



# SalGO News



Issue 20

May 2014

## From the Chairman

A whole year has passed since our last SalGO News, during which the work of SalGO, both here and in India, has been maintained. In the UK we've hardly had a break from fundraising. Two new trustees and a minutes secretary joined the committee at the AGM.

Our website [www.salgoassist.org](http://www.salgoassist.org) went live a few weeks ago, and people can both learn about us and donate on line. Appeals for more support from SalGOERCO in Bapatla have come in, as well as requests to take more children into the orphanage. We have reports updating us on some of the projects. SalGO News 20 is as varied as ever. But the biggest issue of all must be the need to build a second orphanage, for girls only. *This is the subject of a Special Orphanage Supplement of SalGO News.* Oh, and there's a delightful story of goats and kids. Please continue to share with us in this vital ministry.

Your fellow supporter *Clifford Smith*

## News from the Orphanage and Hostel

### Inflation in India

The cost of living in India continues to rise. Apparently it averaged nearly 10% per annum between 2012 and 2014, with Nov. 2013 over 11%. It is not surprising, therefore, that we've had a request from the CSO Home to increase the monthly amount we send for each child, and we have written to sponsors about this. We are getting a similar message from the ten teachers that we support, the

value whose salary has gone down these four years. Meanwhile, be assured that we do all in our power to raise money through our regular fund raising programme, and keep our expenses down to a minimum. We would also like to encourage our supporters to run independent events, like coffee mornings, in their own neighbourhoods, which can also be a good way of advertising SalGO Assist and its work.

## Project News

### Family Support Project (FSP)

The half-yearly reports on the 20 families that make up this project among the very poor have just arrived. The project leader, Leelavathi, writes: "By the grace of God we are all fine here in Bapatla... 20 families, 5 sick persons and two after-school tutors; it is going well." Parents are sending their children to school, as is required under this scheme. March & April are exam months for many children. Twelve older pupils are receiving education grants for higher studies or vocational training, and all remark on the impossibility of their still being in education without the help that SalGO provides. Even so, it must still be a real struggle for families, especially where they have an absentee father, or a mother neglecting the children from a different father. One young lady is forced to give half her wages to her drunken father. Another family is rejoicing because the father has stopped drinking and is going to work regularly! Two families have had to cope with bouts of malaria and TB but, happily, have now

recovered. A mother who sweeps roads and clears drains is in hospital with a broken leg after being hit by a lorry. Because she works on contract there is no compensation. The families have asked for our prayers.

If anything, it is education which transforms the young people's prospects. **Surendra**, now studying accountancy in Hyderabad, looks back on a childhood of deprivation in the years up to up to 2006 when FSP started. From then on he was able to go to school, eat decent meals, and know that his mother was receiving medical care.



Roja Romani

**Roja Ramani**, from a similar background, and well aware that girls don't get the same opportunities as boys, is now in the second year of an Engineering course.

### New Family Support Project (NFSP)

Nearly 20% of the world's poorest families live in India, so it is not surprising that many hundreds of them live in Bapatla and surrounding villages. They erect simple shacks on the roadside, or take up residence in an unhealthy, low-lying area subject to flooding in the rainy season. Some time ago SalGOERCO identified 300

they would like to help. They appealed to us but we couldn't take on another project. Nevertheless, SaIGOERCO went ahead and set up a **new FSP** scheme, but for the past year or so they have only been able to support ten families. In another step of faith they have decided to take on a further five families, starting next month. Can you help us find new donors so the work can be extended, not just to relieve poverty but to get children into education and to develop schemes through which the families can help themselves and each other?

### Corina School Vedullapalle

Fifteen children will be leaving this school after their 5<sup>th</sup> Class exams next month. They will then move on to the local high school in June. They look very cheerful as they wish a mock farewell to their teacher Elish and Pastor Gamaliel.



Vedullapalle School children

### BB Guddem Sanitation Project

We've just received an update on this 2010 project. All the villagers are proud of their handsome, well-used and maintained, community toilets and bathrooms, the ladies feel very safe there and the garden attracts people morning and evening to chat and read the newspapers. Not only that, the vegetable garden is flourishing. Brinjal, ladies finger, cucumber, tomatoes, beans, etc. are distributed to the elderly folk. According to the village elders and local pastor, David Raj, they are much appreciated; they are giving

thanks to SaIGO Assist and SaIGOERCO.

The problem is, inflation in India is high; the watchman/cleaner is seeking a pay rise, up from £10 to £15 a month, electricity costs approx £2.50 a month, and the supply of newspapers £3. Would anybody out there like to take on these increased costs, say £10 a month?

### Vedullapalle Old People's Home

This small Home for seven elderly, destitute ladies, housed in Vedullapalle Church until they can find a permanent place, is soon to increase to 17, with the agreement of the Elders at Vedullapalle Church. They will continue to cook their food on an open fire in the pastor's garden (next door) and sleep in the church. They have not told us whether they are going to provide an extra ten beds, but that would be better than sleeping on the floor. Again, help is sought for this project.

