



Registered Charity No. 1125102

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Autumn 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends,



I know it's still a bit early to think about Christmas (!) but for those of you who are more organized than I am, please find enclosed details of our Christmas and Gift card collection. The printing costs have now been paid for, so this year's sales will be 100% profit and *directly* pay for *more* children to come to school. I've also enclosed details of our medium and small notebooks that are now selling at a reduced price of £3.50 and £1.50 respectively. And not to forget our quality, gold-leaf rimmed 'Three Elephants' china mugs, which make great presents as well as lovely every day mugs. These are now priced at £12.50 each. Details of the mugs plus our jewellery range can all be found on the website, please do take a look.

News from Manvi and Pannur

In June this year Father Francis D'Souza became the new Superior of the Manvi Pannur Mission. He also took over from Father Maxim who, being an excellent Retreat leader, was asked to head a Retreat House in Mangalore. Here is Fr Francis distributing books with Sister Ida HM, and Ellie, one of the volunteers at Loyola Kapepaladi School in Pannur.

Fr Francis has had a lot of experience working in education and social outreach in very deprived areas. The various social projects we are supporting such as tailoring schools, women's centres and pre-schools have been re-energized by Fr Francis' presence. It is wonderful to report that another tailoring school opened a few weeks ago.



There are now over 90 villages benefitting from the Fathers' care and support. Father Eric used to be in charge of the social outreach and he visited a different village every night, regardless of the fact that he got up at 5 a.m. every day! It is not possible to visit the villages during the day as the Dalit women all work in the fields, so the evening is the best time. Fr Francis has the same compassion and energy as Father Eric and we are very much looking forward to meeting him in December.

Recent Flooding

Fr Francis reported to me recently that there have been catastrophic monsoon rains this year that have flooded and destroyed many of our children's homes. Here is what he reported.

“The sudden torrential rains have caused so much suffering for the people of Raichur district. Their crops have been destroyed. Many houses were damaged. Many people will lose their wages due to lack of work in the fields. Since majority of those whose lives were affected are Dalits or untouchables, there are hardly anyone who will come forward to help them in the times of their need.”

“In a village called Arnahalli a man named Nagappa poured out his sorrows to me. He has lost his house because of floods. He is homeless. He has three small children. What will they do? He invited the officials responsible to study the situation but they did not turn up.



We spent our quality time in this village as we knew that it was important. Another person called Ambanna came to us saying that his house collapsed and that his younger daughter who was playing alone in the house was rescued. They were very happy and comforted as we gave a surprise visit to their village after the floods.”



“Arnahalli people tell us that they also invited the political leaders to visit their village and see the condition, but none of them have turned up. As we were on our way back we felt that this village badly needs help.”

“Action is better than words. Shall we join our hands to reach out to these people before they suffer more? Shall we give them some hope by helping them to have proper shelter?”

If you would like to make a donation to help these people, please get in touch. Any monies given will be used by Fr Francis specifically for replacement building materials, blankets, cooking

utensils, clothing or other day to day needs.

Next visit

We are travelling to Manvi and Pannur on the 10th December with an enthusiastic school group of 30. We will stay on in India and visit again mid-January with our own group of sponsor parents. As mentioned before, if you have Christmas cards for children you sponsor that you would like us to take out to India, we will need them here by the end of November. No presents please, just cards if you would like to.

And finally, we are not organizing a fund-raising event this autumn as we feel that you, our faithful supporters, and we (!) need a break after seven years. Thank you so much for all the support you have given to date, whether in sponsoring children, buying Christmas cards, or supporting our various events and projects.

With best wishes,
Dinah and Peter

p.s. Apologies for this newsletter being relatively short this time, but we will have much more news to share with you in the New Year, and hopefully some preliminary details of our next fundraising event.