



Subhani with his new wife and some of the CSO children

# SalGO News

Issue 21

May 2015



## From the Chairman

The dominant theme this past year has undoubtedly been the need to build a second orphanage, and a report on that follows below. Focus on the building work may be the reason why we have had very little information on the various projects. Nevertheless, life at the CSO Home goes on, including two weddings! In January sponsors received the latest reports on their CSO child's progress - no two children are alike but each life is being transformed! Meanwhile, desperate families still seek admission for an unwanted or unaffordable child. No committee members were able to visit India earlier this year, so the personal reports you expect every two years cannot be made. However, you can read how links between Holland and Bapatla were strengthened by the arrival of parcels for the CSO children in September, and by a visit in October of Gamaliel's old friend, Jacob. We report on the closure of Vedullapalle School, opened only six years ago. One full report made it to us - Family Support Project (FSP) - and there's no doubting its importance. On the home front, we promised in the last newsletter to include an autobiographical note from a new trustee and our minute secretary. Finally, I am once again amazed by what your committee members, together with you, our regular donors and sponsors, have achieved in a busy fundraising programme; read all about it!

Your fellow supporter *Clifford S*

## News from the Orphanage and Hostel

### More weddings from the CSO Home

On 17th October, Kondalarao, aged 21, married a Muslim girl called Kowsar. They met through her older brother, who works with Kondalarao as a scaffolder, and shared a room with him in Ongole city. Kondalarao entered the CSO Home in 2002 at the age of nine, following the death of his mother after a heart attack and his father swimming in the sea. Kowser's mother works in the hotel business in Guntur, so the wedding was held there, at night. In view of that, only a few of the older CSO Home residents, plus Shalem, the Warden, and Suvarna, the Hostel Warden, were able to attend.



Kondalarao's wedding

Sk. M. Subhani, whose mother died giving birth to him, entered the original school room orphanage on 14th October 1999, at the age of eight soon after his father died. He liked the private school he attended, worked hard, and early on decided he wanted to be an engineer. There was a hiccup when he failed one subject at 10th class, but he has ever since been grateful that his sponsors encouraged him to re-sit, at which he was successful. Following two years at an Industrial Training Institute he has

held down a good job for over three years. It so happened that Subhani was at a wedding reception in October, and so was a girl from Hyderabad, called Sharmila and her family. Subhani took her mobile number and love blossomed. Two months later, Sharmila's family were in Bapatla to meet Shalem and arrange the marriage, which took place on 17th December in Brundavanam at Shamila's relative's house. Being so local several CSO children and youth and church members were able to attend the reception.



Subhani Wedding

**We wish Kondalarao & Kowsar and Subhani & Sharmila every blessing in the years ahead.**

### Congratulations!

We were also pleased to hear that **Polaiah**, who came into the CSO Home in 1999, is now established in his new tailoring shop in Bapatla. As a boy he was found begging, following his parents' death in an accident. Early on, his caring nature was noted and he would ask if he could accompany the pastor on his visits. Although an obedient lad he wasn't a great scholar and didn't know what to do when it was time to leave school. Then he thought about tailoring, worked in someone else's shop, and set up on his own last

autumn, with help from SalGO Assist to buy sewing machines. We wish Polaiah every success, and as he celebrates his 24th birthday on the 29th of this month.

