

Reaching The Unreached

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

Happenings of February 2025

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU. This month we celebrated Sport's Day at our main campus for all the children in three of our schools who came together for a day of spirited competition and celebration.



The vibrant playground, adorned with colourful flags, set the stage for the day's events where Fr Antony inaugurated the festivities by hoisting the flags, followed by a lively parade of students led by our school band. Mr Sasikumar and Mr Pandiswaran, coaches from Madurai, were the chief guests and lit the Olympic torch. Throughout the day, students demonstrated their athletic prowess, striving for excellence in each event. The culmination of their hard work and dedication was evident in the impressive number of prize winners, with awards to 477 deserving children. He also presented gifts to the PE teachers who encouraged and gave special coaching to our students who participated in the Zonal level and District level school tournaments.



Case Study of new children



Nagaraja, aged 13, and Geethalakshmi, aged 15, recently came into our care. Their mother tragically passed away in 2013 due to severe depression exacerbated by family conflicts. The father became estranged and was unable to care for the children. The children were then left in the care of their maternal uncle, who, due to his own family commitments, is also unable to provide adequate care. Here they are studying 8th and 10th standard in our St. Peter's Higher Secondary School and staying in our hostels. If any sponsors could come forward, we would be most grateful.

More RTU graduates

On 1st February 1st, we proudly celebrated the achievements of our professional students, Akila and Pandilakshmi, completed BCom and BSc Zoology, as they received their certificates during the graduation day ceremony at Jeyaraj Annapackiam Women's Arts College in Periyakulam. This significant milestone marks the culmination of their hard work and dedication. Several of our staff members were present to witness this joyous occasion and to extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for their future endeavours.



Celebrating Children's Village Day



On 23rd February, we held a vibrant celebration of Children's Village Day as the children and mothers of Anbu Illam, Sirumalar, and Miriam Children's Villages united in joyous camaraderie. The heart of the celebration lay in the captivating cultural events, meticulously organised and performed by the talented children, showcasing their creativity and spirit. This day served as a beautiful testament to the strength and unity of our Children's Villages, creating cherished memories for all involved.

Participating in the India National Deworming Day

This month, all the school children across our four schools participated in National Deworming Day, a vital health initiative. This programme focuses on reducing parasitic worm infections, which disproportionately affect children. The day served to raise awareness about the importance of deworming for improved health and well-being. All our pupils received deworming medication, contributing to their overall health and a healthier community.



Joyful tour for our balwadi children



Sixty-eight balwadi (pre-school) children, accompanied by teachers and parent volunteers, enjoyed an educational trip to the Vaigai Dam. The children explored the dam's structure and learned about its role in water management and electricity generation in a simple way, with the spillway being a highlight. Lunch in the park was followed by playtime and a visit to the

small zoo, where the children observed various animals. The trip successfully provided a fun and engaging learning experience. All of the children are from the most disadvantaged local families and will never have been out of their villages for a trip like this.

Career guidance to our students

This month, we held a career guidance training day, led by Professors Dr Julies Ceasar and Dr M. John from St. Joseph's College, Trichy, for 200 10th and 12th-standard students. The session addressed critical concerns, offering practical strategies for managing public exam anxiety and navigating pathways to success. Crucially, the professors illuminated the landscape of new technical and professional courses, equipping students with knowledge of emerging opportunities for a brighter future. Their guidance on selecting suitable courses, tailored to individual strengths, empowered students to make informed decisions.



Community Development

Organising milk animal rearing training to women Self Help Group members



Across several days in February, a vital milk animal rearing training initiative was conducted for our women Self-Help Group members in V.Kurumbapatti and Endapuli villages. The government veterinary doctors, Dr.Ezhilbarathi and Dr.Sugapriya, provided invaluable guidance to the

participants which included the critical importance of regular deworming, the benefits of mineral mixtures, effective disease management strategies, and optimal fodder management practices. The training stressed the necessity of deworming animals every six months and administering annual vaccinations, while also encouraging participants to utilise available government services, such as periodic vaccination camps and cow insurance to ensure the health and well-being of their livestock.

Case Study



Muthukaruppi, from A.Puthur village, joined the Muthaiya women's Self-Help Group 18 years ago. She lives with her husband, Malaisamy, and her son, Maharaja, 20, both of whom work as daily wage labourers. Having spent her entire life in the village, Muthukaruppi has been rearing cows since childhood.

Currently, she maintains two milk-producing cows and a calf. Before attending the training Muthukaruppi had faced difficulties when one of her cows suffered from mastitis which reduced milk yields. Now, she feels confident in preventing this disease, recognising its symptoms, and providing appropriate treatment. The training proved immediately valuable when, just one week later, one of her cows gave birth to a calf but struggled to release the placenta. Drawing on her new knowledge, Muthukaruppi administered locally available remedies which promptly resolved the issue.

Muthukaruppi expresses deep gratitude to RTU for providing such informative training to village farmers like herself. She is delighted that her newfound knowledge has directly benefited her livelihood and improved her cattle management skills.

Exposure visits for the women



Then 152 of the women who attended the milk animal rearing training were also taken to the Veterinary College and Research Centre at Theni. Dr.Kanagaraj, Head of Farm of the veterinary college, and his team guided the women members around the farm and delivered practical demonstrations, not only on cattle rearing but also goat, sheep, country chick, turkey and pig rearing for additional income. The participants also received exposure on value-added milk products such as ghee, cheese etc. for additional income.

Training to mothers and warden on childcare



On 10th February, Mr. Ravichandran, conducted a seminar on Childhood Psychology for 30 foster mothers, managers, and hostel wardens from our Children's Villages. The one-day session covered topics such as understanding child development stages and the importance of empathy in childcare. Participants actively engaged in the session and expressed their intention to apply the learned information in their roles.

Lent project



Our project for Lent this year is to help start the funds needed to build and run a new balwadi (pre-school) and daycare centre for the most disadvantaged young children aged 2 to 5 years from our local villages. This not only gives them the very best start in life helping to lay the foundation for numeracy and literacy skills so they can thrive at our schools, but also provides nutritious meals and snacks, regular health checks and allows their parents and carers to work to boost their household incomes. The building costs work out at around £20 per sq ft currently and the building will be around £2,700 sq ft. We are hoping to raise £10,000 for this new building throughout Lent. A big thank you to all who have already donated. Here is more [information](#) about the project.

From the depths of our hearts, we extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every member whose generous contributions have illuminated the path towards a brighter future for countless children and impoverished individuals. Your unwavering support is not merely a donation; it's a profound investment in hope, a tangible force for transformation. By empowering these lives with the invaluable gift of education, you are directly shaping destinies and building a legacy of opportunity. We are profoundly moved by the overwhelming outpouring of kindness and dedication you've shown. Your passion fuels our mission, and your collective impact strengthens our resolve. Together, with your compassion and love, we will make sure that every child has the chance to thrive. Thank you for being the catalysts of change, for your extraordinary generosity, and for inspiring us all to continue this vital work.

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