



FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme (REDS) Bangalore, India
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Workshop on Human Relationship



On 25th January, the REDS staff of Bangalore and Deepahalli participated in a workshop. Mrs. Prema Manthesh welcomed Mr. Anselm Rosario. The main theme of the workshop was how communication helps us to maintain relationships of different levels of administration in the field. Mr. Anselm demonstrated these topics with a skit and drawings. Group discussions also took place. "One should come out of their boundaries in search of a solution to a

problem," said Mr. Anselm. The workshop ended by afternoon. Mrs. Prema Manthesh thanked him for coming and dedicating his precious time.

REDS staff attended the closing of the Silver Jubilee Celebration and perpetual vows on January 5th, of The Marianists Brothers at Deepahalli. 7 brothers took the vows.

On 14th January, a Pongal celebration was organized. All REDS staff, including play school, Tailoring, Day Care Center and study center teachers, took part. The staff gathered and made sweet pongal in a mud pot, in the tradition of Indian culture. The day ended with lunch and a word of thanks from Fr. Pragasam, for everybody gathering in this special occasion.



There are a few changes in the Bangalore placements:

- ✚ Ms. Lakshmi will be moving to Self Help Groups from February 1st to 28th, working with Mrs. Banumathi, after which she will replace Mrs. Bhanumathi.
- ✚ Mrs. BaNumanthi will replace Mrs. Sashikala, starting March 1st, at the Shivajinagar Center.
- ✚ Mrs. Sashikala will be working for Institutional Care beginning March 1st.
- ✚ Solid waste management will now be taken care of by Mrs. Prema Manthesh, Mr. Srinivas and Bro. Lucian Tigga. Overall complaints will be given to Mrs. Prema Manthesh.
- ✚ Starting 1st February, Bro. Britto replaced Bro. Prasad as a play school teacher at Parvathinagar in Hosur.
- ✚ Bro. Tony Nesam will be working in Electronic City at Konapnagara in hopes of opening a new center.
- ✚ Mrs Amala Jyothi will be working on documentation.

Religious Brothers from the St. Patrick Nivas and Deepahalli Marianist Aspirants communities were at L.R.Nagar and Baglur Layout for 10 days for the experience of working with children and visit to families in the area. We appreciate their wholehearted participation in the program and wish them the very best.

Health Check Up

On 2nd and 3rd February 2006 a general medical check up was arranged for all the trainees and school going children at REDS - STC. The boys were divided into two groups, one taken the first day and the second half the next. They were inspected by Dr. Prabhakar at Vinayaka Hospital in Chandapura. The doctor spent the day assessing the



health status of the boys. The height, weight, growth and health of the 63 children of the STC were checked. Prior to coming to the STC, Robin and Srinivas developed eye problems while rag picking. While training in their units, their instructors noticed the possibility of problems. Thus, during the medical checkup, their eyes were examined. Robin has lost all sight in his right eye and will eventually lose the sight in his left. Srinivas' condition is very similar, although not as progressed. Please keep them in your prayers.



Picnic to Nandhi Hills

The carpentry and formal school boys took a picnic to Nandhi Hills on 25th February. After journeying on the REDS bus to this beautiful spot, the boys and staff explored the area and its breathtaking views. They made use of the recreational equipment and had lunch under the shade of trees. The monkeys made for good entertainment after which all traveled back to the STC. A good day was had by all.

A Visit to India

Fr. Hans, S.M. and Bro. Alfred, S.M. of Austria recently visited the REDS Deepahalli and Bangalore programs. They visited all the STC units and spoke of how impressed they were with the works the boys were doing. Next, Bro. Doss, S.M. took them to the play schools and day care centers to better understand and know the area. They were welcomed with songs by the children of the centers. They spoke with and observed the children. Overall, they said they had a very enjoyable experience. Thanks to them for their visit!!!



The vanilla plants at Deepahalli are in full bloom! While past years have not yielded full production, this year all plants are yielding flowers. Ten kilograms were harvested, processed, and, ultimately, amounted to five Kg for selling. Unfortunately, the market value for the product, at this time, is not as expected. Although several vendors have been contacted, the asking price has not been reached. Thus, the beans are in storage for the time being. Growing will continue, though, as it adds a wonderful fragrance to the air of Deepahalli!