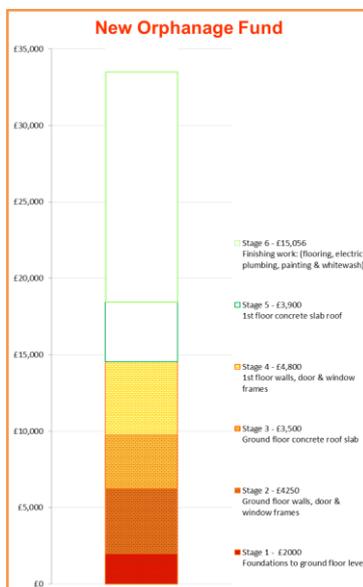


Polaiah's Tailoring Shop

## New Orphanage takes shape!

In our last SalGO News (May 2014) we shared with you the huge challenge facing Pastor Gamaliel and the other trustees of the Indian charity, SalGOERCO: *to build a second orphanage equipped to take in 25 girls with a small flat for a resident foster mother, and to do all this by July 2016, as required by the State government of Andhra Pradesh.* New readers will be interested in what happened next. They began to pray, asking God for guidance – could they undertake such a big project, especially since there was no money put by for building? They agreed to step out in faith. They were greatly encouraged to receive as a gift the plot of land next to the present orphanage (the owner has long been impressed with the care given in the Home). They also appealed to us. “It is highly impossible without SalGO Assist”, wrote Pastor Gamaliel. At the same time, they appealed successfully to the government to allow them, as a small charity, to provide a smaller Home, leaving out committee and other rooms that were included in the original, government, plan. This brought the cost down to £33,590. As you can see from the chart, much has been achieved since the foundation stone was laid on 20th April 2014. Donations large and small have come in from supporters, enabling four stages to be completed – foundations,

ground floor structure and the first floor up to roof level. Around £14,000 has been raised, including nearly £2,500 locally in India. (Former boys and girls of the orphanage raised £500, and a local dignitary also donated £500). **Well done everybody, and thank you – but please don't stop yet!**



To put on the concrete roof slab (Stage 5) they need nearly £4,000 more. *Can you, or someone you know, help us raise £4,000 in the next few weeks, to add to our regular quarterly bank transfer for the needs of the orphanage, schools and other projects? If you are able to gift aid your donation the tax recovered will also go to the building work.*

Stage 6 (Internal work) covering plastering, painting whitewash, fixing doors and windows, electrical, plumbing and sanitary ware fittings, costing £15,000, will be another enormous challenge to prayer and giving as Year 2 begins this month. But first, **let's get that roof fixed, please!**



The New Orphanage

## Project News

### Vedullapalle School closure



Building to become a home for homeless families

It was with sadness that we heard, a few months ago, of the impending closure of Vedullapalle's fine four classroom school, built through money raised by SalGO Assist and CAMA, Holland. The reason, apparently, is that a bigger and better school has been opened in the village, equipped to take more boys and girls and a far wider age range. Enrolment at SalGOERCO's school went down significantly last year. SalGOERCO have no desire to compete with others providing education: their schools have always been in places where the provision has been inadequate or non-existent. The new school is really a sign that opportunities for local people are getting better, so that should be welcomed. SalGOERCO's work in the community can be directed to other pressing needs. Looking around for an alternative use of the building, Pastor Gamaliel was aware that 20 landless families they've been helping for some time have been notified that the farmer wants to take back the land on which they have been squatting. He has therefore offered four landless families a classroom each, rent free, for five years, and they have signed a contract to be responsible for maintaining the building in good order. As yet the building has no kitchen facilities, but toilets and water pump are in the grounds outside. All four

families will be well used to preparing meals outside. Unfortunately, no dramatic improvement in housing can be offered to the other 16 families. They will simply move from one squat to another.

Already two families occupy the upper rooms. Ismael and his wife, Rajiya, have two boys, Jindavali and Rafiya, attending 6th class and 2nd class respectively. Ismael is training to be a driver. Shiraj and his wife, Hasina, have two girls; Samareen is in 1st class and Nazareen in Nursery. Shiraj recently fell (he is in the building trade) and SalGOERCO is supporting him. The other two families will move in next month.



