

# FEED ORISSA

*An Update by Mrs. Sugirtha Livingstone, Missionary, Bargarh, Orissa*

## **Dear Friends who have found a place in our hearts,**

We had arranged a medical camp in five villages of Bargarh District. A thirty member team from Medivision, Nagercoil arrived on the 21st of March. Our own staff and sisters from the Catholic Mission Hospital joined them. The Government authorities gave us the school and provided lunch in each village. Classrooms were transformed to Pharmacy, Laboratory, Eye clinic, General clinic and Dental clinic.

The Medivision Team led by Mr. Pushparaj had brought excellent medicines. The camp was a beehive of activities. An average of 960 patients were treated per day and 4803 patients were blessed during the camp.

There were 350 cases of cataract. We could do only 178 due to the shortage of eye surgeons. We plan to do the rest also on a



weekly basis. India has the world's largest blind population and we are blessed to be part of a team to allay the sufferings of a certain percentage. Two cleft lip patients were taken to Nagercoil and operated upon. Please pray for God's healing touch on all the patients. There are many with surgical problems. If the Lord leads we should have a surgery camp. Pray.

While we talk of two wheelers and four wheelers, we should remember that thousands of poor walk barefoot on rugged roads for long distances. Some develop non-healing chronic ulcers in the foot. We provided a pair of sandals to all the poor who came to the camp barefoot. Some of them tried them

on and walked awkwardly, having never used footwear in their life. Some did not want to dirty the precious gift and tied them up in their hip carefully!

We thank God for making this camp a success. We thank everyone of you who contributed towards this camp.

Our missionary kid Samraj, son of Mr. Gunasekaran and Nirmala writes of his experience: "In Ruchida village one teacher had come to have his teeth extracted. He said he lived in Bargarh city. But on going to the dental clinic and seeing the happenings he would go back fearing the worst. It is learnt that in those areas there were just a few qualified dentists while most of them were quacks. On hearing that doctors were coming from Tamilnadu, he had come from Bargarh city to this village. As usual I gave him local anaesthesia and extracted his grossly decayed tooth. Then I told him it was over and he could go. He didn't believe it was over—he was still waiting for some painful experience. He thanked me profusely and stayed back to send us off, till the evening bus left that village. I was really moved by his deep sense of gratitude and happy that people were blessed through us.

"In another incident we had extracted one tooth in the lower arch for an old lady. In the afternoon she came back. We thought it would be due to some pain, bleeding, etc. She wanted another tooth to be removed from the upper arch also. Normally in a campsite we don't extract teeth from both arches. But then she pleaded with us saying that she might not get to meet a dentist again. This was the first and the last time she would be seeing a dentist. So we decided to extract the upper tooth also and she went back happy."

We came across a defunct hostel in Bargarh with a hall, warden's quarters, office room, kitchen, play ground and borewell. We hired

it on the spot for Rs. 2000/- per month. Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we go about the selection of prisoners' children, poor believers' children and tribal children.

Bro. Philip Bishoyi from Diptipur writes:

"We selected eight persons from eight villages to undergo the Native Workers Training Programme. It started on the 8th of January and concluded on the 6th of April. Their



daily routine was physical exercise, personal devotion, cooking and five classes. About 14 teachers from our Mission and other Institutions dealt with various subjects of relevance ."

Guthnu Tandy was operated upon by Dr. Sampath Karl who closed his colostomy and set it right three years ago in our surgical camp. Our evangelists stumbled upon his village Bundubahal three months ago and started visiting regularly. Now more than 45 gather in the shadow of a house to worship the Lord. Hallelujah! In the past three years 130 have obeyed the Lord and joined the Church.

Theeba, our staff in Diptipur reports—

"Every child in our Kaumuniya Children's Club is a pearl to me. Their enthusiasm and fear of God stirs up our spirit. When we explain to them the forgiveness of sins and the power of the Cross, children weep and confess their sins making us to keep our fingers on our noses. Kalyani's influence is bringing her parents to the Lord. Now an influential man in the village is trying to stop us. Please pray.

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"I was privileged to take two cleft-lip patients to Nagercoil for surgery. Four year old Rasmitha's face was frightening. Her own mother neglected her. She was left at home when the whole family went outing. Children shunned her. She had only one torn dress while her siblings had plenty. But her father loved her and brought her to the camp. Now she looks sweet. 'My daughter will play with other children and go to school' says her father with tears in his eyes.

"Putto Sother, one of our beneficiaries testifies, 'After coming to Christ we have enough and more. We feed servants of God who visit us and we have stopped begging. We used to visit the hospital atleast twice a month. But since one year, after tasting the love of Christ, we have not swallowed a single pill. God is leading me and my totally blind husband wonderfully.'"

May our good Lord bless you, your family, your work and your ministry. He is faithful!

Bye dear ones,



(SUGIRTHA LIVINGSTONE)

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Money Orders, Cheques, Bank Drafts to be sent in favour of BLESSING YOUTH MISSION, VELLORE.

Any relief material may be sent by TCI Lorry service to **TITLAGARH**, Orissa and the waybill to— Mr. Peter Nag, Bundupalla village P.O & Desil, Via Titlagarh 767 033, Orissa. Contact person for Feed Orissa, Mr. P. Thomas Livingstone, Asish Sebasadan, DAM Colony, Bargarh 768 028. *Mobile: 9337311560* <feed\_orissa@yahoo.com>