



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

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Sunday, 11 October 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you. I hope you all are well and safe.

Since our last newsletter, things in India have taken a different turn. The pandemic has spread into villages where it is rarely diagnosed and mostly goes un-noticed. Even when people have all the possible symptoms, villages lack the medical facilities, transport and also finance and therefore the only thing they can depend on is either God to heal them or God to call them home. This is the story of every poor Dalit who has been affected by the virus.

Our CRHD friends in India have asked me to thank all those who have given a special donation in the last few months, which has helped almost 60 desperate, poor families. This money has helped the redundant daily wage earners who were struggling to survive with just rice, lentils, cooking oil and other materials.



I am pleased to inform you that we have built a small house with a toilet and kitchen for a family of six people to have a roof over their heads. Furthermore, we have also assisted another family with four children. Their daughter Grace, passed her GCSE with First class and wishes to go to college now, but due to lack of money (around £8500 per year) to pay for her tuition, books, travel and food, her future is uncertain.

When the school classes were suspended, the students were all provided with a mobile, allowing them to stay in touch with the class and their teachers, so they could do all their homework online and pass their exams with first class results.

Although 99% of the parents in the village have no understanding of COVID-19, apart from it being very dangerous, separating people from one another and creating a fear of death, with no hospitals nearby, I am informed that some Primary Health Centre nursing staff from another village called Matmari visited the school in order to carry out medical check-ups on our children and the school staff. Children were then given all necessary medication where needed.





We have a deeply committed teaching staff team who have taken a challenge to learn different skills and rise up in these unprecedented times. At present, children have been learning and submitting their homework online so that the staff can continue to monitor their progress. Although they thrive in this virtual community, without any doubt we

know that they miss the time of being together to interact, play, eat, pray and have fun. We hope that it is not going to be long before they can all return to school in order to see a different way of learning and enjoying all that they missed.



This break in meeting on school premises has provided the opportunity for the school building's maintenance to receive full attention. The building has been fully cleaned and awaits the return of its staff and students. No doubt, this has given at least some parents much needed assurance. I am really encouraged to see how committed and serious they are to ensure the safety of children and staff.

Recently, at last, the school was reopened for older children with some restrictions. All staff have been made aware of the importance of the new health and safety regulations, and are teaching classes with maintained social distancing.



Even during this fearful pandemic, the staff have been meeting regularly to pray together, encourage one another, and in so doing show that they care for the work of CRHD. They are aware that we all are praying for them. The message from all the staff is, "Take care of your health. Stay safe. We always remember you and your families and all the CRHD members in our personal prayers as well as in the fellowship. Thank you."



We have every reason to thank God that the ministry of love and care at the tailoring centre in Raichur for all those young women is continuing. Some of you have visited this rented place, which is not very big, but the ladies who come are willing to learn, prepared to stand on their own two feet and support their families. Coming to the centre also gives them the opportunity to be out in the world and learn from each other and from Mrs. Daniel.

Please continue to pray –

1. That children and teachers may be protected from the coronavirus.
2. That the wider community hears about the work of CRHD and gets involved in volunteering or helping in other ways.
3. That the women may be empowered to know their self-worth by becoming financially independent.
4. That the wider mission of CRHD with the street children may come to fruition.

God bless you,

Joseph and Gill

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