

STICHTING

Good News Friend Ministries

HULP AAN INDIA

News letter November 2009



In this news letter:

- **First orphan wedding**
- **Young people choose God**
- **Refugees from Orissa start new parish**

Dear Good News friends,

In this newsletter we give you a survey of the special events during the past six months. Among others you will read about the first marriage in the orphanage and about the different youth camps.

We will also share our wishes for the next six months.

Big celebration

Last September an enormously big celebration took place in Periyampatty. Martha, one of the orphan girls, got married with Augustin.



Martha and her husband Augustin

About 2.000 people from near and far have attended the wedding ceremony and the reception. The Good News Friend Hall, where the ceremony was executed, was overcrowded.

The other guests have attended the service by means of a large screen near the hall.

This is a special milestone for Good News Friend Ministries (GNFM): the first orphan, who has been looked after with your help, taken care of and raised, is married and has her own home now.

New Orphans

Eight new children arrived in the orphanage in June. It's a new start for them. Food,

school and rest are no longer a dream for them, but they may enjoy this to the full.

We are looking for sponsors for three of the new orphans: Mercy, Vyay and Justin.



Mercy (Kiruba)

Vyay

Justin

New hope

Our ambassadors Sandy and Deborah Middleton were guests at the monthly congregation in the Sheepfold Hall in August in Periyampatty, together with their friends Duane van Minde and Kumia Wijnhamer.

They encouraged about thousand people present with songs, testimonies and a message from the Bible. After their prayer people came forward to tell their story. One wonder after the other was shared. One of these wonders was very remarkable:

"Today I had had enough of it. I have problems in my family and I did not see a way out. I had decided to commit

suicide today. On my way to the "final point" I passed here. I came and looked and I have listened. And now ... I have new hope. Suicide is not the solution, I know that now. In Christ I am more than a conqueror!"



New light



Parikumar, his wife Shobana, Jemi and her husband pastor Raja

The ophthalmologist Parikumar has successfully executed 50 eye operations on poor people in the district, who would not be able to afford these themselves.

New idea

There is a serious plan and desire to organise an Overcome Camp in August 2010, in order to approach the young people in the poor areas around Periyampatti.

The children in the orphanage and the school will present a programme full of song, dance and plays in all villages. The idea is to hold a large youth meeting as the final piece.



Children at a meeting

The school continues to grow

The six new computers in the Good News Friend School are an enormous support in the education for the children. The search how to protect the classroom and the computers against the heat continues, but in between the older children can follow their first computer lessons.

The security of the school and the orphanage continues to be a tremendous concern. It's an urgent advice, also from the side of the government, to guard the premises well. Unfortunately we do not have the means at the moment to hire guards against a suiting salary.



Good News Primary School in Periyampatti

Momentarily there are more than 700 children at the Good News Primary School. Actually, the building is not big enough for so many children, but the only alternative is refusing children and then they would get no education at all.

In fact an extra floor would have to be built on top of the school building in order to accommodate all the children. At the moment we are diligently looking for sponsors who will help to finance the building of this new floor.

Impulse for the leprosy project



Dutch sponsors support 33 families in Bangalore who wrestle with the consequences of leprosy.

Recently, Joshua, Pastor Jebas Cornelius's son, has closed down his successful school of music in order to be able to serve among the lepers. He takes care of the services as well and helps wherever he can.

Although Joshua himself has not much to live from, he is very happy to be able to do this work: *"I can wait until I am older and have owned myself a good fortune, because my company flourished, but God spoke to my heart. Therefore I have left everything behind with joy."*

Joshua's sister Joy supports her brother wherever she can. She takes care of the administration and correspondence and helps to organise the meetings.

Thanks to the help of the Good News Friends Joy can continue the secondary teacher training course, after a very difficult period in her life, in which she has been abandoned by her husband.

Visit from the Netherlands

As we reported in this newsletter earlier, Sandy and Deborah Middleton went to India again this year in order to visit the projects of Good News Friend Ministries. This time they made the trip with two friends. One of them, Kurnia Wijnhamer, writes:

"I very much enjoyed the stay. It's not the luxury I am used to, but the love that you get from the host and hostess, and they give you everything they can give. I have

learned so much. Take for instance father Raja. He maintains an orphanage, a school, a church and a family and he also goes to people to proclaim the gospel."



Kurnia visits the orphans in Periyampatti

During several youth meetings the team encouraged the youngsters with songs, testimonies and a message from the Bible. One of the highlights was a meeting in Kovaipudur, in which 30 teenagers chose for the Christian faith.

In Palayamkottai the yearly Power Youth Camp took place in August with 1500 participants. Among others this conference is meant to help young people in their choice for Christ. It appeared that the theme "the whole armour of God" was the right message. Sometimes it is difficult for young people to hold on to faith.



Power Youth Camp

Sports day in Periyampattti

In October Joris van Eck visited the orphanage in Periyampattti again.

"It was wonderful to come home, because that is how it feels. During those three weeks over there, among others I celebrated my birthday. That was a really nice day. We went to a good restaurant with the whole orphanage. It was a real feast! Apart from that I spent a lot of time organising the sports day for the 730 children in primary school. With help of the teachers and the older orphans, it was a big success. Apart from that I spent a lot of time with the orphans. Played with them, helped them with their homework and every now and then I helped at school. Shortly, I had a great time."



