

apparently been the work of some Hindu extremists. Timothy and GBC N.G. Palem are helping them financially to build another church. At the moment they are worshipping beneath a few poles and a large canopy!

ANNAKAPALLE LEPROSY COLONY Our work with the people in Annakappalle continues and a ton of rice is regularly taken, along with clothing, as funds permit. I really enjoy meeting these lovely people each time. It is so good to see their smiling faces, and I think they look forward to seeing us as well. They are shunned by their own folk because leprosy is a frightening disease, and there is much misunderstanding and fear surrounding it. The fear comes as you might expect, because people think they can catch it by touching someone with leprosy. This means no-one wants to touch them. However, this is not true and there is no danger of catching leprosy by shaking hands. It is transmitted by respiratory droplets; and in fact 95%



of the world's population is naturally immune to the disease. Over the years one or two of the people suffering from leprosy have passed away, and this is always sad to hear. The people there have nothing at all, and can only make a living by sitting on the streets begging. They can only do this in certain months when it is not too hot. Their health makes it impossible for them to withstand the heat. The temperatures can reach over 40C in the summer.

GROUP VISITS In future, visits will be bi-annual, and in between I will visit myself so that I can report on the work, and see how the funds are being spent. A group will be visiting in April 2016, so the next group trip will then be in 2018.

Gifts and donations continue to come in, sometimes from totally unexpected places, and these enable us to continue caring for the children in Grace Children's Home, and the Leprosy Colony. Looking back over the past 16 years, big things have been done by a very small charity. As we said during our deputation visits, for the time being, all gifts to GTWF will go towards our new school project unless it is given for a specific purpose, such as the leprosy colony, or medication etc. Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2015, and may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a peaceful and happy 2016.

R D Richardson (Chairman)

[If you do not wish to receive these newsletters could you please let the Secretary know at 37 Belle Vue Park, Peel, Isle of Man, IM5 1UE or gtwf@manxnet.com]

GRACE THIRD WORLD FUND

Manx Registered Charity No 727

NEWSLETTER NO 15

January 2016



We last wrote to supporters in January 2015, just after a Cyclone hit the land. I went back in April 2015 to see how the restoration work had progressed since then. Some of the information here will overlap with articles in our Sponsors' Quarterly the publication which is sent to the children's sponsors. So to those who receive this

Newsletter and the SQ, please accept my apologies again for the inevitable duplication. The newsletter is to bring supporters who do not sponsor a child but do support the charity, up to date, and it is easier to just send a copy to everyone.

DEPUTATION—Timothy and I had a good Deputation trip in September 2015 and I would like to thank all the kind people who provided accommodation, food and fellowship to a pair of weary travellers. Whist it has been almost a year since my last Newsletter, it would be fair to say that there is not a great deal to report at the moment. Those of you who came to the deputation meetings, will be fairly up to date with what has been going on during 2015 anyway.

VISIT TO INDIA— Just a short recap of the November 2014 visit. This was our regular group visit. In the past we have had as many as nine people visiting the work – this time it was a 'group' of two - myself and James Caley both from the Isle of Man. It was quite a shock to me when we arrived. I had last seen the land lush and filled with trees and crops. Although Timothy and his team had done a great deal to clear up, there was still a great deal to be done, and it was quite distressing to see. The buildings had been 'sandblasted' by the winds, and they all needed repainting. New crops would eventually be planted, and the trees replaced. The loss of so many teak trees was particularly sad. They were quite a valuable com-



modity, and the intention was to sell them when they mature which is about thirty years after planting. The uprooted trees had been growing for approximately fifteen years.

In April 2015 I went again to see how the funds have been used and what had been done to restore the damage after Cyclone Hudhud. The money raised by our supporters had been sent to Timothy as it came in, to pay for fixing, refurbishing and replacing what had been damaged by Hudhud. There was a vast difference this visit, and it was most heartwarming to see what had been done. The picture here is symbolic of how uplifting it was to see everything restored as far as it is possible to restore. The sunflowers will be used, along with ground nuts, to make oil. The teak trees that were uprooted cannot be restored so more will be planted.

THE BUILDINGS The Grace Children's Home and the church building were in the process of being painted when I was there in April, but this work has now finished. The glass has been put back in the windows, and the new solar panels have been purchased and installed. The solar panels are used to generate electricity for the water etc and are very economical.

GRACE CHILDREN'S HOME All the children were well and happy, and there had been no serious illnesses or accidents during 2014. The children are banned from playing out too much in the sun in the summer months because it is so hot – even for them. Timothy reported temperatures in the 40s on some days. Meddisetti Demudu, the young man who had brain cancer in 2013 continued to respond well to his treatment and now lives a normal life. GTWF is pleased to have been able to help this very likeable young man and also the young man we mentioned in our last newsletter, Prasanth, who is also doing well, and the charity continues to help pay for his medication.

THE LAND The trees and crops are flourishing again. The fruit and vegetables are used for the children's meals and the excess sold to help provide a small income to the Home. Timothy Babu and his team have introduced some birds and animals to the land – turkeys, geese, ducks, hens, goats and some sheep. We have already mentioned the buffalo pool which has been built for the buffalo which provide milk for the children. Timothy is also beginning to experiment on an irrigation system. All these ventures

are looking to the future and to the eventual goal of self sufficiency.

KING'S IDEAL SCHOOL The School now has 610 pupils attending, which includes the children from Grace Children's Home. During the past year, there has been 100% pass rate, and as the children leave the school with good qualifications they will be able to choose what they do with their lives. The King's Ideal School is run on Christian principles and the headmistress is a Christian lady, as is about 90% of the staff. The other members of staff are probably Hindu. They are all very happy working together, which is a good thing to see. Whilst the school is not strictly under the auspices of GTWF, it is an important part. It is not only in the Grace Children's Home building itself but ultimately, all the GCH children will be attending. Rachel Grace, Timothy's daughter now goes to the school and his son Joshua will attend when he leaves kindergarten.



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING Our next big project is a new purpose-built school. Some of our supporters will remember that on the original plans, drawn up many years ago, a school building was incorporated. At that time it was far beyond the reach of a small charity to contemplate building a children's home and a school as well. For this reason, we concentrated on the Grace Children's Home. However, over the past year we have begun to think that this might be possible now. I received a telephone call from a representative of a organization who own a 40 acre piece of land in Hyderabad, (about an hour's journey by plane from Visakhapatnam) in India. Without going into detail at the moment, it seems possible that ownership of this land could be transferred into the name of the charity which oversees the work of Grace Children's Home. If all goes to plan, the land would be sold and the funds used towards building the new school. We will keep you posted regarding developments.

SMALL VILLAGE CHURCHES Another aspect of the work of interest to many of our supporters is the church work being carried out by the church on the Promised Land. Timothy and his team are helping a number of small churches far out in the middle of the Indian countryside. Those of you who came to some of our Deputation meetings may remember that Timothy had just been told that one of these small churches had been burned down a week prior to our deputation tour. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The police were informed but nothing was done, which is quite usual in India. It had