

GRACE THIRD WORLD FUND

Manx Registered Charity No 7277

NEWSLETTER NO 16

July 2017



2016 GROUP VISIT. Since our last newsletter there has been another Group Visit to Grace Children's Home. Those of you who sponsor our children, will recognize some of the information in this newsletter, as you will have read about it in the Sponsor's Quarterly. However, for the benefit of others, a party of six people travelled from the Isle of Man and Manchester in 2016 to see the work, and this newsletter gives information about that visit. Overall 2016 was another good year for the charity. Thankfully there were no cyclones and the 1,000 meter wall is still standing. The GCH children are all doing well, and all those who live in the

Grace Children's Home now attend King's Ideal School—they never have to leave the land! Some of the older students who had left came back to visit us, and it was wonderful to see how they had progressed, and found good jobs.

2017 CHAIRMAN'S VISIT Although there was no 'Group Visit' this year, I travelled to India in March accompanied by James Caley, a friend and supporter from the Isle of Man. James has been on a number of trips, and once again we both enjoyed the friendship and hospitality (and the food!). It was good to catch up with everyone and to see the children. They were taking their exams at the time, and we have since heard that they have done remarkably well. You will see from the photos that the children are happy and healthy, and there are a lot of smiling faces. Many of these children are from very poor families, and there are now some children from the Leprosy Colony which the charity supports on a regular basis.

KING'S IDEAL SCHOOL There are changes in every workplace, and during 2016 the headmistress left the school. However Sheela, Timothy's wife, has taken up the reins and now deals with the administration. As I said in the last newsletter, there have been some very interesting developments concerning our new school project. This is still ongoing, but briefly, some small parcels of land have been gifted to the charity, and over the past few months they have been transferred into the name of the Promised Land Educational Trust, which runs the school.



The legal process is still not finished, and the wheels of law are notoriously slow (in India even slower!) However, we are nearly there and when all is complete the land can be sold and the funds used towards a new school building.





THE HILL TRIBE PEOPLE

Many of our supporters love to hear about the church work in which Timothy Babu is involved, even though it is not part of the charity. In both the 2016 April visit, and the 2017 March visit, we went to meet some tribal people, and this was extremely interesting to say the least. Some of us are getting on in years, and were not expecting to be travelling to remote areas of India up in the hills. We often say that when we go to India it is not a holiday but rather an experience, and the I think everyone would agree with that. I think too, that all the folk who went to India on our Group Visit in April would count two particular events as highlights.

THE LOSINGI HILL TRIBE live up in the hills and are completely isolated. They have their own language, their own rules, and no education at all.

A young man called Simon Peter had been up to see them on his motor bike (the only way to reach them), and many of them became Christians. We could only get so far, and had to walk on the type of roads and paths you see in television documentaries about 'intrepid travelers'. In our case, the average age of our party would have been about 60! At one point we had to walk along a narrow concrete wall with a drop on both sides and a sewer below it! These villagers had never seen a white face before, and when we passed a couple of little boys, they took one look at us and burst into hysterical giggles. To be honest, some of us were a bit nervous when we had to leave our vehicle and walk to where we were to meet the members of the tribe. A group of lovely young teenagers came down to meet us at the bottom of 'their' hill, and we spent a little time with them. This year James Caley and I went up to the village itself on the back of motor bikes. The 'road', was no road at all, just a track with boulders and a sheer drop at the side—not for the faint hearted!



GUNNAMMADI VILLAGE was another highlight. The village was in another very remote location. It was a five and a half hour journey, there were monkeys at the side of the road, and the driver told us there were tigers in the area (we didn't see any). The road went round and round up the hills until eventually it disappeared altogether. We felt very sorry for the driver whose car was being bumped and rattled over ground that was certainly not suitable for vehicles. When we expressed concern he just laughed. "No problem, no problem" he told us.



A number of times he leapt out of the car to check that we could carry on, jumping back in with a wave of his arm and another cheery "No problem". Just before we got to the village he did seem a bit worried about what appeared to be spokes growing up out of the ground, which would definitely have damaged his car. I don't know what they were, but

a villager came racing up and hacked them away. We then carried on until we eventually had to get out and walk the rest of the way to the village. We passed ladies and children washing pots and clothes in a pond which they apparently use for drinking as well. The people are almost entirely isolated and live independently, farming their own land and keeping to themselves. Pastor Samuel heard of them and went on his motor bike from his home in Bodduppali. Now there is a small church building. These people had also never seen white people before and lived in such isolation that they have never even heard of the UK. They speak Telegu and their own tribal tongue.



THE LEPROSY COLONY

As always we visited the Leprosy Colony, which GTWF supports as and when funds permit. I am always amazed when we meet these lovely people, who have so many physical afflictions, because they are invariably cheerful and smiling.



If people give us money to help them, it is sent with the monthly sponsorship payments but designated specifically for the Colony. As a rule, Timothy buys rice, but if necessary he will buy clothes—saris for the ladies and lungis for the men.

PREM KUMAR

Last year we met a young man called Prem Kumar. He is a pharmacist by profession, but a few years ago at the age of 28 he had a very serious motor cycle accident, and was almost completely paralyzed. He is confined to bed and can only move his arms and his head. He can speak, but can do nothing but lie in his bed, he cannot even sit up. He lives with his parents, who are both professional people, who eventually had to give up their work to care for him. They have sold anything of value they had, to pay for his medication. As we have said before, there is no NHS in India, and if you cannot afford to pay, you simply don't get any help.



I went back to see his parents this year, and whilst Prem Kumar is still in bed, I felt there was a slight improvement over the past year. Prem Kumar asked about the folk who came to see him in 2016, remembering their names, and he appeared to be in good spirits.

It is always heartwarming when sponsors and supporters send extra gifts of money to be used for something that has touched their hearts. The Leprosy Colony, for instance, and people like Prem Kumar.

Over the past year the charity has been sending £50 a month to help pay for medication and other needs for this young man. We will continue to do so for as long as we can.

TIMOTHY BABU'S DEPUTATION VISIT :

Once again Timothy will be coming to the UK on his bi-annual visit in September this year. The dates are: IOM 15th; Harpurhey (Manchester) 17th [2 meetings]; Accrington 18th; Tunbridge 19th; Upton 20th; Holmgate (Leeds) 21st; Ingleton 22nd; Workington 23rd; Glasgow 24th [2 meetings]; Stenhouse Muir 25th; Falkirk 26th and Ulverston 27th. If you would like further details about any of the meetings, please contact me at gtwf@manxnet.com

NEXT GROUP VISIT

Another Group Visit will be arranged for 2018, so please do let me know if you would like to join us. We leave Manchester Airport on 3rd April and return to the UK on 12th April.

In the meantime thank you for your continuing interest and support. Ray Richardson (Chairman)

Photos taken during the 2016 and 2017 visits to India



Student's
Reunion.

The Losingi
Hill tribe
people
2016



Children
with IOM
rock
2017



Some of the
GCH
children



If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, we would be very grateful if you could let the Secretary know at 37 Belle Vue Park, Peel, Isle of Man, IM5 1UE or gtwf@manxnet.com, so that we do not use our funds unnecessarily