



Sydney To Vattukottai

Christmas and Deepavali, together with Karthigai Theepam were celebrated in common by our members in Australia and Sri Lanka. Our new training office in Vaddukoddai (36, Thellipallai Road, Vaddukoddai Junction) is functioning well and the students staged a collaborative performance on Christmas day – making all of us happy. Special thank you to our coordinator Ms Thushyanthini Balasingham.



Above - the Seminar room in our new office being made ready for our training activities. Mr. Kanthasamy, who was responsible for the painting work and carried out most of the handyman's work, is a father recovering from the loss of his son during the war. Most families in the area have lost family members and we believe that our feelings of comfort are shared with these folks through our common experiences as if we are part of each other.

EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Our new Training Centre is facilitating various sections of the Vaddukoddai Community as per each section's needs. We emphasized during our seminars that it was important to develop and maintain common faith with all participants. We believe that maintaining the connection to the root cause of what was happening was important – especially in regards to international resources. In this regard, we provided training in project management and in



writing proposals for funding.

Pictured here is Mrs. Para Jeevarasa – a self employed young mother who is a winner in obtaining UNDP grant. As part of our training we emphasized that the root connection to the UNDP's global values need to be maintained for the receivers

of funds to feel part of the global community and feel supported by common faith in each other. We highlighted that organizations such as the UNDP and Australian Tamil Management Service, through their services, were connected to both sides – the donors as well as the receivers. We highlighted that in Accounting – when goods and services purchased are added value before they are sold to the consumer - those additional services also form Cost of Sales. We stated that these additional services were provided by us and that they are part of the value of the donation. We helped our trainees value such donations as a whole and not just their cash value. We said that taking this holistic approach was necessary to feel global.

We seek to particularly thank Professor Veerasingam Premkumar and his wife Mrs. Thavamani Premkumar of Singapore, Mr. Gunaratnam Rajkumar and wife Jancey of Sydney and Mr. Maheswaran Prabakaran and wife Malini – also of Sydney for their generous contributions to our training projects.

In addition, we communicate the deep appreciation felt by the folks assisted by interest free loans provided towards self-employment. We believe that when the need is genuine the blessings of all these folks who feel part of the common sharing happen automatically towards us feeling that we are all global participants.

SHARING HUMAN VALUES



More women and children are now participating in our Human Values Development program. The latest development to our structure was to introduce separate study groups – one for adults and another for children. Gifts from our folks in Australia are also distributed at the end of these sessions.



The main issues of concern expressed by locals are heard and possible solutions are shared. When we are not physically present, we make our contribution through Skype. Some of these activities were shared with our folks in Karainagar.

SHARING WITH NEW MOTHERS IN VADDUKODDAI, SRI LANKA

Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Dushyanti Rajendiran Pitchumani of Sydney, Australia, we were able to share some moments of common happiness with pregnant women of Vaddukoddai, on 17 February 2014.



Ms Dushyanti very caringly organized each mother to be, to receive a neat and sweet package of baby clothes, meticulously and caringly sewn in Sydney, Australia as well as in Colombo, Sri Lanka .

The motive was to value motherhood and to facilitate mothers to enjoy sharing with other mothers including from Australia.



The experience was facilitated by Medical Officer of Health, Chankanai - Dr.S.Mohankumar assisted by the Public Health officials serving the area of Chankanai.

The special ceremony was ably coordinated by Mrs. Thiruchelvi Indrakumar of Thunaivi – herself a mother of two.

Mrs. Thilagawathie Kanagasuntharam of Vaddukoddai graced the



occasion as a senior mother.



Young pregnant mothers expressed much appreciation for the sharing and the Public Officials





expressed specific recognition in relation to contributions from the expatriate community. They emphasized that the need for better health services in the area were deep and promised ongoing partnership with donors

from the

expatriate community. A list of items that a pregnant mother is expected to take to hospital was later handed over to us for consideration.



The Public Health Inspector in particular stated that it was important for us to share at all levels - by beneficiaries becoming providers of services they could themselves share with the those needing the particular services.

The head of Nursing encouraged mothers actively in such them to make use of available.



Services to take part sharing and urged the facilities

We felt that the experience was completed with the feelings on both sides shared through the baby clothes, the messages spoken and heard and most importantly that we were there for each other.

Thank You

