sweet rice) is cooked and they eat it with sugarcane. All the school children were given sweet *pongal* and a piece of sugarcane. This celebration was further continued in the Children's Villages. The mothers made it very enjoyable one for the children.

Child Care:

Ms. Kala, 23 years old was brought up by RTU since here childhood. She completed her primary nurse training and was working with us. She got married on 27th. RTU provided cash Rs. 25,000 as gift to her. As the marriage took place very far from RTU, only two of our staff could represent the function. The mothers had one day input session by Fr. Anbin Amalan.

Education:



Our **new play ground** was officially declared **opened** on 4th. Mr. Symington from UK cut the ribbon and it was also an occasion to remember and to thank all the donors who contributed towards it. All the facilities have been made except

Basket-ball court. Guests from the Madura Coats were present for this function. There was colourful show of students' drills and dances.



26th was our national **Republic Day**, a day to commemorate setting up of our own constitution (26.01.1950). This was celebrated in a grand manner. There was a spectacular show of Children's talents. There were a number of guests from abroad to witness it.

Our mobile tailoring unit has completed its 20th village and moved on to the 21st village "Kannimarkoilpatti".

Community Health:

Usual meetings and awareness shows were organised for the youth, SHGs and for village administrative bodies.



Community Development:

Continuous review meetings of various SHGs, Study Centre teachers, Federation members make the organisation go smoothly and enthusiastically.

Rural Housing:



The group housing project at **Nirmala Nagar, Sukkangalpatti** is progressing very fast. The beneficiaries are very cooperative. A Chavadi (common gathering hall) was renovated with partial contribution of village people at Kannimarkoilpatti. It is mostly used by our SHGs and for any other common purposes.



"I am **Rani**, 45 years old. My both ears are deaf. My husband has abandoned me and 3 children with me. I receive monetary assistance for the education of my children. I was living in collapsing house. Having no other support I approached RTU to construct a house for me. I was selected and now have a beautiful house. I am ever grateful to Brother and to RTU for giving assistance to my children and a beautiful house to live in."

This month we are getting one more Capuchin priest to join RTU. I shall give more about him in the next news.

Yours fraternally

Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.

Director.