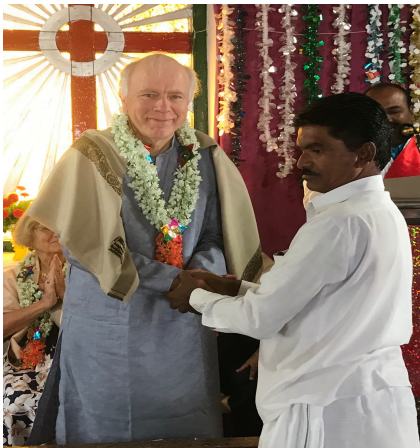


**Friends of Cross Roads for Human Development, UK,**  
Reg Charity no: 1116524, UK; SOR; 129 Karnataka State, India,  
<http://www.crhd.org.uk/>

*Dear Friends,*

Greetings to you all and I hope this letter finds you all in good health and sound mind. As we are updating the CRHD Website, I discovered that most of you have been either not informed with the updated news about the work of CRHD or may have missed it for other reasons.



*Alan Darby welcomed in the Methodist Church, Turakanadoni village*

Finally, we are back in action with an update, about both the project and how your support is making a difference in the lives of those children and women coming from humble backgrounds.



*The girls dressed up to be butterflies, danced to welcome the visitors.*

Many of these girls belong to different caste groups but when they come to school they forget their background and become Kids Paradise School family. They sit and learn together, they eat the same meal prepared in the school, and play together. These young girls are safe and enjoy being in the school where they are loved, cared for and made aware of what it means to be empowered.

Without the school, they may take manual labour jobs such as farming in fields, domestic cleaning,

cooking, young carers for their siblings, and unfortunately, married early, and thus making them young mothers. At the school, they are not only taught regular curriculum but also they have the opportunity to learn about prayer, the Bible, Christian songs, participate in the summer holiday clubs, which culminates in an annual celebration. These children do not have much to lean on but their joy and excitement find not boundaries when they are in the school. We have witnessed how eager they are to show their talents and skill in performing various activities in the school.



*Gill lost in the midst of the children.*



Mrs Sundera Daniel (centre left) who is responsible for the Tailoring Centre has been a great inspiration to many women who come to learn sewing. Unfortunately most of these are married in their young age and became mothers; along with looking after their children they are responsible to care for their in-laws and carry on their expected domestic duties. This is how many of them have lost the opportunity to gain further education to build up their careers for a better life. Some of their husbands do not have proper jobs, so the women work as daily wage earners to support their families and many of them live in small huts which no doubt causes further health risks due to lack of basic facilities.

These women are delighted and grateful to CHRD that has made impact on their lives: they are trained to be independent, empowered to know what their rights are and to understand the importance of living with dignity and supported with counselling and prayers.



Coronavirus has impacted the very life of ordinary people in terms of their daily work. This has forced them to change their way of life that raises several questions of their survival. It has affected the morale of the poor people who find it very difficult to manage in such unexpected crises. Furthermore these times have forced them to live with fear of uncertainty and thus suffer silently.

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support, which has enabled us to assist almost 40 people both in the village and Raichur with some food grains/groceries to survive during the lockdown period. It was a surprise gift for them to receive such support, for which they are grateful to the CRHD



*Some examples of food grains and groceries being received with thank you*

I am sorry to inform you that the lockdown is extended until the end of May and now they have got 7 positives cases in Raichur which means another challenge for those who

depend on the daily work both in the town and villages. It is difficult because this is another kind of slavery and bonded labour where the employers have the upper hand: sometimes the poor daily wage earners have no voice in terms of how much they would be paid. Illiterate labourers are left with no option than to listen to their employers, otherwise they would be jobless and would not be able to feed themselves on that day.



*Dianne Darby in the company of the children, posing for a photo. The children are always happy to see visitors.*

As the whole world is affected with this unknown virus, there seems very little hope for the poor and downtrodden; however, we put our hope in the Living Lord who can see us through the dangers, uncertainty and apprehension. Please continue to pray that through education and skill, both children and women will be able to break through the cycle of poverty and injustice.

Thank you for partnering with us. We appreciate your prayers and sacrificial giving.

God bless you,

Joseph and Gill

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