



SalGO News



Issue 22

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From the Chairman

Happy smiles!

No wonder they look really pleased – they'd just been admitted into the CSO Home on 10th July. Each of these nine children has lost either a mother or a father, usually in a road accident, or from alcohol abuse. In some cases a mother has abandoned her children and gone to live with another man. Ageing grandparents, themselves in failing health, have stepped in to feed and house their grandchildren until the burden proves too great. One of the first things to go is children's education, then more general neglect. For some it is the start of a life of begging.



Nine New CSO children

For these nine that misery is now behind them. They are enjoying regular meals, catching up at school, making friends with the other children and feeling safe at last. We'll get to know more about them in due course – what they are good at, where they need extra help, how much their background has impacted on them. Of one thing we can be sure – they've caught some of the excitement of the new orphanage taking shape across the road. The five girls among this group will, no

doubt, have a very special interest as that will be *their* home, hopefully not many months from now.



CSO children make their mark with their hand prints in the wet plaster

The roof is on!

Meanwhile, the builders have completed the basic structure of the **new orphanage**, and the plastering is almost finished. Internal work – concealed electric wiring, doors, windows and sanitary fittings, is in hand, and the money needed for that has been sent.

At the time of writing, **£7,111 still has to be raised** for polished stone floors on both levels, plumbing, painting, and finally shelving throughout the building. Can this work possibly be completed by Christmas, or early in the New Year 2016, six months before the July 2016 deadline? Please pray and work with us to achieve this. Encourage friends and family to follow our progress, on our website www.salgoassist.org and on Facebook. If we could, in the same time frame, find sponsors for all those smiling children, it will have been a most remarkable year for SalGO Assist, for SalGOERCO in India and, above all, for the disadvantaged children in their care.

Your fellow supporter *Clifford Smith*

News from the Orphanage and Hostel

Shalem in bike accident

The Warden of the CSO Home, Shalem Raju, was returning from a parents meeting at a school where some of the children attend. As he rode past a parked vehicle the car door was opened without warning and hit the bike. The ring finger on Shalem's left hand was sliced almost to the bottom, the little finger slightly damaged, and his knees cut. He was taken first to Bapatla hospital; then to the orthopedic hospital in Chirala, and finally to Vijayawada for micro surgery. On Saturday he had an operation and was sent home on Sunday evening with medication and required bed rest. On 6th November we had a cheerful email from Shalem himself saying he was better, though still taking medicine, and with assurance from the doctor that he will be fine in one month. Shalem asks for our prayers that the bone will mend strongly.



Shalem

Past Resident

Srinivasareddy recently left the CSO Home to take up a highly-paid job. He looks back on his early childhood and the road he has travelled:

"I born in very poor family in Hindu family on 28th December 1992. When I was six to seven years old, due to my mother's unfaithfulness my father take cruel decision that he likes to kill to my mother and my younger sister and brother and me with poison drugs! One bad night he came with poison drug and he has given to my mother and my sister and brother when they start to loudly I weak up I have not understand what is going on my father try to give that poison to me also like as



Srinivasareddy

cool drink I understood something going wrong I push my dad and I ran away from that place my father already have that poison that is why he couldn't catch. When I return to come with our Neighbourer they all our family members were died! I was cried and cried from that movement started my struggles. I spent many day and night without regular food, without shelter in rainy and winter seasons many nights I spent without sleeping...

One good evening pastor Gamaliel visit our place to preach word of God when he saw my position he asked about my position and I explain all my critical stage then he came to our relatives house and explain about home which he is running our relatives send me with Pastor on 14th October 1999 I joined in Clifford Smith Orphanage! After that I started to go to school Corina English Medium School for

1st standard. we stayed 15 CSO children in one room."

Srini treasures still the first letter he received from his sponsors on 16th June 2001, and writes glowingly of the fantastic love and support he received over the years, through school, intermediate and four year long B.Tech course in engineering. "Only with their encouragement and great support", he writes, "I can continue my studies from lower class to professional." Srini graduated recently and has joined one of the companies who came to his college looking for graduates.

Another CSO Wedding!

On 18th September, **Jhansi Rani married Suneel**, of Thotavalluru in Krishna District. Aged 26 years, and a relative of Jhansi's on her uncle's side, Suneel is an economics graduate and a computer operator in the local revenue office. He and Jhansi very quickly decided that they were meant for each other, and it was a challenge for Shalem to arrange, especially as the couple had chosen 11.35pm for the time of their wedding, at Thotavalluru. The cost of taking the CSO Home children in a hired bus would have been too great, so Shalem and Indira represented the Home. The pictures received are lovely, and we wish the couple every happiness.

