

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTRE - Vellamadam, India.

2008-1st Half - Yearly Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Once again I am very happy to meet all of you through this Newsletter.

Thank you very much for your earnest prayers and support which were heard at the throne of His Grace. So far in this year God wonderfully blessed Our Orphanage.

It's been more than a year since our beloved Fr. S. Joseph left all of us to his heavenly place. But the present management headed by me has been working very hard to carry forward all the projects initiated by him. Sole aim of our work is to fulfill the needs of our children and the needy.

Christmas was a joyous occasion for the children as it used to be. Every year hundreds of people come to us for food and clothes during Christmas. This year too we gave food and clothes to all them. 20 families from the Leprosy colony were also given food and clothes. When we distribute food and clothes, we get satisfaction that we could make them feel happier at least during festival occasions. If we get more money, we can help more people on that occasion.

On 07th March Father's 1st death Anniversary was commemorated with a high mass. Several priests attended. On the same day about 1000 poor people were fed. We believe that poor people who are fed will pray for the soul of our beloved Father.

Orphanage is functioning very well. There are 81 children in our orphanage. Orphans are looked after very well. During 2007 Christmas all the children were given with new dresses. We arranged a Christmas treat for the children. It was really a joyous occasion for all of them. Annual examinations are over in April. Some children would visit their loved ones during the holidays.

May is the month for new admissions in our Orphanage. We need to buy Note books, Text books, School Uniforms, Umbrellas, Foot wears, Schools bags for all the children.

There are 10 residents at the **Elderly Home**. They are well cared for. All of them were given with a new set of dresses during Christmas.

Self Help Groups project is going on very well. These poor women are encouraged and guided by us to save some money regularly and utilize the micro credit facilities. Our staffs attend every meeting of the SHGs.

Goat's Project is going on very well. So far this year we have distributed 8 Goats to the poorest women selected among the Self Help group members.

Housing and Sanitary facilities project is held up due to want of funds. There is lot of people asking for houses.

The Project of **Helping Widows** with \$10 is going on very well. There are 50 widows benefit from that project.

Only one cow could be given to a poor family. This is a valuable project because through this project we are helping poor people mainly widows to earn permanent income. So please help us to continue this project.

20 days of heavy rain in march cooled down the temperature here and there was a near flooding situation in our district. Rain in March is very unusual. Since March is the time for harvesting, farmers in our district suffered most. Due to the incessant rain and water logging on the neighboring side, a 5m stretch in the Boundary wall of our orphanage collapsed. Fortunately this wall is no way near the habitable areas of the children. A temporary fence with palm leaves is erected. We need to build a permanent wall as soon as possible.

Beneficiaries of our Help to Widows scheme are living in palm leave hutments or tiled houses. Almost everybody's house is damaged in the rain. Everyone is asking us to help to rebuild their houses. Each hutment needs \$275 to be rebuilt

"To touch someone with kindness is to change someone forever"

I remember these words when I think about a group of Lepers who are living 10KM away from the Orphanage.

These socially rejected people are living in hutments. Their sufferings are unimaginable during monsoon. With no help from the government, they beg for their living. It's disheartening that these socially rejected people are sometimes not allowed in the market to buy food materials. There is a big question mark on the future of their children. Occasionally and during Christmas we help them with food and clothes. We want to help them with food materials regularly. We want to add this project into our mission. Budget for this proposal is \$500/ month. Please help us to help them.

Every year we distribute free notebooks and school uniforms to the poorest children in Vellamadam area. This year too people are already started asking for them.

We full heartedly thank Kathy L. Brinez for donating \$425 to buy a cow for the orphanage. We need to buy one more cow. There are many widows asking us for help. So we want to add more beneficiaries to the Help to Widows Scheme.

Dear Friends, sustainability of all our Projects is very important. We work very hard towards that. We are trying to mobilize local resources as much as we can. In this quarter we harvested about 45Kgs of Tamarind and 10bags of paddy. With inflation touching over 7% prices of essential commodities are rising almost every day. We are struggling to adjust with the rising prices.

Only your continued help can continue helping these poorest people.

So please continue to help us with your valuable donations.

I once again thank you for your concern and commitment for our ministry.

We are thankful to the Directors of ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION FUND for helping us with regular grants

Orphans, Elderly people, Destitute Women and the staff join me in sending our love to you.

Thank You and God Bless You

Please write to me at the following addresses.

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U.S.A.

My dearest Mr. Ralph Tindal,

I hope and believe by the grace of God, all of you are in good health. How is Sally? God will bless you, for your kind and compassion heart. We the orphans, children, elderly people, widows and destitutes are praying for you and for your family. I am sending this newsletters to all our dear donors

With love and prayers
Rose