

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu,
Theni Dt. 625 203

Happenings in February 2024

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.



Various supporters including a group of Brother James Kimpton's family members came to stay this month. They visited our many programmes, met their sponsored children, and took part in our annual Sports Day. We are delighted that they were able to see our work at first hand. We were also happy to have 13 supporters from Enfants de L' Univers in France. They visited our children's villages and schools and met their sponsored children.

Case study of Dhiwan – New arrival

Among the new children arriving in our care is Dhiwan, age 11, who came to us as his father Kamatchi died of alcoholism and his mother migrated to Tiruppur, leaving Dhiwan in the care of his grandmother. She lives in a small rented house and works in a textile mill for a daily wage so found it difficult to care for him. So she approached the Child Welfare Committee in Theni, and the District Child Protection Officer brought Dhiwan to RTU to get good care, support, and education. Now he is safe and happy under the care of his foster mother and studying in the 5th standard in our St Peter's Primary School.



Sport for All



On 13th February, our annual Sports Day was celebrated for all the children in our three primary schools at our main campus with pomp and splendour. Our students decorated the playground with colourful flags. The celebration was inaugurated by hoisting the national flag along with the annual sports flag by Fr Antony and Brother James Kimpton's family and then the students paraded around the sports ground led by our school band. The competitors tried their best to excel in the events and 421 children won prizes presented by our RTU–UK supporters. Over on our Bodi campus, 112 children from our Nirmala Middle School took part and 87 won prizes.

“Big hearts Shape Little minds”



We have completed the renovation work of Rajagopalan Auditorium to reduce the heat and to improve acoustics. Our first function in the new hall was a wonderful farewell

function for our Brother James Kimpton's family, organised by our childcare staff with great zeal. Our children displayed their many talents with outstanding performances of dancing and singing. Our guests took part and shared their love and affection by saying "all the children are in our hearts". Finally, they honoured all the mothers and wardens of the Children's Villages and hostels with beautiful sarees.

Children's Villages and hostels

New Children's Village Houses

Our children are privileged to have five new houses in Sirumalar Children's Village which we opened with a small prayer and blessing ceremony.



We started building five new houses in our Sirumalar Children's Village on 20th July last year with a Bhoomi Pooja (land-breaking ceremony). A local engineer, Mr Barathi Raja, BR builders, and his team took seven months to construct these five houses. On 23rd February, the

inauguration ceremony was held. Mo Houlden from RTU-UK, Clare Henry, Fr Antony, Fr Arockiaraj, and Fr Ruban opened these new houses in the presence of our children and staff. The children and mothers were happy to enter their new houses with much-improved washroom and kitchen facilities. In each house, seven children and their foster mother are living a happy life.

Four houses were sponsored by Sylvia and Hubert Lotfering Paderborn, Roland Harend Dusseldorf, Hermann Graf Von Hatzfeldt Wissen and Stamp Stiftung Humburg through Yoga-Vereinigung Rajagopalan e.V. in Germany who have sponsored 12 houses. The fifth house was sponsored by Graham and Mary Hodge, from Pangbourne, UK. We are very grateful for their generous hearts for our children.

Wedding Bells!

February was an auspicious time for weddings and so we have celebrated four weddings of former children in our care. Father Antony and our staff members went to all the weddings and presented marriage gifts.



On 18th February, Dhivya, married Rijo at Vakkampatti village, Dindigul. She came to RTU in 2003 as her parents had died. After completing her schooling in our schools, she studied nursing at the Claudine School of Nursing and then got a job at the Leonard Hospital in nearby Batlagundu in 2018. The bridegroom completed his Dip in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and now works in a private mill.

Another of our alumni students, Manjula, married Thamodharan. She came to RTU in 2016 along with her brother, Periyasamy. Having completed her studies in our RTU schools, she studied auxiliary nursing in the Sacred Heart School of Nursing in Dindigul. Her brother works as a warden in our Miriam Dean Boys' Hostel.



Kannan (name changed) married Roja at Tirunelveli. Kannan came to RTU in 2006 as his father died of AIDS-related illnesses and his mother was HIV+. After completing his school studies with us, he did a Diploma in Mechanics in Thoothukudi Govt. Polytechnic College. His wife Roja is HIV+ and she has completed her BA. She works in a private company in Tirunelveli and the owner of this company took the initiative to look for a suitable husband for her.

Prakash married Vinitha at Veerapandi in Theni District. Prakash came to RTU in 2004 as his parents were HIV+ and unable to care for him. After completing his studies in our schools, he completed his diploma course in Computer Engineering at Kammavar Polytechnic College in Theni. The bride is studying BEd in Theni. Currently, Prakash is working in MPPL in Hosur.



We are very happy when our children who we have cared for and sponsored through college settle in their happy married lives.

Schools and Education

On 8th February, all our pupils at our four schools participated in the national deworming programme and received deworming pills from the Primary Health Care centres.



On 10th February, Cater Pillar company officials and The Gandhigram Trust organised career guidance for 80 students from 12th standard at our St Peter's Higher Secondary School. They talked to our students about the available courses on car production and manufacture, and job placements on offer. Our students got clarity with the proper knowledge

and approach to this career. 16 students then put themselves forward for interviews with this company.



From 13th to 19th February, the practical State Board science exams were held for our 11th and 12th standard students at our St Peter's Higher Secondary School. 109 students sat the practical exam which went very well.

On 28th February, to commemorate the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir S V Raman, our St Peter's Primary School, Arulmalar Primary School, and Nirmala Middle School celebrated National Science Day 2024 with great enthusiasm. Students participated in practical experiments, including demonstrations of light scattering, to understand the principles of the Raman effect. Through these activities, they learned about the significance of Sir Raman's discovery and its impact on modern physics.



This month, 19 teachers had a training day on science subjects and experiments at Jayaraj Annappackiam Women's College in Periyakulam. Dr Mary Emelda, Head of Chemistry, Dr Catherine, Head of Zoology and Dr Arulmozhi, Head of Physics showcased model experiments for our teachers. They were joined by 117 students from the 9th standard who took part in this science experiment show.

We are thankful to all the members who have made contributions towards the development of our organisation. Your act of kindness will help to brighten the future of these children and the poorest people. Your dedication and passion is a motivation for all of us. We can continue to give good care and support to children and families because of supporters like you.

Once again, thank you so much. We are glad to have you as part of our RTU family.

Yours fraternally,

Fr J Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.
President.