

GRACE THIRD WORLD FUND

Manx Registered Charity No 7277

NEWSLETTER NO 18 NOVEMBER 2019

We are somewhat behind with this Newsletter, as I note the last one we sent out to supporters was in June 2018. It has been a busy year, but I thought I had better write a brief resume before the end of this year, or we will have missed it completely! Some of the content, and the photos, will be familiar to those who receive the Sponsors' Quarterly or who were able to come to our Deputation meetings in September.

CATCHUP

Deputation: Timothy Babu came to the UK in September this year, for our usual two week Deputation visit. We left the Isle of Man and travelled on the Steam Packet ferry on Saturday the 14th. It took about two week to catch up with my sleep, having driven quite a few more miles more than I am used to on the Isle of Man!

Timothy brought a presentation showing how the work was progressing in India, and the format this year was different. He included a number of testimonies of people who spoke about the work and what their impressions were. Most were from people who have travelled with the GTWF to India on our 'Group Trips'. There were also one or two surprises, because friends of Timothy's family who had visited India during the past two years, gave their impressions too. They had been so amazed by what was happening there that they wanted to say something about their experience. Then there were the children themselves—who are children no longer. It was very encouraging to hear them talk about what they were doing now, and to hear them thanking GCH. Some of them were married and had families of their own, and all of them spoke with deep affection about what Grace Children's Home had given them, which is a secure home and background—and an education.



On the boat from Isle of Man

CHAIRMAN'S VISIT

Once again, I went to visit the work in my capacity as Chairman. I went in April this year, and my ever faithful companion James Caley from Ramsey, Isle of Man came with me, and we had a very encouraging time. James is a very popular visitor with the children, and this year we had quite a lot of interaction with them.

During one of our talks with the children, I asked them to write a short story about their lives, and they were really keen. I brought them home with me and we have been featuring two of them at a time in our Sponsors' Quarterly newsletter. It was quite emotional reading through them, because so many of the children expressed the same thing. They said what their goal was, career-wise, but also that they particularly wanted to be able to look after

their parents, because they had given up so much for them. Many of the children's parents work in the fields, as one of the children said: "under the hot sun all day, and sometimes in the rain". Some of these children are from GCH and may be 'half orphans', and others were from the surrounding areas, and attended King's Ideal School.



KING'S IDEAL SCHOOL



The school itself, which all our GCH children attend, is very encouraging. It has a very high standard of education, and to date there has been 100% pass rate, which is creating a very good reputation with the Indian Education Authorities. As has been said in previous newsletters, the 40 acres of land in Hyderabad donated by Carey Ministries in Canada, has now been sold and



the funds are to be used in the building of a new school. This will free up more room in the home, which will be used for the benefit of our own GCH children. Planning permission for the new school has been granted and building work has begun. It will ultimately have five floors, and is being built on the same lines as the Grace Children's Home in that it will be reinforced to be able to withstand the cyclones which affect the area from time to time.

When the school building is eventually completed, three floors will be for the exclusive use of King's Ideal School. The organisation who donated the major part of funding for the school building, will use the top two floors for pastoral training. Grace Third World Fund, of course, is entirely dedicated to the care of the children who live in Grace Children's Home. This is the reason our charity was founded, and the children will always be our primary concern. Lives have been changed and this will continue, thanks to our sponsors. The GCH building will now be used exclusively for the care and benefit of our sponsored children.

THE LEPROSY COLONY

As always we visited the Leprosy Colony, which we support as and when we have funds. It is always one of my favourite parts of our trips. James Caley and I visited as usual and it was a joy to see the people we have made friends with over the years. Leprosy is a terrible disease. Any help given to the sufferers is always very much appreciated, as most people shun them.

PREM KUMAR

Not long before this Newsletter was written, Timothy telephoned to say that the physiotherapist had told him it would be possible for Prem to use a wheelchair now. When we first began to help this young man, the hospital notes were not at all encouraging. He was classed as 80% disabled with virtually no possibility of ever improving. Since we began to pay for regular physiotherapy for him, he has progressed amazingly well. Whereas Prem once spent his whole day flat on his back, unable to even move his head, he can now sit up and turn his head from side to side, and move his arms.

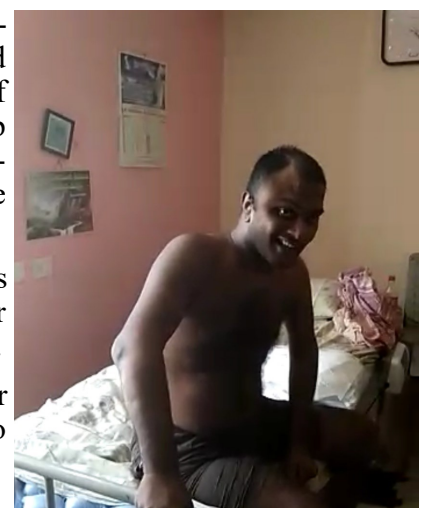
In our last Newsletter we mentioned that he would not be able to use a wheelchair yet as he couldn't hold his head up. However, now he can— which means that we can go ahead and purchase a wheelchair for him and he can look forward to one day leaving his parent's apartment. An exciting prospect for a young man who has seen nothing but the same four walls for many years.



We, and of course Prem, have really appreciated those supporters who have raised money and sent donations especially for Prem. The work of GTWF began in 1998 by raising funds to help severely disabled children, and we are still helping people in this way—young or old, when the necessity arises.

Whenever I visit Prem, he always expresses his grateful thanks to people who he will never meet. He always asks me to thank them for him.

He is looking forward to leaving the four walls of his parent's apartment, and being able to sit in the sunshine once again.



NEXT GROUP VISIT

As we said on our deputation tour, the next Group Visit to the work in India will take place in March 2020. The Group will leave Manchester Airport on Tuesday 24th March and arrive in Vishakhapatnam on Wednesday 25th March and returning on 3rd April. We have said on a number of occasions, I don't think anyone would describe our visits as a 'holiday'. It is quite hectic, and involves quite a bit of travelling in a car to reach the various places we visit. We include the tiny church fellowships Timothy is helping now, and if you come with us, you will never forget it. Please let me know by the end of November at the latest if you would like to join us.

IN CONCLUSION

I cannot close without giving a very special thanks to all our children's sponsors. Your sponsorship of a child in Grace Children's Home has clothed, fed, educated and taken care of every possible need whether practical or emotional, of a young person who would have had nothing at all without it. The £25 a month sponsorship, has given these children safety, security, love and a home—it may even have saved their lives. Thank you.

Ray Richardson

A few photos of the children



Photos showing some of the activities which took place in 2019



Richard with his new wife (insert Richard in 2007)

Two boys
who lived
at the GCH
for many
years.



Ravi Kumar's wedding (insert Ravi Kumar in 2007)

Please remember—if you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please 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