



KOTTAPURAM INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (KIDS)

(DIOCESE OF KOTTAPURAM)

(Regd No. 64/1988 under T.C.L.S.C.R. Act 12/1956)

KIDS CAMPUS, KOTTAPURAM - 680 667, KODUNGALLUR, THRISSUR DIST., KERALA, INDIA.

President

Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Karikkassery
(Bishop of Kottapuram)

Secretary

Rev. Fr. Paul Thomas Kalathil
(Diocesan Director for Social Action)

June 1, 2018

Dear Fr. James and Scott,

Hope both of you, as well as all your parishioners, are keeping well. The past months have been very busy months as many programmes have been going on here. First of all, let me thank both of you for your keen interest in our mission and offer not only financial support but also for supporting us morally. It means a lot to us, as our Government does not take any interest in NGOs and they are trying to wipe all NGOs out. It seems, it is told to various departments not to give NGOs any more support directly. They give supports to the beneficiaries as wage compensation, if we conduct programmes on behalf of them but we will not be given any money and this is horrible situation because we have to pay the staff and many other expenses attached to it. Now they are not even granting us any projects. So you can imagine our plight. Because of this situation, all the more we need to work for the poor especially the differently abled, who are the most neglected. For this reason we are very grateful to you and also the parishioners, who help us from your heart.

We are very glad that with your financial support we could get a new vehicle for the transportation of the differently-abled. We could get the vehicle only lately as we wanted a particular model and that was not available when we placed the order. The Differently abled are very happy that they have a better seated and speedy vehicle now. I am sending the report of our activities for the past 4 months. I also want to thank each one of you very specially for the Lenten collection of **17548.43 USD** for this year, which you already sent to us. We promise that we will make good use of the money as we are aware that it is the hard- earned money of your parishioners, who contributed to support the less privileged people from our Diocese. I am not writing more as we will be meeting soon.

Kindly convey our best regards to all the parishioners. We are always aware of the help which they are doing.

Each one of you is very much in our prayers, our Differently abled sent special regards to you.

With warm regards,



Fr. Paul Thomas
Executive Director, KIDS

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING FEBRUARY '18 – MAY '18

KUDUMBASHREE POVERTY IRRADICATION MISSION

As we have written last time, KUDUMBASHREE Mission is one of the major enterprising programmes of the Government of Kerala, introduced to empower the common women of Kerala by giving many opportunities for economic independence. We were able to give training to 200 Kudumbasree women members in small enterprises like tailoring, paper bag making, fashion design, painting and many more interesting programmes. The programme for the last session was completed with exams and all the women could complete it successfully. All received certificates.



DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

NEW VEHICLE FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED



The happiest news we could share with you is the joy of our Differently-abled to get a new vehicle for themselves. You can see their smiling faces in the picture. The old Maruthi Omni was not convenient for them.



Now they are very happy. They remember you with gratitude and prayerful wishes. I really want to thank each parishioner and Fr. James and Scott for your initiative to support us in helping these differently-abled to come out to the main stream, able to work and feel dignified. Each month when we see the growth that is taking place in them, we think of you.



Literacy classes for the Differently-abled

We have initiated literacy classes for the Differently-abled. 3 years back we have given them the classes and



made them to complete the 4th standard level. Now some of them want to appear for the second stage ie, 7th standard and we are helping them to learn to read and write. Everyday, after lunch one hour is dedicated for this.

SAYAMPRBHA – The Elders' Group

SAYAMPRBHA MONTHLY MEETINGS are going on well in each Parish. During the last 3 months 5 more groups are formed. The programme is done as usual with a Eucharistic celebration followed by some entertainment and sharing ending with a lunch. The elders are very happy and wait for the meeting day, as it is an opportunity for them to express themselves freely, to share the old loving memories which they cherish with much enthusiasm.



SAYAMPRBHA ANNUAL GATHERING

For the last 3 months, I think, our attention was more on the elders. 2 major activities, other than the usual monthly meetings were conducted for them, of which the most exciting was the **ANNUAL GATHERING** which was conducted in April. There were 750 participants. It was not only exciting to them but was equally exciting to us also, as we could see the energy and enthusiasm with which they came for the programme. On our part we had arranged a lot of entertainment for them which they enjoyed very much, but what positively shocked us was their performance on stage, wanting to do more.



The annual meet was inaugurated by famous playback singer Mrs. Lekha R. Nair. She started her career as a musician till 1991. While delivering the inaugural speech and seeing all the mothers, she became emotional about memories of her mother-in-law, who was than a mother to her. She sang songs for the elderly people according to their wish.



There were orchestra and other entertaining programmes in which the elderly got actively involved. They danced with the young singers which was really hilarious!!





