SalGO News

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Still persevering ….. but a brighter future?

From the Chairman: There's been quite a change in the atmosphere around the Corona Virus Pandemic since our Newsletter of last August! With the targeted use of the new vaccines, and maybe greater self-discipline, infection rates are falling in the UK. In India, where the number of infections is believed to have been far higher than the official 10.7m recorded, the pandemic is said to be "in steep decline". That is good news indeed, but no time to relax! Your Trustees have continued to meet monthly, via Zoom, throughout the Pandemic, and to send money once a quarter to run the orphanages and other projects. It will be no surprise to hear that it has been as difficult a time as any since the charity was formed, almost 20 years ago. Most of our income arrives monthly directly into the bank, but we rely on committee fundraising to make up any shortfall. We have, as you know been unable to raise a penny this past twelve months. We are grateful for your wonderful generosity as we help change the lives of some very vulnerable people.

Your fellow supporter, *Clifford Smith.*



Good News

Two of our former PSH Girls have had babies in the last couple of months. At the end of last year Polamma and her husband Rajesh had a baby boy, Enosh Raj. On the 1st January baby girl Nafisa was born to Mariyamma and Rasul. Both had a few problems with the birth but mothers and babies are now all well and settled back at home.





"And what, you ask, is 89 year old Clifford doing here? I have challenged myself to do 90 press ups by my 90th birthday on 20 March. This morning I managed 66 press-ups. It was tough, but 90 might just be do-able by my birthday... I've now got 30 days to reach the magic 90 press ups. Not counting Sundays (which I usually have off from my normal exercise routine) I've got to add one extra press up each day. I don't know if I can, but its worth a try, especially if some of our SalGO supporters, and others new to our charity are sponsoring me. I'm especially keen to get more poor and HIV/Aids-affected children through college courses or industrial training, and so transform their life chances. Wish me luck and good health! *Clifford*

To support Clifford please donate by scanning the QR code or via: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15977

Pandemic Reflections from the families

Our friends in India have, of course, been facing all the familiar challenges – lockdowns, on-line classes, Covid protection measures, missing college friends and classmates; and children losing that vital free school meal at midday. Thankfully, Pastor Gamaliel reports that not a single person in all the projects has died of the virus.

Leelavathi, who is in close touch with the families, and knows how they have been coping, shares some of their stories. She's aware that, if just one person in the family was still able to work through the pandemic, that family could somehow manage; but where no one worked, there was hunger.



Jhansi Rani (A Family Support Programme Family) couldn't work in the fields. When her husband (also not working) went down with fever, headaches etc. and spent a week in hospital (fortunately test proved it was not due to Covid), they had to borrow approx. £150 for hospital fees. They are still paying off that debt. Jhansi herself was diagnosed with pneumonia in September and now has a huge monthly medicine bill of £10 to £12. Their two children, John and Jacob, like many other students, were unable to access on line classes, which began in August, because they lacked a TV, mobile 'phone or tablet.

Sisters Priscilla and Draksha, (also FSP) whose mother is deaf and dumb and whose father deserted them when they were children, describe how "in the time of lock-down we faced many problems… sometimes we went to bed without any food". **Draksha** has just finished her 3 year General Nursing Course and is looking for a job in hospital. **Priscilla,** who has completed one year of a Bachelor of Commerce degree, used the time back at home learning to stitch and sell leaf plates She writes "I am happy that I was able to earn some money and contribute to the family …. in my spare time." Priscilla suffers from asthma, pneumonia and kidney weakness and her general health is too poor to risk an operation on a hole in the heart. The cost of daily medicines is, as you can imagine, beyond this family. Are there any of our supporters who could cover or contribute to the cost of Priscilla's medicines??



If there are please let us know urgently!



See more stories on page 3

We would appreciate regular sponsors for all these projects. We have a shortfall in funding for families, widows, the medical and emergency fund and the vitally important education. If you feel you could support any of these projects via direct debit, with any amount of regular support, however small, it would help tremendously. Please contact us at: *enquiries@salgoassist.org*



Amulya, a SUtAE student from an HIV+/Aids family, began a 3 year nursing course in August 2019, in Ongole, but by April last year she was back home because of the Pandemic. But Amulya couldn't sit idly by. After a video call with the local doctor she was soon caring for the elderly and giving medicines and injections to those in her village suffering from asthma, diabetes, and other conditions, from May to August. Now she is back at college and into her 2nd year of training.

Mindala Nagaraju, a college student from one of the HIV+/Aids families, and no doubt expressing the thoughts of other students and their families**,** is asking us to turn the (unexpected) special Christmas gift of nutritious food that we sent (rice, dal, green gram, cooking oil, peanuts, ragi powder and Rupees 100 travelling expenses per family) into a regular, monthly, supply! So sorry, Mindala, we are pleased that our surprise Christmas gift was appreciated, and we know that supplementing your normal diet would help to keep everyone healthy, and we wish we could do that but, sadly, we just don't have the money.



Stay at home fundraising

Getting bored in Lockdown? Join Clifford (see Page 1) and try one of these ideas to keep your friends entertained and do some virtual fundraising for us at the same time.

Challenge yourself, friends and family to reach your 10,000 steps a day or choose something else to keep fit locally or at home from star jumping in your kitchen, cycling or bouncing on a trampoline. Put it up a notch and climb the equivalent of Everest using your staircase or complete a marathon in the backyard

Celebrating a birthday in lockdown? Ask for donations to SalGO Assist instead of presents and use your celebrations to help others when it matters most.

Baking If you're great in the kitchen, put your talents to good use. Ask friends, family or neighbours for a donation in return for making their favourite cakes, bakes or box of treats!

Fine Dining Ask friends to prepare a tasty meal together and all sit down for dinner (via video conference of course!). Donate the cost of a meal out or how about donating the money you would have spent on your daily **takeaway coffee** to SalGO Assist?

Quiz time Host a virtual quiz night for us! Ask for donations to take part and test your trivia with friends and family or dust off your **board games** and host a virtual games night at home!

Elderly Ladies on the move!

The 15 residents of the Home for Elderly Ladies will leave the community Cyclone Shelter on 4th April, as the building is needed by the local government. Because house prices are now beyond the reach of SalGOERCO, the ladies will be welcomed into the homes of local people in Padisonpet, who know and appreciate the caring work of our Indian partners, who will continue to support them in their old age."



Contact Information: ***enquiries@salgoassist.org***
Donations *can be made via:* **https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/10477**