

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625203

Happenings of May 2009

Dear Well-wishers,
Greetings from RTU.



May 23rd was our Brother's 84th Birthday. We celebrated it in various ways. We celebrated it very homely, expressing our love and appreciation for him. It was begun by our Home Sponsorship Children and Aids sponsorship children on 22nd. They were around 850 came together to celebrate Brother's Birthday. It was organised as a sort of annual feast for these children with cultural programmes with sweet packets and a meal.

On 23rd morning the staff came together for a short time to wish Brother. He cut a birthday cake and we all wished him a good health and a long life. At 10.00 AM all the CV and hostel children gathered in the auditorium and showed their love, gratitude and appreciation for Brother through various dances and poems that they have written. This came to an end with common lunch with the children. It is very nice to see around 800 children in one place to celebrate his birthday. The new children who came this year paraded on the stage introducing them. Around 15 old RTU's students came on this day to wish Brother. In the evening there was a gathering of alumnae of RTU and they have promised to revive and to give new spirit to the RTU's alumni. On the same day Brother went to NCV, Bodi and celebrated his birthday with those children. The children were very happy on this day.

On 21st RTU received one more Franciscan Capuchin priest to serve RTU. He is Fr. Selvanayagam (usually called as Fr. Selva). He was just ordained priest in April. He will be working in the school as a full time teacher and he will get to know RTU. We wish every success in his service.



Education Department:



Even though month of May was vacation for the schools the department was busy with various arrangements. There were number of evaluation meetings and action plan meetings among the schools and teaching staff in all. The teachers were thoroughly prepared to welcome the new academic year.



In order to spend the vacation more usefully there was summer classes for the students of 6-12th classes. 115 students participated in it and on the last day there was stage programme to exhibit what they have learned in the last one month.

This month is also known for the school results. On 14th we received the results of 12th students. This was the first time they appear for the 12th exams. Out of 44 who appeared for the exams 22 have passed (72%). The teachers were instructed to put up more effort in the future. On 23rd the results of 10th standard were published. 80 have passed (99%) out of 81 who appeared for the exams. This time 71 have scored above 60% and among them 27 above 80%. Congratulations to all the students who have done their best and teachers who put their heart and soul to train these little ones. In the open school which is meant for the dropouts has secured 75% of pass in the exams. Congratulations to those teachers.

Our mobile tailoring unit is doing very good service. It has moved to a new place after having trained 25 ladies in the old place.

Child Care:

The children from the CVs and hostels went for a home visit. It is a nice chance to see their relatives and friends. As most of the children are orphan or semi orphan this gives them a chance to have some connection with relatives if they have. Even though they have almost 3 weeks made available for them few came back early depending on the capacity of the parents or the relatives to take care of them. HIV infected children also went for the home visit for 10 days.

The mothers too went for home holidays in May. They went in two batches. They and the children returned safe and refreshed.

We always admit children all through the year. But month of May is very important for more admissions due to the new academic year. This year child care department was always full of people who were requesting for admissions. Around 60 have been admitted so far. The exact statistics of both children and the school I shall furnish in the next letter.

Around 40 students are coming out of the school after their studies. Mrs. Latha and Mr. Mugesh are in full swing to put them into various professional training institutions according to the aptitude of the children. As these months (May and June) are the very important to settle them both of them are working very hard.

Community Development:

All the leaders of Self Help Groups (SHG) gathered in batches for a half yearly meeting and reviewed their activities. I witness that they are proud of being under the guidance of RTU and very much happy about our concern for them. The regular old group special review meetings are conducted.



Community Health:

Besides Home sponsorship and HIV/AIDS sponsorship programmes, we are giving importance to human right issues. Every month number of trainings are given to various groups. Last month our staffs were training two youth groups and *panchayat* members. They found it very informative and eye-opener in various spheres of life. The cultural programmes in form of street theatres are also stressing the same.



Rural Housing:



I have mentioned in the last letter about our project in Kakanji Nagar. Out of 50 houses 14 houses have been completed and another 16 houses are on the way. There is also a plan to purchase a small

piece of land to build some common utility things like supplementary school and common meeting hall etc.

Estate Department:

It was very busy getting fitness certificate for some of our four wheelers. Since this was the only month free to do maintenance work in the schools it was very active to do it and completed it. The compound wall that was brought down by the storm in April was built again.

Thank you very much for all your support and guidance. We shall meet again next month. Till then I say “Good bye”.

Yours fraternally

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