SalGO News

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A time to persevere

The Covid 19 news coming out of India just now is not good – over 9,000 new cases are confirmed each day in the State of Andhra Pradesh, one of the highest rates in the country. The search for a vaccine goes on. Meanwhile**, SalGOERCO's partnership with SalGO Assist remains firm.** In May we increased the money we send for the 20 families in the **Family Support Project** (FSP). This month we have covered the cost of beds and other items for the **Elderly Men in their new Home** (see next page).

We are pleased to report that the children and staff in the orphanages, the elderly men and women in the two Homes, and the poor families we support have all, so far, kept clear of infection. No doubt the discipline of regular handwashing, using a sanitizer, wearing a mask and keeping 2m. distance apart has helped greatly, along with a programme of exercise, games and reading for the children, who are not expected to return to schools and colleges until October. Shalem has recently sent photos of each boy and girl in the two Homes, together with an mp4 video prepared by each child and young person, telling his or her sponsor how they are coping. Thank you, Gamaliel, Shalem and all those working so hard with you, for your great care and thoughtfulness at this difficult time. May we all persevere in what God has called us to do.

Clifford Smith, Chairman, SalGO Assist



The impact of the lockdown on the poor

Several FSP families responded appreciatively to **the increased support in May**. **Lydia** describes how her family is in "deep crisis" because of the lockdown. Her husband, a rickshaw puller, can earn only around £1.50 a day. Her daughter Rojaramani, supported by SalGO Assist right through to her achieving a B.Tech, degree, regularly sent money to help the family, but had to returned home to Bapatla when her firm in Hyderabad closed. The eldest son, Vijay, can now work only two days a week. His younger brother, doing the equivalent of A levels, has taken it very hard. The increased support of around R.200 has helped them to survive, with occasional fasting still necessary.



Sony, one of our SUtAE students, whose final year B.Tech exams have been postponed, expresses himself very strongly. "The lockdown has become a curse for the poor … My father was a mason … due to this lockdown he has been out of work for months, we live in debt … I am under a lot of pressure and frustration as to whether I will continue my studies… Corona virus spreading so fast in India."

Somewhere to call Home



"Somewhere to call Home": That's what the men and women, looked after in their old age by SalGOERCO for several years now, have been longing for, since Pastor Gamaliel was informed that the government had other plans for the community cyclone shelter in which the two groups have been living. First to leave were the 7 Elderly Men, who on 9th July moved into Pastor Gamaliel's house, next to the church in Vedullapalle. Thankfully, their Warden, Brother Kishore, has moved with them and continues to cook and care for them. The 16 Elderly Women are still looking to Gamaliel to find a suitable rented house, probably in Bapatla. None of them wants to go back on the streets begging, and to experience abuse.



To get the Men settled quickly, Pastor Gamaliel and Tabitha gave up their own home and moved into Bapatla some weeks ago, to live in the house where Gamaliel's mother, Deevakarunamma, spent her final years, right next to Jagannadhapuram Church. At Gamaliel's request, SalGO Assist is furnishing the Home with basic items: seven beds; a pillow and a blanket each; cooking vessels, plates, glasses, gas stove and gas cylinder. We've agreed that, as soon as possible, a western-style toilet with a bathroom attached should be built. The total cost will be over R.100,000. The men are glad to be back in the centre of Vedullapalle. Already two of them, Subareddy and Venkateswarlu have said how pleased they are because they "have good kitchen and no need to cook outside of building."

The Home has been named Kachem – **K**aruna **a**nd **C**orina **H**ome for **E**lderly **M**en. "Karuna", named after Gamaliel's mother, means compassion in Telugu. "Corina" is the wife of Jacob, Gamaliel's Dutch friend, fellow student and long-time supporter. May these elderly residents enjoy many contented years.



Gamaliel' son, Joel, is now working regularly at Kachem. Here he helps one of the residents to and from the toilet.

Dorothy Grahame (RIP)

We record with sadness the death of one of our long-time supporters. Dorothy moved into Grovelands Park Estate, Winnersh, with her husband, Dennis, soon after his retirement from the tax office in Cardiff. When SalGO Assist started around millennium year Dorothy took a great interest in the orphanage in Bapatla, India. She began to collect bric-a-brac and clothes from her neighbours at Grovelands Park. Sometimes she would wheel her shopping trolley to our chairman's house and unload books, magazines and several jigsaws, which neighbours had passed on to sell on our stall at fetes and at the Woodley Pagoda.



Pat's 1st Memorial Day

It is just over a year ago that Pat Smith, a Founder trustee of SalGO Assist, died. She was much loved and respected in and around Bapatla, and especially at the CS & PS Homes, where she sponsored several children over the years. We didn't need to remind them when the 19th July came round - they had already planned their memorial services, held in difference places. One was on the roof of the Boys' Home, another at Jagannadhapuram Church. They gave thanks for her caring nature, guidance and advice to the children, said prayers and sang songs of praise to God. Thank you, children for remembering "Grandma Pat", whom we all miss.



Can you help oversee the finances for our small charity?

Roland, our treasurer, is retiring from the role next month after 15 years of sterling service, and we are looking for a replacement. The new treasurer would have:

*An understanding of finance
*Experience of book keeping or similar financial record-keeping
*A recognised financial and/or accounting qualification would be beneficial but isn't a prerequisite
*The ability to communicate financial information clearly, especially to other trustees
*Secure personal access to ICT and able to competently use those resources.

Our Board meets briefly every month. It is expected that our Treasurer will offer up to 4 hours per month in the role, although more is always welcome

Are you interested or do you know someone who is?
Please contact Clifford Smith via enquiries@salgoassist.org

A Big thank you to Sharegift who have generously gifted us £1000

ShareGift works by collecting together small lots of shares until there are enough to sell and then donating the resulting proceeds to a wide range of charities. ShareGift make their grants based upon suggestions from donors. You can help support SalGO Assist by donating any small shareholdings you may have to Share-Gift, and mentioning that you support us. For more information go to: www.sharegift.org or see our website.

We have also become a charity partner with **Assistall**, and as such will receive an equal share of 50% of the profits raised each year. They also help consumers save money when buying goods and services, so we hope if you are looking for voucher codes or want discounts on Amazon, you will check on Assistall first. To find out more and start saving, head over to www.Assistall.co.uk or click on the button on our website.

Contact us via the website contact page at **www.salgoassist.org**
Donations can be made via: **https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/10477**