Ranchi

With heavy hearts, staff of REDS-Ranchi bids farewell to Bro. Paulus Lakara. Fr. Pragasam would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his support and wish him all the best for the future. We are also happy to introduce Bro. Alex Toppo as the new director.

With the start of the New Year come great successes and fresh starts for the REDS-Ranchi centers. Attendance is very good with most centers welcoming between 50 and 60 children each day. Home visits continue, still, so that the staff can reach out to as many as possible. Nutrition is given daily at the centers.

Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January. On the solemn occasion the National Flag was hoisted and the children and staff paid their respects by singing National Anthem. Arranged some sports competitions besides flag hosting.

School going children received the results of their second terminal exam and, overall, the results were very good. The children worked hard and the outcome is success. Thus, many children have decided to reenroll in the formal schools. Entrance exams have been taken with some results already received. Other students are awaiting the outcomes. Tuition is also attended at the centers in the evenings. The students were taken for picnics at many of the centers in the months of January and February. They enjoyed the break and playing in the water and sand.



Parent meetings were conducted in January for all parents, but especially those with children struggling with school. The main topics discussed were:

- 📚 Direction for parents of new and struggling school going students.
- 📚 Stressing the importance of the upcoming annual exam.
- 📚 Attendance of formal and non-formal children.
- 📚 Cleanliness of both children and parents.

In vocational training news, many girls have been hard at work. They are dutifully working on their embroidery, tailoring, and knitting. Attendance has been very good and the girls are in good spirits. The knitting section students are hard at work on samples to be submitted for approval. One student has even completed her knitting course training and is making woolen clothes for selling.



Congratulations to her! The tailoring girls are training in petticoat, baba suit pant, and half-shirt. They are learning quickly and working well.

Calendar of Events

1 st Jan	Deepahalli boys and staff gather for a New Year's celebration.
2 nd Jan	Deepahalli boys perform a cultural program at the Scholastic community for the Jubilee gathering
3 rd - 4 th Jan	Fr. Hans, S.M. and Bro. Alfred, S.M., of Austria, visit the REDS- STC and Hosur. They appreciated the programs all of the good work being done.
5 th Jan	REDS staff attends the Silver Jubilee celebration and perpetual vows of Marianist Brothers at Deepahalli.
10 th Jan	Fr. Hans visits Ranchi centers
13 th - 16 th Jan	Bro. Dennis Lobo and Bro. Tony Nesam attend a Learning to Learn Skills Workshop at CRI, Bangalore
14 th Jan	Staff of REDS, Bangalore & Deepahalli, participate in the Pongal Celebrations in Bangalore
24 th Jan	Wall painting completed at the Ranchi-Doranda center
25 th Jan	The Bangalore and Deepahalli staffs of REDS participate in the workshop on human relationship by Mr. Anselm Rosario
26 th Jan	Deepahalli and Ranchi centers have 57 th Republic Day celebrations. Chief Guest Bro. Xavier Raj, S.M. and Siril Kujur, respectively.
29 th Jan	Children from REDS - Bangalore and STC displayed their talents at the Inter-Agency Cultural Meet organized by BOSCO - Bangalore. And won third prize for the skit
	Ranchi-Khadgara formal school children picnic to Saiko
2 nd - 3 rd Feb	General medical checkups done for all REDS-Deepahalli boys



3 rd Feb	Ms. Colleen McCarthy visits India from U.S.A. Her stay will be for more than 2 years for documentation
6 th Feb	Farewell program for Bro. Prasad, S.M. by Deepahalli staff and boys
10 th Feb	Video coverage of REDS activities (Bangalore & Deepahalli)
10 th - 16 th Feb	St. Patrician brother visits REDS-Bangalore for a 'Community Outreach' Experience
13 th Feb - 2 nd Mar	Aspirants of Marianist Society came to REDS-Bangalore for a 'Community Outreach' Experience. Both the children and the brothers enjoyed their stay.
25 th Feb	Picnic to Nandhi Hills for Deepahalli carpentry and school boys.
27 th Feb	Tailoring unit students of Hosur and Mathikere were taken to Deepahalli as a picnic.

Our Earnest Appreciation and Sincere Gratitude to the following people for their generous contributions to the REDS programs in India...

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THANK YOU!