Just before the big day arrived Jhansi made a point of recalling her childhood days – she was eight when her parents died in an accident. Becoming a beggar "I faced many problems without food sometimes". She went to live with an aunt and uncle, who got her into the brand-new CSO Home on 1st June 2002, just in time for the official opening next day! Jhansi spoke of her school and college days, and admitted to shedding "happy tears" as she remembered the love and encouraging letters

and presents from her sponsors. She finished by thanking the Warden for being treated as if she were his child from the day of arrival, and asking everyone to pray for her in "my married life" and "how to run my family." I'm sure we'll want to add our prayers to those of the CSO Home family.



Jhansi Rani and Suneel on their wedding day

Project News

Schools - change is in the air

We reported in our last Newsletter (21) the closure of Vedullapalle School. At **Narasayapalem** the school will soon be taking on a completely new role. The 72 pupils, from Lower Kindergarten to 3rd Class, who enrolled in June for the new school year, will be transferring to government schools. After meetings between village elders, local authority education officials and the SalGOERCO Trustees, followed by visits to parents in their homes, it was agreed that from January 2016, SalGOERCO will run a Corina Education Point, for what they call "dull students." It is another indication that the Indian government is continuing its plan to improve education for everybody, even the poorest. The standard of teaching is improving, free uniform and school books are

provided to poor children and the provision of a free mid-day meal is a real help to families. The Corina Tuition Point, staffed by the four existing Corina teachers, will take on students from 1st to 10th class (approx. ages 6 – 16 years) who are struggling in class. This sounds like a massive undertaking and we'll be interested to know how it works out. The government will provide training for the teachers undertaking this remedial work with pupils. SalGOERCO has also decided to find other premises as the existing rented house is in poor shape.

Meanwhile, the other Corina School, at **G. Ummadivaram** in Prakasam District, opened its doors on 12th June for the new school year with 60 pupils: LKG 20 children; UKG 15; 1st Class 14; 2nd Class 11, with three teachers.

Students Unable to Access Education (SUtAE).

We've heard from Eliza, one of the senior teachers and SalGOERCO leaders, that the nine students we are supporting with their higher education this year are all very keen. This project, started 18 months ago, is to help students who have started degree or polytechnic courses, or gained places to start, whose studies are interrupted by changed family circumstances. The two below are typical.



Sirisha

Sirisha lives in a backward area 20 km from Bapatla. First in the family to have any education, she completed the first year of an English degree, two years ago. It was then her father died of

HIV/Aids, so she left college because her mother's wages as an agricultural labourer (about £2 a day and only at certain times of year) couldn't support them. Fortunately, her younger brother, at intermediate level, has a job selling newspapers and milk before he goes off to college, so is more or less self-supporting. Although she has been out of college for two years she was eager to get back when SalGO Assist agreed to support her.



Prakesh

When **Prakesh**, a bright and determined lad, was in 10th Class (16+ exam level) his father had a severe stroke. His older sister dropped out of education, but he stayed on, through intermediate level (16-18) and did well in his first year polytechnic course. But there was no money for 2nd year fees and books, and it seemed inevitable that Prakesh would have to drop out, so that the family could buy medicines for the father, and support a younger daughter still at school. Fortunately, SalGO Assist came to the rescue just in time for him to take up his second year studies.

Eliza describes this project as "a great miracle", and the nine students agree.

Home News

Fund raising

Our Indian Evening (£208) which included the Prize Draw (£411) was much enjoyed. So also, according to our chairman, Clifford, who won second prize, was the free week-end at The

Denes Guest House, Lynton, Devon. Run by John and Susan Tuck, long-time sponsors and supporters of SalGO Assist, it is ideally placed for exploring the Exmoor National Park. John and Susan were so welcoming, the room comfortable and well-equipped, and the food excellent. Pat and Clifford are hoping their luck holds in a future Prize Draw .

The half year since our last Newsletter has afforded us plenty of opportunities to advertise SalGO Assist and raise funds: the May Woodley Pagoda stall brought in nearly £350; a brand-new wheelchair went to St. Nicholas Church Hurst (they like to keep one for infirm visitors to use) for a generous donation of £60; Winnersh fete raised over £300; Hurst Horticultural Show (nearly £140); Woodley Pagoda in October £360 and the SalGO Awareness morning at St. Nicholas Hurst, over £150.

On 24th October a highly acclaimed **Organ Recital at St. Nicholas Hurst**, to celebrate the organ's refurbishment, raised nearly £1000, most generously shared equally between St. Nicholas Church and SalGO Assist.

At the **SalGO Assist** AGM on 2nd November the present committee was re-elected. Denise prepared an excellent slide show of the new orphanage, from the laying of the foundation stone, in April last year, to the present state of near-completion.

Facebook

SalGO Assist now has a Facebook page. The link is below. We'd really appreciate it if you could support us by liking our page and inviting your friends to. We hope you enjoy the updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/Salgo-Assist-1514380492146482>

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, Wincoburn rep:

Anne

Denise

Richard

Peter

Alan

Mary (Minutes secretary)

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***