### The Free Goat Scheme



First of two families to receive goats

Last year we reported that we'd given Pastor Gamaliel approx. £180 to start this scheme in the poorest of the poor villages, among the landless families of Boinavaripalem. Originally two pairs were given to two families. We've just heard that each pair gave birth to two baby goats earlier this year. These have been given to two other families. Pastor

Gamaliel reports that the four beneficiaries are very excited about this project. It has brought a real sense of unity through the giving and sharing that the project involves.



Second family to receive goats

### Education Drop-outs

This is not so much a project yet, more a plea for help and recognition of the problem. Leelavathi, leader of the FSP, also has a real concern for the young people who are outside the FSP, who cannot reach their potential. She first drew our attention to the high number of drop-outs last year, following a survey that SaIGOERCO did of school leavers. They discovered that over 100 students had dropped out after 16+. We've taken on just three, each of whom had done one year at college and then had to drop out. Since then Leelavathi and SaIGOERCO colleagues have collected details of the students and talked to local teachers and college lecturers about the serious wastage of potential in these young lives. The response has been very encouraging. They have taken on 17 of the drop-outs to cover their fees and stationery, at a cost of nearly £75 for this year. We invite our supporters to help us find local college students who might take on such a project, say by holding a fundraising event.

## Fundraising

Fund raising was as demanding as ever throughout last summer and autumn: The Indian Evening at St. Mary's in April (£428), Winnersh Fete (£118), Hurst Horticultural Show (£102), St. Nicholas' Christmas Fair (£86), carol singing in Wokingham Market Sq. (£41), and in Sainsbury's foyer (£219), and two outings in Woodley shopping precinct (£581)

On February 23rd, the newest arrival in the congregation at St. Mary's Winnersh, three month old **Isaac Howell**, was baptised. We are grateful to his mum and dad, **Yojong** and **Darryll** Howell, for inviting friends to give a donation to SalGO Assist instead of a birthday gift, which brought in £235.

## Antiques Valuation Event



Our most recent fund raising event was an Antiques Valuation, held at St. Mary's Winnersh on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Three experienced Valuers from the well-known auctioneers in Wokingham, Martin & Pole, gave up their Saturday afternoon to sit at tables and value the items brought by customers from Wokingham and district. By the 2pm. opening time several people had arrived with items in bags or under their arm, but nobody had

very long to wait. Thereafter a steady stream of enquirers kept the valuers busy but not overwhelmed. We saw clocks, coins, paintings, chairs, an old gramophone and horn, dolls, teddy bear and much else. While customers waited their turn they could buy tickets for the tombola, enjoy refreshments and browse the SalGO information stall. At £2 per item to be valued, over £300 was taken at the door, with refreshments and tombola a further £200. Much to our surprise and delight the auctioneers gave us a cheque for £100, bringing the total to £600! In addition, they have kindly promised us commission on items brought for valuation and sold at either of the next two Martin & Pole auctions

## New Website

We are excited to announce our new website [www.salgoassist.org](http://www.salgoassist.org). Please come and visit us there. The gift catalogue is now on the website if you have any special occasions coming up you need a present for.

We also have two new ways for you to donate. Visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/salgoassist> to donate, or to start fundraising for us.

You can also use JustTextGiving text **Salg00** (that's two zero's on the end!) and the amount you would like to give to **70070**.

## SalGO committee welcomes new members

At our AGM in October, two new trustees were elected. Here, one of them has kindly provided a short biographical note. The other new trustee, Peter, will share something about himself in the next issue, along with his wife, Mary, who was appointed Minute Secretary at the following committee meeting.

Hello, my name is **Alan**, and I have been a SalGO Assist trustee for the last few months. I'm an (almost) life-long Christian, and

have been actively involved in St Mary's for many years with periods as Warden, Treasurer, and Deanery Synod representative among other roles. In particular as churchwarden, my definition was 'the person in the church who does the things no-one else wants to do'! I thus have a wide experience of church and related activities.

Following education as a chemist, I have worked most of my professional life with the British Standards Institution, in a variety of predominantly management roles, but I am due to retire shortly. I have travelled widely with the job mostly to Europe, but also to North America and Australasia. I have never travelled to the Indian subcontinent, and thus have no first-hand experience of India. My hobbies include gardening and family history, where I have traced the Hall family back to around 1720 in the Cotswolds.

What has drawn me to SalGO Assist? With retirement approaching, I have been looking round for roles in the voluntary sector, especially those where my experience and skills can make a difference. I liked the sound of the very close engagement between SALGO Assist and the people in India whom it supports, and also to the high percentage of income that is used for charitable causes. I hope that I will be able to make a real difference.

My early involvement has seen some challenges in working outside my comfort zone, with Carol singing at Christmas (my first time ever), and I am sure there will be others to follow.

## Future Events

Friday 30th May:  
Woodley Pagoda 10am-4.00pm.  
SalGO stall selling jewellery, toys and bric-a-brac.

Saturday 21st June:  
Winnersh Village Fete. SalGO pitch includes £10 prize golf game, tombola, and hook-a-duck.

## 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 15 children in the home**

**4 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\***