

“FEED ORISSA”

An Update by Dr. Lilian Stanley

Looking at the enormity of the task our hearts fail. We keep singing, “*Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing, nothing is too difficult for Thee!*” Mother Theresa’s words—“What we do is a drop in the ocean. But if we do not do what we can do the ocean will be less by one drop!”—keep coming to our minds often and lift us up.

As decided by the leaders we took on a crash programme with one lakh rupees on hand to supply grains to the starving in the drought-hit areas of Orissa. Missionaries Biswanath Samal, Prabudoss and our driver Jena worked like bulls (or shall I say coolies?) loading and unloading sacks of grains. First we gave 10 kg rice, 2 kg dhal, 2 litres oil, eggs and biscuits. Then we increased the quantity. Then we further increased. At the end we still had Rs.5000/-. We supplied to so many starving and needy. Truly we felt your money kept multiplying like the five loaves and two fish. God be praised!

We had a meeting with Rt. Rev C. K. Das, Bishop of Sambalpur, who suggested we use the Diptipur Christian Hospital and their Old Age Home (OAH) for our purposes. Hence we have decided to keep Diptipur, Bargarh District as our base. We have also rented a house here. Mr. and Mrs. Samal our missionaries will shift here from Umerkote.

Our leaders Dr. Arthur John, Mr. J. Shanthakumar, Mr. John Thomas and Mr. Ponnuswamy visited these places and decided that we would confine ourselves to helping starving people and TB patients only and that in Bargarh District alone upto December 2001. Then we will review the work and see how the Lord leads.

God gave us strength to travel the rough roads in an old jeep for 10 days. In one place our jeep got stuck in the mud and nearby villagers pulled it up. 20 km before Diptipur our jeep broke down when it was pouring cats and dogs. Then we hired a tractor from a village which towed us to Diptipur. In May the land was barren and cracked. Now there is torrential rains. We are

happy but people are not so enthusiastic. They say unless the rain continues the crops will die halfway. There is no water conservation system. So much so, much of the rain water goes waste. Many are without money to buy seeds for their one acre land. We paid Rs. 360/- for three people to buy seeds.

During our visit in May, Aladini and Premi, both widows, were so bad that they could not even get up and receive what we offered them. They were mentally unsound. We arranged with the neighbours to help them. Then Mr. Sagar and Dr. Soren visited them at our request and brought them to the OAH. For three days they had eaten well and recovered physically and mentally. Then they wanted to go back to take care of their homes. So they were sent away with some rice and bus fare. This time when we visited them they were carrying water from the borewell and doing household chores. O what joy it was for us!

In April we appealed for help for 5 TB patients. Because of your generosity we were able to take up another 20 patients. This month we plan to help another 20 from the long queue with sunken eyes and showing ribs looking to us for help. May God bless every one of you.

Please pray for us as we leave again for Orissa on the 23rd of July. I will be back by the 20th of August. Pray that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and that the people will be introduced to the True and Living God. Pray that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men (2 Thess 3:1,2). Let us do our best for the poor and the Lord will honour us. Please contact your friends, relatives, Churches and Fellowships for help.

Send your contributions to Blessing Youth Mission, Church Colony, Vellore 632 006 earmarking it for FEED ORISSA.

We thank you once again for giving us your right hand of fellowship in this venture.