

Reaching The Unreached

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

Happenings of March 2025

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU. As usual, we have had a busy month with lots of celebrations and new houses built. Also, I am delighted to announce that I will be visiting the UK to meet many of you in May and I have included more details below.

International Women's Day celebrations



On 9th March, 450 women members of RTU's Self-Help Groups and the teachers from our Evening Study Centres from 28 rural villages around us, gathered at RTU to celebrate International Women's Day. The event featured Fr Antony and Fr Ruban as chief guests, who addressed the attendees on the responsibilities and rights of women within their communities. The celebration also included various games, with prizes and mementos awarded to the winners, creating a festive and engaging atmosphere.



We commemorated International Women's Day under the banner of "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." This celebration was also a heartfelt tribute to the invaluable contributions of our female staff, both teaching and non-teaching, whose dedication and strength inspire us daily. Fr Arockiaraj's compelling speech illuminated the ongoing journey towards gender equality, reinforcing the significance of recognising and uplifting women in all spheres of life.



Then on 15th March, a special Women's Day celebration was organised for the foster mothers and wardens from our Children's Villages and hostels, taking them on a trip to the Kuchanur Saneeshwarar temple in Kuchanur, Theni. Our counsellors arranged a day of spiritual and recreational activities, including special prayers, group activities designed to refresh their minds and hearts, and a delightful experience bathing in the waterfalls. The trip was a resounding success, filled with fun and pleasure, providing a much-needed break for these dedicated women. By evening, they returned to RTU, visibly more cheerful, rejuvenated, and refreshed, having enjoyed a truly memorable Women's Day.

Wedding Bells!

We are delighted to share the happy news of the marriage of our two former children who grew up in our care. We were delighted to attend their weddings to bless the couples and give them marriage gifts as Rs. 50,000 each.



On 2nd March Santhiya married Thangamadasamy in Melavaragunathapuram village, Virudhunagar District. Sandhya came to RTU along with her younger sister, Vidhya, in 2011 as their mother died in an accident and the father deserted the family. After

completing her schooling in our RTU schools, she studied her diploma course in teacher training in Santa Fathima Teacher Training Institute, Palani. The bride groom completed his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and now works in a Private company in Coimbatore.

On the same day, Sangeetha married Francis Xavier in St Thomas Church in Batlagundu. She came to RTU in 2005 at the age of 6 as her parents died. After completing her education in our schools, she completed a Diploma in Office Management at St Lukas Community College, Nazareth, and subsequently worked at Holy Cross Convent, Batlagundu. Meanwhile, her groom, Francis Xavier, who completed 6th standard, works at Leonard Hospital in Batlagundu.



Case Study of a new child



Jiswanth, aged 13, recently came into our care. The mother tragically died by self-immolation in 2014. After her death, the father remarried. The child was then placed in the care of his maternal grandmother, who works as a labourer. Due to her limited resources, the grandmother has struggled to provide adequate care and support for her grandson. Here he is receiving the special care and attention from our counsellors, his hostel warden and our teachers and is studying 8th standard in our St. Peter's Higher Secondary School and resides in our hostel. If any sponsors could come forward, we would be most grateful.

Nirmala Children's Village and Michael's Hostel day celebration



Over on our Bodi site, Nirmala Children's Village and Michael Boys' Hostel marked their 31st anniversary with a joyous celebration, uniting children and staff in a day of gratitude and entertainment. Fr Anthony honoured dedicated donors with mementos, symbolising their invaluable contribution. Further enriching the children's lives, Mrs Deepa and Selvan Sudan, former RTU children, generously provided sports equipment, fostering physical activity and recreation. Mr Ramesh, Chairman of Silamalai Dry Air Company, added to the festive atmosphere by sponsoring and serving a special meal. The children, in turn, expressed their appreciation through a series of captivating artistic performances, creating a memorable and heartwarming anniversary celebration.

Organising one day counselling training to our mothers



We recently ran two days of refresher training for all our foster mothers, run by Counsellors Chandru with the support of Mr Kannan. They talked about how to engage with the children, helping the children in times of crisis and identifying depressed children. During the training,

the mothers were entertained by playing games on concentration that made them think. Furthermore, the mothers were taught through discussion and debate how to guide their children in the current era and in difficult situations.

