



SalGO News



Issue 23

November 2016

From the Chairman

In this issue, we look back to the opening of the new Pat Smith Home for Girls, and forwards as we appeal for new sponsors for children already in the two homes, and others waiting to be admitted. We recall how we answered the emergency appeals from SalGOERCO in Bapatla for help in two disasters. And isn't it the case that the poorest usually suffer most at these times? Nearer home, how will the "Brexit" vote affect SalGO Assist, in the light of the 15 percent fall in the value of the pound against the Indian rupee? Our Indian partners, and the many disadvantaged families they serve, are not disheartened. Much good work is being done, as you will read, and we can rejoice with them in what has been achieved. After all, it is your continuing support that makes it possible. We do appreciate it.

Your fellow supporter *Clifford Smith*

News from the Orphanage and Hostel

Pat Smith Home for Girls (PSHG)

It is more than six months since the girls moved into their new home, and they are very proud of it – one of them even described it as a "palace"! But one thing remains – it is very exposed, there is no boundary wall, and anybody can just walk in. In the original drawing and estimate there was no mention of a wall, but later we received an estimate for £2000. Clearly, the security and safety of the girls is important, and your committee has urged our Indian partners to get moving. Some while ago we received a generous

donation of £1000 towards that amount! Then Shalem, the Warden of the PSHG, informed us that the vacant plot next to the Home was for sale for approximately £5000. That was out of the question for SalGO Assist, having just finished promoting the appeal to build the PSHG itself – until one of our long-time supporters, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to buy the land for SalGOERCO! Right now we await with interest a new estimate for a much enlarged orphanage wall. As you can imagine both we and all those caring for the girls in Bapatla are greatly heartened by these developments, and hope the project can be completed soon. We praise God for His wonderful provision in ways far beyond our expectations.

Even more important than the building are the children and young people brought up there! We report on the progress of two of them.



Polamma

Ch. Polamma was 6 years old when her parents died in an accident. Although she was taken in by relatives she realised she was a burden to them and they readily agreed to her entering the newly-started Home in 1999. She settled well, was a bright student and loved dancing. Now aged 23

years she's taking her 3rd year exams this month at the St. Joseph School of Nursing, Bapatla. We wish Polamma well in her exams, and in the final year of her B.Sc. Nursing degree.



Mariyamma

J. Mariyamma was 9 years old when she joined the newly opened CSO Home in 2002. She didn't get on well with relatives after her mother died and her father had abandoned her when he remarried. She felt very welcome in the home. In early years she wasn't keen on school, though she enjoyed Hindu and science lessons, and her ambition was to be a ticket collector. Earlier this year she gained a B.A. in English literature at the Arts and Science College. It was there in her final year that she met **S. Nayab Asul**, who has completed a postgraduate MBA (Master of Business Administration) course and he applying for government jobs. Meanwhile he and a friend run a school for 110 pupils a few km away. Shalem has met Nayab's Muslim family, at their home in Bapatla, and the marriage is planned for December. We wish them every happiness.

Meanwhile, across the road in the CS Home for Boys we hear that **Devadanam** has completed his Driving and Mechanics course, which qualifies him to work on tractors and auto-rickshaws, and

he's now looking for a job. He goes on to say that he thinks he will be self-supporting by the end of February, and will no longer need our help. He is giving thanks to his sponsors for their "encouraging letters and gifts and great support for his life settlement."



Devadanam

Now that both homes are in use, and as older residents leave to make their own way in the world, there is space to take more children - in the boys' home as well as the girls'. But before new children are taken in **we need sponsors for the eight children still without sponsors.** Can you help?

Shalem

In our last issue we reported on Shalem's motor cycle accident. The finger stitched back on has mended well, he told us recently, but he can't bend or use it like his other fingers.

Special Emergency Appeals

Fire, wind, rain and broken promises

On May 12 we heard that a mini cyclone had hit Bapatla. After three days of relentless rain many families in low-lying areas were in difficulty; without work day labourers couldn't put food on the table, children were going hungry. Our Indian partners, SalGOERCO, had never operated in this slum part of Padisonpet, just outside Bapatla, but Pastor Gamaliel and his team immediately gave out 5 kilos of rice to each of the 100 or

so families he thought lived there, costing Rupees 25,000 (approx. £250 at the time). Could SalGO Assist pay £200 and he would raise £50 locally? A few days later he learned that there were no fewer than 217 families, and there was a shortage of clean water because the government water truck didn't deliver enough. In the end we sent £500.

A few weeks later (11th July) there was a second appeal to us: due to high winds blowing electric cables about, among the flimsy palm-leaf homes of landless families, a fire had broken out and 55 homes were burned to the ground before the Bapatla fire engines arrived, and saved the remaining 150 or so. The government gave £50 to each family, and local charities (Salvation Army among them) and individuals gave cooking utensils, clothes and other items. The government also promised money to buy land to build sturdy homes. The appeal to SalGO Assist was to help four particular families whom we had supported when they lived in a different landless families' colony. Our appeal received a generous response. One man promised to cover the needs of two of the families. Other, including the churches (St. Mary's Winnersh, St. Nicholas' Hurst and Woodley Airfield Church) raised enough for the other two families. So the four families each had the required £250 towards new, strong, homes. Not only that, but the appeal was over-subscribed, and your committee has over £330 in hand to respond to special needs that are sure to arise in that poor community in the days ahead.

