



CHILD AID UK NEWSLETTER

6

WHAT'S *NEW* FROM TAMIL NADU ?

Put On A

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone.
For the sad old earth must borrow it's mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air.
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you;
Grieve, and they turn and go.
They want full measure of all your pleasure,
But they do not need your woe.
Be glad, and your friends are many;
Be sad, and you lose them all.
There are none to decline your nectared wine,
But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded;
Fast, and the world goes by.
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die.
There is room in the halls of pleasure
For a long and lordly train,
But one by one we must all file on
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

It doesn't take much to make some people happy

Hap' Hap' Happy Face

and the whole world smiles with you

Find out why these girls are so happy, *see back page >>*

They don't look much like Girls of the Street, do they ?
But not Street Girls as you may think, all these girls were
unwanted by their parents and relatives and had no
alternative but to resort to making a living collecting
'valuables' from the rubbish tips of Salem, or begging
on the street or in Bus Stands.
not a nice life for these very young children

AMALA ANBU (Immaculate)



Happy Faces now, a long way from the Streets



Some of their stories are amazing.

Take this little family of Kanaga (15), Bhuvaneswari (14), Karthiga (10) and Aiswarya (6). Their mother committed suicide, father died of a viral infection, but was indebted to a landlord. The landlord wanted the girls to be under his custody to clear the debt. Kanaga worked for the landlord for some time ; finally a social worker heard of the situation and took them away. All are now in Amala Anbu Karangal, happy and cared for - no more forced work ! They can at last be children.



Sathya (13) lost her father, she was brought up in her uncle's house, however, she could not bear the bad treatment of her aunt. She ran away and ended up in the Salem new bus stand, before being found and taken to Amala Anbu Karangal.



Shenbagam (10) lost her father and her mother is a rag picker who lived under a bridge. Unfortunately she was unable to feed Shenbagam who luckily was brought to the Shelter.



And here are a few more stories

This is Laksahmi (13), she was one of the first two girls to come to Amala Anbu Karangal, her father died at an early age with AIDS, she was then taken care of by her mother, but she deserted her when she got remarried. She lived for a time in a bus stand in Salem.



Punitha (12) has no mother, her father married another woman. Later her father was affected with AIDS, she was illtreated by her stepmother, but was found and started a new life in Amala Anbu Karangal.



... these are just a few of the many stories, some are much worse than simple poverty or abandonment ; so where do you stop, we feel these few tales give you some idea as to what is behind this project.
It is giving a life back to children who really didn't know what one was.

If you would like to sponsor any of these children, please look on our web site, since some of their names and details about them are there for you to read - more will be added as time goes by.



CHILD AID UK

KARANGAL (Loving Hands)

The Street Girls of Salem

This Project goes by the name of
AMALA ANBU KARANGAL
which translated means
Immaculate Loving Hands

The project has six main aims, to rescue ...

- 1 Orphaned and semi-orphaned girls
- 2 Vagrant girls
- 3 Run away girls
- 4 Girls who are with their parents on pavements and at bus stands
- 5 Girls employed below the age of 15
- 6 Children in Salem slums

A little more information about this project

All these children are at risk, their contact with their parents, if they have any, is occasional to rare. A normal child up to 18 years of age becomes a street child for a number of reasons, obviously a broken family, the death of one or both of their parents, negligence of their parents, alcoholism and immoral behaviour of their parents. Poverty is the prime cause for the deprivation of these children who many run away from their families and live alone in another area.

They all have a lack of education and peer group influence which leads them into rag picking, begging and robbery for survival. None go to school and most are drop outs before they complete **even primary school**. In the Salem area alone the hostel is in contact with more than 600 of these children.

Neither the parents or the child can be blamed for the situation that develops, often the parents have to work for incredibly long hours to keep even themselves alive ; home life is non-existent and if the children have relatives, most relatives do not want girls to live with them since they are a responsibility, so the children end up on the streets.

The problems of girls in this situation are enormous. They face sexual abuse and exploitation. They are often trafficked to unknown places to work as domestic help, baby sitting and to do all sorts of menial work and when no longer required, back to the streets . The life of a street girl is something no one should allow for a child, hence - the centre for girls in difficult circumstances and **Child Aid's** intent to help.



It is, of course, hard to believe that all the girls pictured on this double page were once living on the Streets. Yes, they look well clothed and happy - and they are, the days of the streets are gone. Some might remember, but most have the past shut out and this is their new life. **Child Aid** is trying to help to keep it this way !

From the girls at Makkiyad - a big thank you ... why ?



The 'kick' for these girls was to do their homework, don't believe it ! You have to believe it ! It is true, they liked school so much that homework for them is a relaxation, but it was not easy, they had to do it by candlelight and that was no joke - so we helped them a little and bought them a solar panel so that they could have uninterrupted electricity.

Have you ever wondered what other people do for 'kicks' ?

.... Well, Jim Ewan, one of Child Aid's supporters decided that he wanted to tackle the Sahara Marathon, already having done a number of Marathons, none the least of which being thirty half-marathons in thirty consecutive days, he felt that the time was right for the BIG one. He survived to tell the tale ; foot sore, weary and vowing never to go anywhere near another



Marathon ... at least until he can find one in a Jungle ! As you can see, Jim gave **Child Aid** a little PR, we supplied the T-Shirt, all Jim had to do was run a few miles in delightful sunny weather ! Jim is a professional speaker and now, of course, he has a tale to tell ; discarding some of the equipment he had to carry - to make his load lighter - he threw away his Passport, thank goodness they didn't want to keep him in Morocco.



It must have been at the start of the race, all smiles



Only still laughing because he has found some shade !

Your Gifts

please think about them
and the best way
to give your child
that something extra

We know you want to help, and most certainly you do with your sponsorship monies.

However, some of you over the years have helped even more with a small gift at Christmas, or at your child's birthday.

We do not want to ask you to stop doing this but would ask you to think seriously ; many of the items you buy can be purchased far cheaper in India - no, our children cannot buy them, first they do not have the money and second, they do not live in a major town, so what you do for them is very much appreciated.

However,
what we are trying to say is, think how much your gift costs, tell us what you would like to provide and let us buy it for you in India.

We know there is always some fun in finding a gift for your child, but if we tell you that last year we estimated that all the gifts sent would have cost our sponsors, some £ 70 but the cost to send it to India was £ 180 , you will see what we mean.

£ 5 at Christmas will buy your child a year's wardrobe ; £ 10 and the child would have a marvellous time and a new wardrobe. £ 35 would buy a bicycle that in the UK would cost upwards of £ 180 and it would be as good as in the UK. And for your child it would be like buying him a car if he, or she, were living in our country.

So you can see, a little really does go a long way in India.



CHILD AID UK

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It is only a start, but having completed plus 2, there was no where to go. Child Aid's Higher Educational Fund is designed to help in such circumstances.



CHILD AID UK

WORKING WITH



Computers are all the rage ! Perhaps.

But until Child Aid stepped in these children couldn't complete their course ; they needed essential equipment and manuals.

All 43 teenagers have now completed their course, received their certificates and are in line for a worthwhile job opportunity.



Sheila sponsored Deepa for most of her schooling, but when she completed plus 2, she wanted to become a teacher, so kindly Sheila said she would help and this help with Child Aid's Higher Educational Fund, Deepa achieved her ambition.

Balai was a clever lad but his parents passed away and he was being looked after by a good friend who simply didn't have the financial ability necessary for Balai to undertake an Engineering degree, however, thanks to Mariana, Jack, Stewart and Simon his dream was realised. Now in his third year, well on the road to being a qualified engineer.



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