



“LOVE NEVER FAILS”

Fr. C.Don Bosco,
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DEAR GOD-PARENTS,

My heart overflows with gratitude at this Holy Season of Christmas for the love and affection you have for the children of India. You help to build up lives through your assistance through God-children project, hospital project, Widows project and girls project.

You are leading us from hopeless to hope, from ignorance to knowledge and from darkness to light.

At Christmas I look back over the past one year and am able to see how many children and needy people have found a way to “SMILE” because of you.

I shall give here a brief report on what we have been able to do in Pagandai Kootu Road through your help.

GOD-CHILDREN PROJECT:

God children project helps to bring smile in the faces and confidence in the hearts of our village children. Education is the instrument of progress, change and growth. It builds up lives of the poor children.

Most of these children had no access to quality education. This project is A “Bridge Builder”. It helps them to cross the chasm of ignorance and illiteracy and reach the safe road to a meaningful and fruitful life.

All our God-children are doing well in their studies. Especially this year, the God-children who wrote the final school exams have achieved good results. They take part in other extra curricular activities like dance and sports also.

As you are aware, our God-children do their studies in several schools in various places. I shall give here some God-children who have got appreciable results.

Eucharista Nancy(No.400): has got 479 marks out of 500 in class 10th Government public examination and she stands first in her school which is in Maiyanur(7 KM from Pagandai Kootu Road). Now she has joined Mount Park school which is 20 K.M from here, to study class 11 and 12.



Eucharista Nancy (No.400)

Another God-Child Ester (No: 219) who studied in English medium at Mount Carmel school obtained 424 in class 10th. Roselin Dayana (No: 175) studied in Viriyur, got 412. They joined another school after we stopped English medium in our school. We stopped English medium because we did not get many students for it and also the teachers had to be paid high salary. But we have English medium in classes 1 to 5.



Indira (No:14) receiving graduation

Again, I want to mention about Indira (No:14), the Gypsy girl. She is now doing M.Sc Physics. Last year she completed B.Sc. Physics in Viriyur and got her degree. The Convocation picture is given here.

Among our God children, there are a good number pursuing their college studies. Five of them Joyce Nightingale (No:213), Clara (No:105), Antonyammal (No:325), Santhanakrishnan (No:156) and Jenova (No:141) are studying B.Ed.

Kitheri Indira (No: 350) and Madhu (No: 255) have finished B.Ed. B.Ed is the professional education to become teacher in high school. They can teach in classes 6 to 10. To teach in primary schools (Classes 1 to 5) the professional course is D.Ted. (Diploma in Teacher Education). Four of our God children Leema Rose(No:103), John Pushpa(No:265), Arockia Mary(No:125) and Gnanaprakasam(No:281) are now studying D.Ted.

Nancy Nightingale (No: 212), Lilly Flora (No: 262) and Emilda Rani (No: 228) are studying Engineering. Apart from these, 10 God Children are in various colleges pursuing different studies like B.Com and B.Sc. One girl Mary Antony Julia (No: 216) is working and at the same time studying M.C.A (Master of Computer Applications) final year as a part time student. Two girls are studying in Nursing.

The remaining God children are young ones studying in schools in different classes. God children project is a major contribution in educating the needy and deserving children from poor and average families. It is a hope to children and their parents. Though they don't see you face to face, they see you by experiencing your love for them!

Mahimai mary(No:260) one of our God-children has Heart Problem. She is helped by Cornelius and Teresa for her heart operation. She has visited Gipmer hospital in Pondicherry five times. Her operation date is not fixed. The money sent by Cornelius we have already spent some money on her for buying medicines, and the remaining amount is in the bank. It will be given to her at the time of the operation. Kindly pray for Mahimai mary.



SCHOOL PROJECT:

Our school continues with the good work of giving shape to the character of children of Pagandai Kootu Road. In studies also our students are making remarkable progress.

This year class 10th students came out with 92% pass and Class 12th students produced 93% pass. The first mark in class 10th was 473 out of 500 and first mark in class 12th was 1102 out of 1200.



Austrian friends helping in new school building construction

The new building which is the separate block for primary classes(Class 1 to 5) is coming up nicely. Your generous help is making this possible. In the month of August 2008 our Austrian friends Fr. Franz Kronister, Mr. Franz Hofmarcher, Monika and Anna were in Pagandai Kootu Road. They took part in the construction of the new school building, helping to carry sand and to move bricks for a few days. They were very simple and kind. Our people here were touched by their kindness and cheerfulness. Their stay here was a time of joy and inspiration for every one around here.

The new school building is going to have 13 class rooms. You see the Austrian friends carrying the materials for the building. In the other pictures you see the building under construction. It has come upto roof level. Before Christmas one wing will be ready.



Construction in progress



Priests taking part in school feast day



Dance in Cultural function

In the evening, there was a special dinner for the boarders. It was a day of joy for every one. And they thank you for your love and support.



School feast day special dinner for boarders



Our school children participated in the games and sports competitions conducted by the Government for the schools in the area. They won in running race, high-jump, long-jump and discuss throw. They are seen with the certificates in the picture.