State board public exam

A total of 179 students, with 90 from Year 12 and 89 from Year 11, took the rigorous state board public examinations this month. These exams began on the 3rd and 5th March, and ended on 27th of March. We extend our best wishes to all the students for their success in these examinations.

Organising a school trip



On 7th March, our 10th-standard students enjoyed an enriching educational tour, visiting the Vaigai Dam and the Tamil Nadu Forest Training College in Theni. The students displayed great enthusiasm as local officials at Vaigai Dam explained the dam's operation, transforming theoretical knowledge into practical understanding, while the park, gardens, and fountains offered a delightful experience. They also enjoyed recreational activities, fostering camaraderie, and visited a mini zoo and aquarium. At the Forest Training College, they gained unique hands-on experience through nature trails, jungle survival training, and exposure to local flora and fauna, deepening their understanding of ecological concepts. This trip effectively bridged classroom knowledge with real-world experiences, leaving a lasting educational impact.

Organising all subjects' exhibition



On 18th March, three of our schools came together to host an all-subject Exhibition. The students created a diverse display, showcasing their learning in Tamil letters, English pronunciation and grammar, and Social Sciences. They presented the Tamil alphabet, practiced English sounds and sentence structure, and explored three major religions alongside local culture and traditions. This

project demonstrated their broad understanding and commitment to both language skills and cultural awareness. The exhibition aimed to show students the importance of scientific discoveries and how they play a role in modern technologies. On 12th March, the students of Nirmala Middle School in Bodi achieved great success by hosting a Science Exhibition, along with English and Maths fairs. The events were thoroughly enjoyed and praised by all who attended.

Free houses for rural people

On 19th March, we inaugurated two houses in Mela Endapuli village, one in K K Nagar village, and two in Murugamalai Nagar village, in the Theni District. Family members put a great deal of energy into organising the house opening celebrations. Fr Ruban blessed the homes. All of the new awardees entered their new homes and expressed their sincere gratitude to RTU and the benefactors.



Case Study:



Nandhini, a 31-year-old vulnerable woman from J K Nagar village, faced an overwhelming struggle to provide for her family. Her husband, Nagaraj, an agricultural daily labourer, and their two daughters, Pandiswari (9) with diabetes and Abipreethi (6) with psoriasis, along with her deaf mother-in-law, lived in a rented house for the last 7 years. They purchased a piece of land from their savings a long time ago. Despite owning a piece of land, building a home seemed an impossible dream due to their limited income. However, their fortunes changed

when the RTU housing team, along with Father, visited their home and recognised their need. Soon after, RTU's construction crew arrived and, throughout the month, built a safe and stable house on Nandhini's land. This incredible gift has brought immense relief and joy to Nandhini and her family, who express their deepest gratitude to RTU and the generous donor for their life-changing support. Furthermore, they now won't have to pay rent so will have greater income to be able to afford food and essential purchases.

My visit to the UK

I am delighted to be able to visit the UK again in May to as part of our celebrations to commemorate the centenary of our founder, Brother James Kimpton, who was born 100 years ago on 23rd May in Conwy. This is my first visit since 2017 as the 2020 visit was cancelled due to Covid, and then I had my injury which left me incapacitated for many years. I am very excited to meet you again. Mo Houlden, at RTU-UK, will email next week with all the dates and times. I will be in Bournemouth/Christchurch on 9th – 11th May, Bath and Wells on Monday 12th, Stroud and Malvern on Tuesday 13th, Nantwich on Thursday 15th, Conwy on Friday 16th, Chester and St Helen's on Sunday 18th, Ipswich on Monday 19th May and Douai Abbey on Tuesday 20th May. Do email her at info@rtu.org.uk for more information. I cannot visit all of you, but I hope to come again soon to visit the parishes I haven't been able to visit this time. I do hope you can join us.

Your dedication to providing quality education and loving care to children in our schools and Children's Villages is truly making a difference. Thanks to your generosity, these children in rural areas are experiencing the happy childhood they deserve. We are incredibly fortunate to have you as a supporter of RTU. Your investment directly empowers us to create a thriving and safe community for abandoned and orphaned children. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your compassionate and loving support. It is through your kindness that we are able to transform lives. Thank you again for believing in our mission and in the potential of these children.

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