Vedullapalle Year 5 School children

### Family Support Project (FSP)

It couldn't be simpler! If 20 very poor families will commit to sending their children to school regularly instead of sending them out begging, SalGO Assist will provide £10 a month to each family. That is the basis of the FSP. Running since 2006, it has proved to be a successful formula. In most cases children have stayed on at school until 10th Class (16+ public exam) and many have continued on to Intermediate or college. But sickness, either of a parent or child, is sometimes waiting in the wings – infections, diabetes, blood pressure, fever are typical – so we provide additional help to pay for operations and medicines. And poor housing, such as a leaky hut with no floor, is no place to study. We've just learned that one lady has been suffering from piles for years and needs an operation. A

family may be held back by a drunken father – occasionally father and son – and hard-earned wages of a wife or a working daughter are forcibly taken to feed the habit. The latest reports, received a few days ago, tell of an abandoned wife wondering how she is going to cope with two children. One widow, as well as a young son to care for, also has her two mentally handicapped older brothers to look after. There is no state help. Remarkably, almost all families persevere and are extremely grateful for the help they have received. None of the families can be described as scroungers. Indeed, three families have voluntarily announced (as others have in the past) that they will be ready to leave the FSP scheme in November, having gained qualifications or a job, or paid off a government loan on their house. Three more poor families will take their place.

### FSP Education

In the current school year 34 children and young people from the FSP families are either in school, intermediate, or college. 23 children are in 1st to 10th classes and require no additional help from us at the moment as their education is free. Six of these have just taken the 10th class public exam and parents will be eager to know how their child has done, and especially whether they will be able to go onto intermediate and then college level. At intermediate level and beyond SalGO Assist helps out with books, travel, course and exam fees, depending on need. Two young people are at the end of 1st year intermediate (16-18 year group) and four are completing 2nd year. Two students are at the end of their 1st year of a BA degree, one is completing 2nd year of a BA in English Literature. One young lady is on the brink of completing her three year B.Tech (Engineering) degree and a young man hopes

for success at the end of the 3rd Year (Chartered accountancy) training.

It is encouraging that half of these students are girls. Until recently women and girls in India did not pursue educational opportunities.

### Other News

### Holland reaches out to Bapatla



Jacob visits the school in Narasayapalem

Hello, I am Jacob K. from Holland. Gamaliel and I know each other since 1986. In that year I did a Discipleship Training School of Youth with a Mission for 5 months in the village Uluberia near Calcutta. In this class of 12 students I was the only westerner. Of course people looked at me all the time, not only because of my white skin, but also because of my height: 6'4. Gamaliel and I had a good relationship right from the start and it must have been an odd view, he as one of the smallest and me the other way around.

Since then we always kept in touch and some friends and I were able to support him and his church monthly a little. I got married in 1990 and a year later I took my wife with me to visit him. We had a good time meeting his family and the members of his church. In 1993 and 2001 I visited Gamaliel with a team of seven friends and acquaintances and we were able to help a little with construction proceedings. Of course we were also visiting various villages where God was blessing the work of the church. I was able to visit again in October 2014..... I could see so much growth of the Lord's work through the hands of the people of

Gamaliel's church in Bapatla and surroundings. All the places I visited I felt very much welcomed and blessed. They even had put my name on a banner! The next time I visit I surely want to take again some people with me to show them the blessings that God has given. *Jacob K.*

Shalem writes of the visit: "He visited nearly all the projects ... HIV/Aids programme, landless families, orphanage and some FSP families, the Corina schools, Vedullapalle Elderly Home. He attended the Sunday service at Jagannadhapuram, and..... Narasayapalem Sunday school ... attended two gospel meetings in the evenings.... He also met former pupils of the Corina schools, who said how useful Corina schools foundation had been to (prepare them for higher studies).... some sang songs and performed a sketch". On the page 3 there is just one of several lovely photos of Jacob's visit.

### Gifts from Holland for CSO Home & Hostel



The CSO children receive gifts from Holland

In June last year CAMA church Maarssen decided to surprise each orphanage child with a personal present and card. Church members could sign up to sponsor a particular child. Beforehand, we had asked Shalem for information about each child's hobbies, so that people could buy a gift to match. For instance, a boy that likes to play indoor games would be given a mini chess set and a girl that loves acting received a (white!) wig and boa. Other things that went into the package were CDs, (dinky) toys and even fishing gear... Also

the wardens, Shalem and Indira, and their two children, were not forgotten. Apart from the individual presents all the boys got a blue baseball cap and the girl's so-called looming bands, to make bracelets with. All things were tightly packed into two big boxes and sent off to Bapatla. Luckily, both boxes arrived safely. We had asked Shalem to make a festive ceremony of the unpacking, with all children gathered round the parcels. In that way, each child would receive equal attention. A video-recording was made of the happening, which we later showed the congregation. In general, church people were quite enthusiastic about this mini-project, not least because of its personal character.