Our students do take their studies seriously. They are seen writing the exams in the picture.



Shobana got the first mark in class 10th public exam. She has scored 473. She is one of the best students in this area. She continues to study class 11th in our school. Manikandan got 1102 marks and stood first in school in class 12th. Dilip Kumar scored 1056. This the second best mark. These students have brought good name for the school and for the project.

HOSPITAL PROJECT:

In the hospital building we have not made much progress this year. The rooms division is nearing completion. Doors and windows have been made. They are waiting to be fixed.



I am sorry for the delay in completing this work.

This is partly because in 2008 I was asked by my Archbishop to assist in another parish named Eraiyr where there was conflict between two caste groups of Catholics. Since I had previously worked in this parish, the bishop asked me to work for bringing peace. So for five months, I had devoted most of my time for it, and managed to bring amicable understanding between the two groups. Besides, I had to give my attention to the new school building under construction.

But in the coming year, I shall make up for the last time and speed up the hospital project. The building will be ready in a year. A congregation of sisters is willing to take up the work of running the hospital. They have made an agreement with us for this.

WIDOWS PROJECT:

The widows helped by our project express their gratitude. Most of the widows we help are aged and some are even invalids. They are depend on others even for their basic needs like taking bath. They cannot obviously do any work to earn anything. Only a few widows are able enough to go for work in the fields.

We also help the children of these widows through God-children project, for their education. We have assisted a widow to build her house. The government also gave part of the help. For another widow the site was purchased and the construction of the house is in progress.



Lisa with a widow Unnamalai(W.No:16)

Lisa who was in Pagandai Kootu Road this year, visited Unnamalai(W.No:16) a widow in our project. She gave a gift of dress and some money to the widow.

We sorry to inform you that Poongavanam(W.No.14) died on 8-10-2008 due to her old age. We thank in a special way Luzia Fridrich Baden for her love and support toward her in the past

years.

Your support and concern for the widows is a big solace for them. When others look down upon them with scorn, you look upon them with love. This has given them the strength to continue their life with decency and dignity.

GIRLS PROJECT:

The girls supported by us are from very poor families. The small aid we give them is substantial because it gives them a hold in their lives. Now 3 of the girls have married and settled down in life. Arockia mary (No: G.No:1) one of them, has written her final thanks letter. We are winding up help for her.

OTHER HELP:

Through our project we have supported two persons this year for spinal cord operation.

One Sambath, a helper in construction work, lost his house in a fire accident. Fr. Samy Franz kronister and his friends were magnanimous to help him to rebuild his house.

We also helped a priest with medical help. He was given by the bishop to assist in our school. This Fr. J.V.C. Arockia samy met with a road accident when he was traveling on his two-wheeler. He suffered severe injury and was in coma for 19 days. We met part of his medical expenses. Now he is recovering.

Fr. J.V.C. Arockia Samy was a good help in the school. He was teaching to class 10th students.



Fr.J.V.C. Arockia Samy



Fr. C. Don Bosco and Edwin Arles

This year we helped a poor boy Edwin Arles to go for higher studies. Now he is doing Engineering

We also gave financial help to a poor lady for child-birth medical expenses.

Our projects in Pagandai Kootu Road are making a good impact on the lives of people very positively. The public and the bishop appreciate our work. The success of our school children and meritorious results in class 10 and class 12 are appreciated by the public. So more and more students are seeking admission in our school. This year there are 90 students in class 9 and 75 students in class 11.

In class 10th we have 33 students and in class 12th we have 42 students who are going to appear for the Government examinations next March 2009.

We try our maximum to improve all the talents of the students.

This season Pagandai Kootu Road has received a good rain. Our water source-lakes and ponds are full of water.

THANK YOU! HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

I want to thank you each and every one of you for your large hearts and your generous spirit. Your sacrifice, involvement and interest for India is sincerely appreciated.

The God-children, the widows, the girls project and I have no words to express our "thanks" appropriately. It is our duty to say "NANDRI" to each one of you.

Your continued support will be a path-finder for our God children.

I must, in a special way thank Friedl-Lotte and their children who do a lot for our projects. Their commitment and dedication is really remarkable.

I should not fail to mention Josef-Elizabeth, Kurt-Christine, Sascha, Cornelius-Therese and other Austrian friends who collaborate closely with Friedl to make these projects possible.

I am happy to make a special mention of the team who came to Pagandai Kootu Road in August 2008. Fr.Sami Franz kronister, Franz Hofamarcher, Monica and Anna. Their visit was a morale-booster to us. We were moved to see their keen interest in our work. They were so simple, kind and helpful. We thank them for their kind visit to Pagandai Kootu Road.

From our hearts we wish you all Merry Christmas. Our hearts unite with your hearts to sing "Glory to God" along with the angels of Bethlehem.

**"Glory to God and
Peace to you all"**

We will never forget Austria. Though Austria is small, it has a big heart.
May the New Year 2009 be one of cheer for all of you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. C. Don Bosco", written over a horizontal line.

Fr. C. Don Bosco.