

Krupa

News

July to October 2019

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Krupa. We have had a busy time at Chennai after our return from Australia and New Zealand on the 30th of April. We had to catch up on our work at Krupa, the academic year was ending and so the children would go to a summer camp at Salem from the Children's Home. The new books and notebooks for the next year were to be arranged. Admissions to the next school or college where necessary. That was just for the Children's home. We also had to catch upon work at our other projects, start work among new communities and also start the auditing process. We had a 6 week window to accomplish all this and leave for the US on a family and mission trip on the 17th June. By the Grace of God, we were able to complete everything and travel to the US. The first three weeks was family time with our daughter, son in law and grandchildren. We visited Northampton to attend a conference at the iconic DL Moody centre there and visit the various facilities that the visionary missionary had established. What a tremendous witness of how God can work with the least of his children to achieve great things. We were also able to spend time with our long term friend, prayer partner and Krupa partner, **Rev. Lynn Samaan** and also meet her lovely daughter Rebecca and her family. Rebecca has also interned with Krupa for a while. We returned on the 7th of August, tired and yet rejuvenated!

Grade 10 exam results are out and Devi from our Children's home has passed creditably and goes on to grade 11 in the International school as before. **Manickam**, from the **Ponneri** Gypsy colony, who has been with us from Childhood has completed Grade 12 and has been able to obtain admission to the Bachelor of Physical Education Course at the Madras Christian College. **Ezhumalai** has completed his vocational program on welding and needs to take his exams. In the meanwhile, he is helping in the bakery and learning on the job. Two of our girls move to high school from middle school and will have to travel further to reach their new school. The other children have also been promoted.

Our children went to the summer camp conducted every year at Salem by IGL and as usual, won a number of prizes for their skits, songs and dances. They returned after their three week camp and went home for their summer break. They return to school in the first week of June. We thank God for all His blessings and grace on our children. It is our prayer that the children in the Children's home will graduate out as self-reliant, hardworking and upright citizens.

Our work in the Chennai and Madurai prisons has been very satisfying. Especially among, first time offenders, the special program that we are involved in in association with PRISM, an association of leading lawyers from Chennai has been reducing the recidivism among first time offenders dramatically and the authorities have been very encouraged by the work. With the help of external resources and with our own people, a number of counselling sessions, motivational sessions and medical camps have been conducted.

The Madurai team, composed almost entirely of highly qualified volunteers has been doing a great job. Now with the association of PRISM, legal services are also being extended to inmates of Madurai prison. At the Chennai prisons, new skill training programs for tailoring, paper bag making and aromatic candle making have been initiated for inmates and in the case of paper bag making, with the

spouses. We have been able to identify an external resource to provide training and also bring in orders for these products.

Work among the gypsies is now growing with newer colonies being identified and engaged. The day care centres at **Ponneri, Avadi, Poonnamalle, Kanniyaman nagar** and **Samathuvapuram** are continuing to make a difference in these communities. We have now been empowered to expand our work into ten more such colonies and have appointed a co-ordinator to oversee the work there. These people belong to the Irular community, a sub sect of gypsies, who make a living by catching and taming snakes and are known as snake charmers. However we do not run day care centres here but evening assisted study centres or tuition centres. The staff at these centres ensure that children go to school and provide the after school tutorial support at the evening tuition centres. So a total of about 500 children from gypsy colonies are benefited through our initiatives.

As in previous years, we supported education of prisoners' children. This year about 180 children received this support, which will help them continue studies, which they would otherwise have been forced to discontinue as the bread winner was in prison. A total of Rs 600,000 was distributed.

With our prayers and good wishes,
In Him,
Grace and Vijay Browning