So much for the rains, fire and wind. What of the broken promises? The government said they would provide R75000 (£750) for each family – 2/3 of the cost of a new home, to be paid on Indian Independence Day - (15th August). Then they announced that they had no money, and the building project would be deferred until the

new year. There is some scepticism whether the project will go ahead next January, as hoped. Meanwhile, the families have to continue in whatever temporary home they have found shelter.

Project News

Students Unable to Access Education (SUtAE)

"SUtAE* – a wonderful and valuable scheme" So writes Leela, the supervisor of the scheme for helping students who, through no fault of their own, cannot begin or continue college studies. **Kusuma** writes: "I born in very poor family but I have very much interested to continue my studies." After two years of her degree course she dropped out due to lack of financial support to pay fee. SalGO Assist came to the rescue and Kusuma completed her degree in March 2016. "Now", she says "I am going to school to teach mathematics subjects and I can earn monthly Rupees 2500 (approx £30) very useful to my family to take provisions..... sometimes medicine for my sick mother."



Kusuma

"My name is **Chetan Krishna**. I came from HIV/Aids family. My father was died in 2004. My mother is also HIV positive, taking ART medicine not good health. After completing 10th Class I like to join in Industrial Training Institute (ITI) but my mother is unable to pay my fee because we have no regular work and we are staying in rented house. In society we have no value that is why no one comes to help us! In that

critical situation you (SalGO Assist) come forward to support in my ITI mechanical course. Thank you very much ...if you support my second year I will settle well in my life."



Chetan Krishna

We are supporting 14 such students this year in this life-changing project.

Family Support Project (FSP)

Educational help has been a feature of this project for over 10 years. Belonging to FSP commits parents to sending their children to school instead of them begging in the streets. So successful has this been that now every year there are young men and women eager to continue their studies into Intermediate, polytechnic and degree level courses. In August the 2016-17 batch of young people received their grants towards fees, books or travel. We wish them every success in their studies.



FSP Students giving thanks to SalGO Assist

Face lift and new floor!

Appikatla Church is being transformed. Used by the 25 families in this landless community near Vedullapalle, the walls and roof have been strengthened. Now, with the £200 SalGO Assist

sent them, a stone floor is being laid. But this is not just for once-a-week services, it is also the community meeting room. In the rainy season, when some of the flimsy palm-leaf homes are flooded, it also becomes a shelter for the families who need it. Unfortunately, the workman who is laying the floor has been laid low with a fever. We wish him a speedy recovery.



Appikatla Church

Home News

Treasurer's Report

SalGO Assist has certainly grown in the last three years in terms of our contributions to SalGOERCO, the Indian charity which we support. Prior to that period our income was usually between £15,000 and £20,000 and fluctuated when there were floods or cyclones. The figures for the last three years, however, have been £25,453, £40,486 and £28,427. The reason for our efforts in collecting more in those years was that we were asked for help towards building a new single-sex orphanage in order to comply with a fresh requirement of the Indian Government and this was going to cost a lot of money. Our Committee was very concerned and did not know how best to react. We were not prepared to commit our Charity to providing the whole cost so we compromised and said that we would look at each construction stage individually and see what amount we could raise. We told SalGOERCO that we would expect them to raise more money locally.

Fortunately, thanks to hard work in spreading the news and to some

sacrificial giving, the new orphanage was basically finished within the Government's specified time schedule. We say 'basically' as there is still work to be done in order to achieve a safe environment for the girls who reside in the orphanage.

A result of our success to date is that SalGOERCO look to us for even more help in expanding their support for those in need in their local community. If we are to be able to do this we need to increase our income, especially as the exchange rate with the Indian Rupee has worsened and it may possibly be some time before that situation improves.

Ideally, we would like to generate more regular giving as that would help us to know how much we could commit. However, an increase in periodic fund-raising activities (at fetes and shows or elsewhere) would also help.

We are always looking for new attractive ideas to increase our ability to help the rural poor and disadvantaged in India and we would be very happy to receive any suggestions which you may have to offer.

SalGO Assist AGM 14 November

As usual our meeting was held at St. Mary's, Winnersh, thanks to the generosity of the Rector and Parochial Church Council. All members of the committee were re-elected, and thanks were expressed for their great commitment to our work for the rural poor. We were grateful, too, to our Auditor-Examiner, Vince Pearson for examining the accounts, which we have to send to the Charity Commission each year end. The main topic of the evening, after the formal business was over, was orphanage security. We were helped by having on the screen a video clip showing the road at the front and the vacant plot to one side. It clarified our thinking and will help get the right solution before too long.

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**

***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***