"Not long ago we were heavily into drugs. We got in contact with drugs through friends from the village and from school. One day pastor Binod got in contact with us and he told us about the love of Jesus. He prayed with us as well and from that moment on we had changed. We even went to church. Our family saw that we had changed and went with us. Now we all have received Jesus and we may go to the Bible school here in Nepal!"

Better transportation

Thanks to a Dutch sponsor Pastor John Peter from the IPA-church in Mykel, could proudly and thankfully receive the keys of his new Tata mini van. People without transportation can come to the parish in this way and Pastor John Peter can visit other places as well.



Youth meetings in Nepal

Pastor Binod reported from Nepal that youth meetings had been held on 23 and 24 September in Kathmandu and Damak. Altogether around 450 youth arrived. Pastor Peter had especially come from Kovaipudur in order to educate them and challenge them to give their life to Jesus. Many responded to the appeal!

Two youth from Nepal, Seilish Dimal and Bikram Dimal, tell their story:

Widowers in need

In India widows are often left to fend for themselves. Now there is also an increase of need among widowers. Many young families leave the villages, looking for better financial circumstances and perspectives in the towns. Many widowers stay behind and have to find accommodation and food themselves.

Pastor Peter Prakasam of the IPA-church and the widow house in Koivapudur recognize this problem and commit themselves to this group. In faith he recently put the first cornerstone for a widower's house.



Pastor Peter and pastor John Peter putting the first cornerstone

Refugees start a new parish

In the mountains of Surivani near Coimbatore almost 50 people recently gather in a small hall to seek God. It is remarkable that most of them are refugees from Orissa. In Orissa Christians are prosecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Churches are burnt, women raped, people murdered and so on.



Sandy and Duane visit the new parish

Most parishioners know what it is like to leave your house and loved ones, searching for a safe place. High in the mountains they found a place of refuge. They are picking tea against very low wages at the plantations for their maintenance. But they are thankful that they are safe now.

Christmas action 2009



In India Christmas is very different from here in the Netherlands. There is an abundance of sun, no Christmas tree, no presents or dinner and no nativity story. Therefore it is nice that our project leaders organise a big Christmas feast for thousands of poor people from the surroundings.

This year the plan is to hold meetings in five different places, with song and dance, a movie, music, the Christmas message and at the end a simple love meal. Most important is that people have the chance to enjoy the Love that came into the world at Christmas.

Will you join in? For € 2 you will give a love meal and an unforgettable day. Please transfer your gift before 20 December.

How to help us

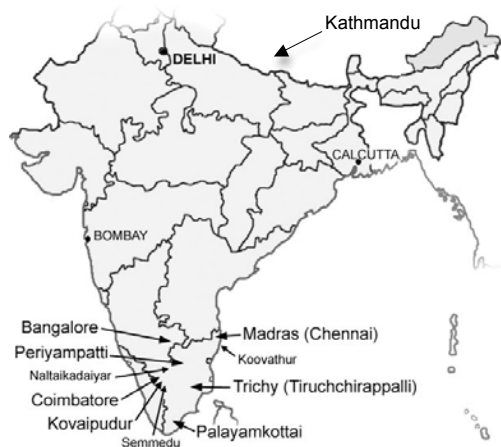
We could use your help for the following projects:

- Sponsoring one of the 3 new orphans.
- Sponsors for teachers at the Good News School and for a therapist for disabled children in Periyampatti.
- Security for the grounds of the orphanage, the school and the church in Periyampatti.
- Equipment for the Sheepfold Hall in Periyampatti.
- Support for the Bible Schools in Nepal and Periyampatti.
- Help for the Christians who have fled from Orissa.

Your gifts

All contributors of the Foundation Good News Friend Ministries work on a voluntary basis. The foundations' overhead is entirely paid for by the Committee, so your donations fully go to the people they are meant for. The Dutch Tax Department has recognised us as a Charitable Institution (ANBI). Therefore, within the Netherlands, your gifts are entirely tax deductible.

Where are our projects located?



Finally

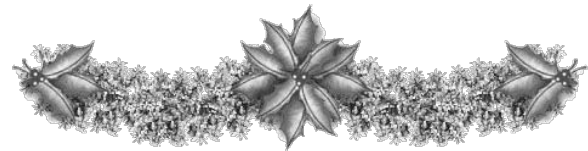
A lot has still to be done to help outcasts and the poor aimed at a dignified existence. Thanks to your support we witness minor changes. Some people do not exist for the Indian government, but they do exist for the Heavenly father and you and me.

On behalf of the Committee and all project leaders we wish you a blessed Christmas, full of nice moments being together, of piece and Gods love.

With kindest regards and Gods blessing on behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wim Vlak'.

Wim Vlak, Chairman.



Colophon

This newsletter appears twice a year, circulated in an edition of 500 copies for sponsors and interested people.

If you wish more information about the work of the foundation, please contact us.

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Samuel is enjoying the new home for handicapped people that has been built next to the orphanage



The campus walls in Periyampatti have been beautifully decorated for education purposes



New bikes for IPA pastors



The children in Periyampatti love Joris



The meeting hall in Bangalore where the lepers and their families meet, has been renovated



The meetings in Nepal are continuously drawing crowds