



# CHILD AID UK NEWSLETTER 3 2003

## WHAT'S NEW FROM TAMIL NADU ?

### IT IS OPEN and working ...

At last our primary school serving the villages around Mazhavankarunai is up and running, it was opened on 12th February 2003 and the first children took to their desks on the Monday following. There are five classrooms each being able to accommodate 20/25 children, well over 100 children can now benefit from this excellent new school. Special thanks must be given to all those who have contributed. Downsend Junior School who helped us put the foundations in place. The Penny Parkes School of Dancing, The Surrey Academy of Ballet, The Janie Harris School of Dancing, The Fellowship of St. John's Trust, and many individuals, Paul Guest of DHM and our Trustees who bought the land, and countless people who provided smaller donations, the list is endless. We, and the villages Thank You.



**Much more than opening a school**  
Trustees, Tony Barron and David Pryke in the opening procession, a very important day for the villages and all the villagers, with everyone in their 'finery' ... being welcomed by two of the new teachers at the school in their school uniforms.



This special plaque was made to mark the occasion and has been displayed prominently. Child Aid UK and all the help from our donors will not be forgotten



Everyone was there for the opening, the Bishop of Vellore blessed the school, Trustees Tony Barron and David Pryke - who opened the school, as too Michael Dyer from the St. John's Trust - and local Mission Father, Fr Pathrose, who convinced Child Aid UK the need for the school and also local Tamil Nadu State government officials were present. Big project, small Charity.

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# A College of Nursing

a career opportunity so many young girls would like

We thought we should tell you about a new project we have underway ; although our main activity is sponsoring children to go to school who, almost certainly, would not be able to complete their full studies without the necessary help to keep them in school, but even at the end of their study, jobs are hard to come by, none more so for reasonably well educated young dalit girls, they start below the rungs of the career opportunity ladder. Many such young girls, when they have completed their senior school studies, would like to become nurses.

Without someone paying for this study, the chances of a young girl's dream will rarely be realised ; study is not expensive by Western standards, but it is well beyond the reach of young dalit girls. On top of this, the rural villages in which we work, need nurses, a well qualified nurse serving the community is 'gold dust' ... so, this is what our next project is all about and to help us on our way, we have been left by a Hindu lady, an old building standing in a large area to convert to a Nurses Teaching College. It is a big project, so we do not see it something our everyday sponsor can help us with, so we shall need to talk with large International funding organisations ... but, when the college is up-and-running, to sponsor a nurse might not be beyond some of us ... if you might be interested tell us for future reference ... don't worry, we are a good eighteen months away yet from asking ....



These girls all might be doing others things in a year, but wouldn't it be nice if they could become nurses and help some of their own village people.

*With a year to finish their studies these are possible nurses.*



But this is what we have to convert first, otherwise there is no opportunity for these girls to become nurses, like those shown.

# This page gives you a feel of what rural India is all about

All these people live in the small hut ( or some might say cottage ! ) to the rear of the picture. To the right of the doorway is the kitchen and cooking area. The walls and the roof see to it that the 'cottage' is distinctly air-conditioned.

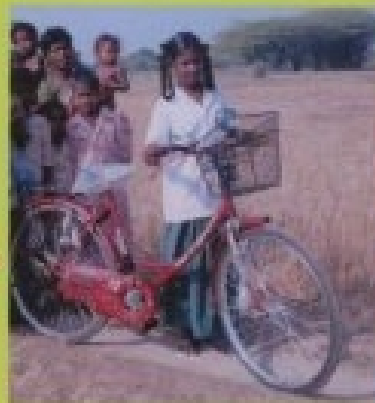
The little boy in the foreground, SRIDHAR, thanks to one of you, he will now have an education.



This man is a dalit washerman, he washes the clothes and then irons them. Note his iron in the picture below : the body of the iron is full up with hot coals. The little boy in the picture is SASIKUMAR, due to your sponsorship he is now going to school - and loving it.



FATHIMA is the little girl in the centre of the Group standing in front of our vehicle. She is one of our sponsored children and lives in a 'cottage' in a small village square. She tries to do her homework in her 'cottage' - but last year this was impossible. For three years Tamil Nadu really hasn't had any rain, then one day a freak cloudburst and Fathima, and her family, no longer had a cottage. Over the three years without rain the mud walls of her 'cottage' had dried out, the cloudburst simply washed away their home. No problem, all you do in Southern India is re-build it ... but of course while you do you don't earn ... and it isn't an afternoon's job to rebuild your home. Tough, but that's life.



This little girl VANA ROJA, is another sponsored child, she so much wanted to go to school that she was prepared to walk, barefoot ( but that's not a hardship for Indian children you might say ), some 18 Kms daily to school. But add to barefeet, an average temperature of between 35 to 40+ degrees C and you will see how delighted she was when her sponsor purchased for her a bicycle !

## All these stories are not unusual

## What's so special about Sr Pauline's little children ?



Something quite modest, but immensely important for the children. Some of these children had school uniforms, some didn't - now they all have school uniforms.

### So, does Sponsorship work ?

take a closer look at some 'then' and 'now' children ...



Merlina



Kishorba



Brinda



Arunkumar



Venila



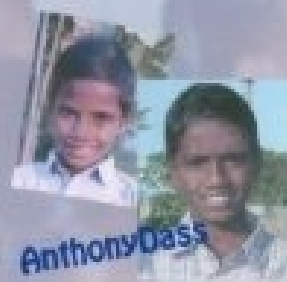
Albert



Gracy



Sophie



Anthony Dass

... and the answer ?  
Certainly more confident ...  
But now, they ...

... all know there IS a future.

Contact us at

## - and this School roof ?

The village where this primary school is, Madurapattu, has not had rain for almost three years - but they have had high winds, and this is what happened when one of those high winds hit their school roof ... result ?



... unfit to use as a school. With a donation from Child Aid they can now at least continue in the school until we are in a position to help them build another.



.. and another roof has been repaired at an old peoples home, kindly assisted by another sponsor.



Jenifer with a small gift from her sponsor



CHILD AID UK

### CHILD AID UK

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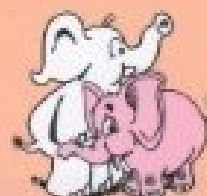
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