The programme ended with a grand lunch. As a whole, the atmosphere was one “charged with positive energy”. The feedback which we received was a clear indicator that they enjoyed it and want it every year.

ELDERS' FIRST METRO TRIP

The second amazing programme was a trip arranged for the Sayamprabha group which was a pilgrimage-cum-excursion. The trip covered Kochi-Metro, Bolgatty Palace, Vallarpadam and Edavanakkadu churches. The elders from the Thuruthur Parish, were taken for the trip. The members were not only Christians but from all religions. The experience was exciting to the elders as well as to us too, who accompanied them. We were also charged with energy, enthusiasm and youthfulness as we saw the child-like enthusiasm of them. It was an unforgettable day for them and for us.







QUEST- Tally & GST courses

For the youth you are unemployed we have started a new course called “QUEST- Tally & GST courses”



Since GST is a new concept for India and most of the firms are struggling to cope up with the new laws came into existence, with the introduction of GST, we realized it will be a good opportunity making for the young people to get employment. It will be a six month course for which certificates will be issued for successful candidates.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION ON THE 8TH OF MARCH



On the 8th of March, as in the past, we have a grand gathering for the members of the Women Self Help Groups (SHG). Around 700 women attended the programme which was inaugurated by the Chairperson of the Kochi Metro, Mr. Elias George. Awareness programmes on Women's Social and Economic Security was done by the Area Manager of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Sri Aju Mathews. TATA Consultancy Services HRD officer launched the Digital Literacy Programme for the SHG members. There were a number of cultural programme organized by the women, which gave colour to the gathering.





DIGITAL LITERACY FOR WOMEN FROM SELF HELP GROUP

The focus of the programme is on “performing” and not on “Knowing”. Lecturing will be restricted to the minimum necessary and emphasis to be given for ‘hands on training’.

Though KIDS has brought much change in the life style of people from this coastal areas, empowering the women to stand on their own feet, we feel still backward in one area. This is the ‘**digital world**’, which has become a “**MUST**” for the common person. **KIDS** is striving to bridge this gap between the generations by offering IT related training to poor people and underprivileged, Disabled through Computer Training in Thrissur & Ernakulam District of Kerala. With the emerging revolutionary changes in the communication scenario, leaving almost unbridgeable gap between generations, we feel urged to get into action to build a bridge by training and conscientizing the parents who are left behind their children in this digital world. The gap is wider in the families from poorer strata of life, so we will be concentrating on this category of people with special emphasis on women.





OKHI RELIEF works

Though the immediate relief work for the Okhi victims are over, we are still supporting them especially those who lost their properties or houses. A few of such victims were given financial assistance to make a house or toilet etc





“BHOOMIKA” World Earth Day

The world Earth day was celebrated with more emphasis on awareness building to children about the need to protect nature and to cultivate more trees and plants. So, we made the children to use their imagination and to depict on the canvas, what they think about the situation of the earth today. They were given a long canvas and colours, and they came out with such wonderful ideas. Around 50 children expressed their anxiety about their future through their paintings. After that there was a street play narrating the problems faced by environment and what we need to do about it. Symbolically trees were also planted





An oath was taken by all the participants that we will take care of the nature and will not destroy trees.



POOMOTTUKAL

Children's Self Help group celebrated their anniversary in many units. Children who excelled in the exams were honoured in each group and prizes were distributed.



CAREER GUIDANCE SEMINAR FOR THE ANIMATORS & STUDENTS



Animators were also given the training along with the students, with the intention to support the children of the SHG members to choose their career



Awareness class on Banking

As the banking system and the rules and regulations are changing very fast in India, we realize that it is the need of the time to make the beneficiaries, especially, those who have taken bank linkage loans, to be aware of the changes. Keeping this in mind we have organized a session for 250 women. The officials from Bank of India came to support us with the legality and the procedures.





CHANGE MAKERS

One of the most interesting and beneficial programme was the one day seminar given to the 300 entrepreneurs of KIDS given by OISCA International South Region and Vishwa Yuva Kendra New Delhi . Basically it was on new method of cultivation and the sessions given by Scientist Dr. Abdul Jabbar on “Sunday farming” and “Microfinance & SSG’s” by Dr. Rahul Krishnan were excellent giving a new enthusiasm to all the women. Dr. Abdul Jabbar has brought seeds of new variety which he has developed which he has distributed to all the participants



There were some other minor programmes as well as the monthly programmes for animators, leaders and promoters which I am not elaborating.

I just want to thank you for all the support and wish that God takes care of all your endeavours.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Paul Thomas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Paul Thomas,
Executive Director