*Anneke V N-P*

### Home Page

For the second year running we held an **Antiques Valuation** at St. Mary's, at which three specialists from Martin & Pole, Wokingham, kindly gave their services. A steady stream of people carrying items kept the valuers busy for the whole afternoon of 21st March. It was a good opportunity to raise SalGO's profile with project photos on display, greeting cards for sale and modestly-priced refreshments on hand. The event raised over £390.



A family have their items valued

Our **Indian Evening** on April 18th saw supporters sit down to a delicious Indian curry, with fruit to follow, at St. Mary's & St. Catherine's church hall. In church afterwards we watched a video compilation of stages in the

building of the new orphanage, now at first floor roof level. It also showed that within weeks of the concrete roof being laid the CSO children had taken possession, and celebrated the 16th anniversary of the present Home on the new roof! After question time the draw for the Spring Raffle was made. We are grateful to all who bought and sold tickets, raising £411 for SalGO. Entrance, food and drinks brought the grand total to £619.

These are just two of ten fundraising events your committee has been involved in since our last newsletter. Our two outings at Woodley Pagoda (May & October) broke all records. People had been so generous in offering us household items, jewellery, books etc. and the weather was so kind, that we raised nearly £900. The brilliant weather for the Winnersh fete in June brought the crowds out, so we benefitted along with other stalls; the takings for our golf game, plants, tombola and hook-a-duck were over £450.



SalGO's stall at the Hurst Show

A new venture was the Twyford Christmas Tree Festival (£86), and our third year of singing carols in the foyer of Sainsbury's (£187) plus Hurst Horticultural Show (£58), Goods-as-new (£210), card sales (£7.70) and catalogue gifts (£90). The list also includes 50% commission on an item sold at auction after last year's antiques valuation! With a few additional amounts, including 50% commission on items sold at auction after last year's antiques valuation, the Grand total was £3251.42.

## Struthi and Polamma not forgotten



The 10th anniversary of the Asian Tsunami was marked in Winnersh as a dozen or so of us gathered around the two young trees, one rowan, one birch, planted in the grounds of St. Mary's Church in memory of Struthi (10) and Polamma (14) who died as 30 ft high waves swept up Bapatla Beach at high speed on Boxing Day 2004. The other 23 children from the CSO Home managed to escape, with the help of the Warden, Shalem Raju, and other adults.

It was the day after Polamma's birthday, an early morning treat at the seaside, 3 or 4 miles from the CSO Home. The children had swam and played in the sea and had breakfast. Some had left the water and were changing, ready to return for the 10 o'clock church service that Sunday morning, when the Tsunami struck. Although hundreds of miles from the massive destruction further south, coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh were affected with several deaths and loss of fishing vessels, tackle, some homes and other property. Shalem nearly lost his own life when he went in the sea to search for the two missing children. He found Polamma's body after about an hour, but Sruthi was never recovered.

In silence we remembered both girls, and the 230,000 other people who perished that day. We had prayers and a reading. Bouquets were placed at the base of the two bare, wintering, trees. Today in late April, they are fresh and green. What might the girls have been like today? Would Polamma, an orphan found begging before she entered the Home, be on her way to qualifying as a doctor "to help the poor and needy" as was her dream? Would Sruthi, unwanted

when her mother remarried, have kept up her gardening, games, and especially her love of singing? We can be sure the two would have been excited at the sight of the orphanage for girls now under construction.

### SalGO committee members

Two of our newer committee members have kindly provided a short biographical note. Meet our new Trustee and Minute Secretary.

