

God is Emmanuel. God is with us. .

God makes us as we are and leads us to find the way to a life that has meaning and purpose, and prepares us for eternal life. The real and long-lasting way we celebrate Christmas everyday is recognising that as brothers and sisters of Christ we are sent to bring God's life to bear in our world, be it at home, at work, with friends, in ordinary places or even in the midst of utter chaos. Christmas is the feast day. We think of those who have come home and we welcome them. We think of our relations and friends who are far away and we pray for them. We think of our loved ones who have died during the year. We pray for them. We think of the poor whom Jesus loved especially, and our obligation to them. Your commitment and support for this work is very much appreciated and my heartfelt thanks go to you all. Thank you also for your faith and trust placed in the Trustees and workers in Eluru who carry out the mission of the Trust, which is "Giving a New Life to a child". Our friends in India are hardworking and dedicated people who deserve our support. Your support has a far-reaching ripple effect, affecting not only the lives of street children but also their families and the whole impoverished communities, bringing them self-esteem and hope, where there was once despair. Without your support our vision would not be the reality it is today. Thank you again for your generous gifts and uplifting messages which raise our Spirits and be assured that the children and all concerned with St Mary's Trust pray and thank you each day for your support.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. God bless you all. Fr. Dominic Chukka.

Message from India

On behalf of the key workers and children in India. We send our warmest regards and thanks to all the sponsors and benefactors for all your support over the last three years. Without you we would be unable to do anything and many children would be left with out hope. Our good news is that the construction work of the ground floor of the school building has been completed (5 classrooms) and expected completion date for the First Floor (5 classrooms) Feb'09. This is our main priority right now as the temporary classrooms, simply are not big enough for all of our students and when it rains many of the classrooms are unusable. One of our boarding girls whose name is Pramounica studying in class VIII achieved First prize in an essay competition in district level. The children have recently had half yearly exams in which many have done very well. Today, with your generosity, we provide a safe and loving home, including, food, shelter, medical care and access to

education to over 75 children in Don Bosco Boarding home and we provide free education to 250 children in St. Mary's & St. Christopher school.

School for Deaf and Dumb:

With your help, we provide a home, education and future for over eight children with hearing and speech disabilities. We help provide access to specialist education and the children are taught confidence and independence at the Aditya school for the deaf and dumb. Thank you again for all your encouragement and support. With our best wishes, Raj, key workers and all the children.

Red Hot Summer: It was a red-hot summer and the school building was hit by a cyclone on the 25th May damaging the new roof. On the last day of term many of our children received prizes for their good work.

Summer Courses: 180 attended summer camp taking courses in Computer Basic Skills and English. 25 dropout children attended a bridge course to get them back into schooling.

Independence Day: The school celebrated Independence Day on August 15th. Exam results were also celebrated on the day with children ranking 1st and 2nd. In residence at the boarding home are 75 children also 3 of the teachers who are on hand to help out with study time. House colours for the school are Red, Yellow, Green and Blue. Pupils take pride in their houses and are eager to compete against each other for their house.

Phase One of School Building: Nearing completion. Classrooms for the lower school should be completed by Feb 09 and then we need to concentrate all our efforts on the second phase, which will be 10 classrooms for the upper school. The price of building materials has risen substantially.

Compound Wall: There is need to build a boundary wall around the compound for the safety of children and staff. The wall needs to be robust so that animals are unable to knock it down. It's to keep the wildlife from roaming in.

Women's Groups : Women's self - employment is one of the strategies adopted by the trust to eliminate child labour.

Adult education, Pot painting, Sari painting, embroidery & sewing are the programs taken up by the women at present with eight income generating women self - employment centres in Pedavegi surrounding villages.

Motivation of parents, children & other community members is taking place. Strengthening the women self - employment centres at community level helps to eradicate child labour.

Raj,

key workers and all the children.

Wish List

Second phase of the School building with ten class rooms.

Boundary wall estimate cost	7500-00
Computers-4 (2for deaf and dumb school 2 for St Mary's)	1200-00
Science Resources	200-00
Tables and benches	500-00

Christmas cards and donations: All the children are getting excited about Christmas and each Child will receive a complete new set of clothes, which is traditional. If you would like to send your sponsored child a Christmas card and make an extra contribution towards Christmas please let Helen Fallan have these by the 10th of December at the latest. All contributions will be shared equally as is the usual practise.

Fundraising, Donations, Good Wishes: Thank you to everyone involved for all you're hard work in fundraising this year. For the many events which have taken place. Raffles, Auctions, Lenten Fund Giving, Sponsored events and many others. Schools, Parishes and our extended community in different parts of the world. For your sponsorship, donations, faith and messages of support and for your unselfishness.

Project Visit: Fr Dominic will be visiting the project in January with Fr David Stanton and will be concentrating on village projects.

Website Reconstruction: During the next few months our website www.stmarystrust.org will undergo reconstruction so please bear with us.

Trustee meetings: 10th Sept & 12th Nov 08.