It is just over a year since I, **Peter**, joined the SalGO Committee as a Trustee so it's about time I let you know more about me. During my working life I was an engineering project manager for BT where I was involved in fringe projects e.g. I introduced recording of emergency calls. In my last years with the company I was also safety champion for our Charge card team of over 300 people. In my spare time I've been churchwarden of St Nicholas and also for one year St Mary the Virgin. I was a trustee of a charity in Hurst for 6 years and was its secretary / administrator for further 24 years as well as being an active PCC member in Hurst parish. Having reached 70 at the beginning of 2013, I retired from these roles to give me and my wife Mary more flexibility with our lives in retirement. After a gap of 9 months we were invited to join the SalGO Committee as we had been sponsors and active supporters since 2000. We accepted and have continued to support fund raising events. In my role as trustee I have introduced Give as You Live to SalGO and the Raffle this spring, ably assisted by Mary.

**Mary:** Although I have been Minutes secretary to the SalGO committee for just over a year, I have been involved with the charity from almost the beginning of its set-up in Hurst and Winnersh. Peter and I sponsored Subhani (whose wedding is included in this Newsletter) since he was eight and now we are looking forward to watching another young lad grow and develop into a positive member of his community. I have always been interested in the development

of children, my involvement began at 17yrs old when I became an Assistant Brownie Guider; Guiding and (for a few years) Scouting with Beavers have been an integral part of my life. Professionally, I was a teacher of children with learning difficulties, the last few years being a Supply teacher in the field. In the church of St. Nicholas I have been involved with the Sunday School and other roles including Fair Trade representative during which time I met other church representatives in the Wokingham area (one reason why I have recently been able to embrace worshipping at different churches). I was also a Church Warden at St. Nicholas and I delight on the occasions when I return for a service to see the development and changes that have taken place recently.

### Future Events 2015

#### Woodley Pagoda:

Friday 29th May 9am-3pm &  
Friday 23rd October 10am-3pm  
SalGO stall (selling jewellery, bric-a-brac, toys, books)

#### Winnersh Fete:

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June Bearwood  
Recreation Ground 1.00-4.30pm  
(£10 Prize golf, hook-a-duck, tombola, plants)

#### Hurst Horticultural Show:

Saturday 22 August 1.30pm

**DIY fundraising:** Supporters, we invite you to organise events in your own area, and send money raised to our treasurer. Do tell us what you did. And if there is any particular project you would like the money to go to please tell us, especially if it is earmarked for the new orphanage. We would love to receive a picture of the event as we might be able to use it in our next SalGO News!



16th Anniversary celebrations on the new orphanage roof

## SalGO Assist

The purpose of SalGO Assist is to support an Indian-based charity called **Salem Gospel Outreach in Education and Rural Care Organisation**, in its work with poor communities in Bapatla and other parts of Andhra Pradesh, South India. Below we see some of the projects that have been developed since 1998, the fruit of your prayer and giving & the dedication of the Salem Churches. A separate leaflet, "Our Achievements", lists projects completed. We would be pleased to send you a copy.

## Committee

Chairman: Clifford

Treasurer: Roland

St. Mary's, Stainforth rep: Pat

St. Nicholas', Hurst & St. Mary's, Winnersh rep:

Anne

Denise

Richard

Peter

Alan

**Orphanage and Hostel feeds and educates 32 children**

Including **Foster care project 19 children in the home**

**2 Corina Schools**

**Education Teachers' salaries**

**Education – student support**



**Family Support project 20 families supported by SalGO Assist**

**\*15 new families supported by SalGOERCO**

**Widows and children**

**\*Old People's Home in Vedullapalle**

**\*Appikatla 25 Landless Families**

**\*Boinavaripalem 20 Landless Families**

**\*HIV/Aids**

Our quarterly payments to SalGOERCO come from (i) donors to a particular project and (ii) other income allocated by the Committee. Our first priority is to meet orphanage costs. Other projects are supported according to our resources. We are looking for new supporters to fund the starred \* projects.

## Contact Information:

Please see contact page on website

**\* SalGO Assist is U.K. Charity, Regn. No. 1101811\***