

Compassion 575

1st quarterly report

for 2015

Name of CFCDP	No of Children	District / Province
Poolankaadu	42	Thoppigala / East
Tharavai	42	Thoppigala / East
Saththurukondan	98	} Batticaloa / East
Vaharai	95	
Indagala	128	Badulla / Uva
Murippu	41	Mullaitivu / North
Pooneri Maththuwilnaadu	42	} Kilinotchchi / North
Paranthan G.M.T	54	
Elephant pass G.M.T	138	
Colombo Ministry Center, Wattala	65	Gampaha / West

*Lamentations 3:22-23
the steadfast love of
the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never
come to an end; they
are new every
morning; great is your
faithfulness.*

NCM begins its journey in the New Year with hopes of bringing many new children to Christ. In our walk with the Lord, we've witnessed God's divine touch on the community we've ministered to. We've gone through many challenges and faced opposition from various groups. But, God has been wonderfully taking us through all these and it has always been a joy to be serving him. Looking back, NCML has undoubtedly reached different levels in its ministry especially ministering to children. Every challenge has taken us to higher levels. We pray that God will inspire each member of the staff and continue to guide us. We are encouraged with the new openings; they give us opportunity to meet new people and get to know their challenges and difficulties.



Government recognizes Saththurukondan CFCDP as an improved project.

The present Government has taken total control over operations of humanitarian agencies. Reason, it has been discovered that there is fair amount of duplication and misuse of fund. Almost everyone works in the same areas. People who have received help keep receiving over and over again from different funding agencies as many NGOs refrain from going into areas that are hard to reach for various reasons. Many NGO's are donor driven; they would do what the donor expects rather than meeting the real need of the community. There are others who function to keep receiving funds. To avoid all these, the Government has adapted new systems and regulations. They identify unsighted areas and communities and recommend funds and support be diverted to such areas. It also discourages continuation of support to areas that have somewhat developed. Their main focus is that every vulnerable community gets helped. We are very much satisfied with this move by the Government as our prime goal too is to reach as many new areas as possible.

Somehow, the Saththurukondan CFCDP has been identified as one of the schools that are in improved stages. Even though they are not fully developed, they are in much better condition than many other schools in the village. We have been notified by the Area Government Agent that the support to this school should be discontinued and consider supporting elsewhere. We are compelled to adhere to their terms and conditions as they overlook all operations of NGOs.

NCML is not very much disappointed with this decision. Saththurukondan CFCDP has been in operation for nearly 3 years and there is significant development in the children. We've met the primary needs of the children and the community. We've strengthened local partnership and are in somewhat good position to handover ownership to the local community. We could certainly

have improved the CFCDP much more if we continued; but had to immediately discontinue following instructions received by the Local Government Authorities.

The suggested school to replace Saththurukondan is Naripulthorttam Tamil Mixed School. The new school is roughly 15 km from Saththurukondan with 110 children receiving education. Like everywhere else, here too majority of the homes are headed by females who do not have proper income. Most of the men earn money doing labor jobs while a very few depend on farming and fishing. We are extremely happy to being able to serve this new village. Reason, this village has never received help from anyone. God has given us yet another opportunity to share his Love for children. The new CFCDP is presently underway. The staff is highly excited to meet new children and their parents.



New CFCDP

Vaharai is a new CFCDP that commenced in January this year. Situated approximately 60 km east of Batticaloa, here too the residents are very poor and hardly earn 2 dollars a day. This was the main reason for NCML to select this school. As mentioned earlier, this school was also recommended by the local government agent. 95 children receive after-school support here and we are extremely excited about this new opening. NCML is still in the process of gathering information on families and about the village. The next report will have a detailed description of this new CFCDP.

Other CFCDPs

All other CFCDPs function as usual. The numbers in the Manduwilnaadu CFCDP have increased by 10. Now we have 42 children receiving education. The school also reports that nearly 50% of the children are now able to read and write. Spending quality time with the children is the main reason for this improvement. This, the teachers cannot do during morning school. The parents of Manthuwilnaadu are very happy with their children's improvement. It's not only the academic growth the children have gained; they have also improved in sports, speech and drama, debating and many more. Even as the village and the CDC have a majority of people of different religions, their spiritual growth is highly admirable. Children are taught to pray and sing choruses. They are taught bible stories and mostly, the Love and care they receive from their caretakers has made a huge change in their lives; especially the children. It has touched even the hearts of the parents and teachers of other religions in the school. In many instances, openly sharing the Gospel or distribution of hand bills is not welcomed and perhaps causes serious damages; especially in the South of Sri Lanka. What has greatly impacted is the portrayal of Christ's love in the CDC by the teachers. More priority is given to being kind and caring to children than the focus on education. "CHRISTIAN LOVE - NOT A FEELING, A LIFESTYLE!" We've witnessed that this has spoken much more clearly and louder than words could ever have. We are very much pleased with the gradual progress and excited that we have more new opportunities to show God's Love.



Success Story: Lonach embraces Christian activity in school.

Negative response to the teaching of Christianity isn't uncommon in Sri Lanka. Persecution on Churches and Christian workers still exist in many parts of the island. While it moves forward aggressively, Christian workers are certainly not confined to its boundaries; ministry continues amidst alarming increase of violence against the spread of Christianity.

There was no greater acceptance of our work at the CDC in Lonach during the early part of our Ministry.

Lonach is a small tea estate in Hatton where majority of its people are Non-Christians. Serving a community that practiced other religions is never easy. However, given the task, NCML began its Ministry in this CDC a few years back. Year after year we would face challenge that differently attempted to divert our focus; parents abstaining from sending children to school when there were events organized, permission not being granted or delayed if we were to invite an outside speaker to address the children, opposition from elders in the area to Christian activities is some simple examples that generally hindered our Ministry.

Nevertheless, being persistent to its calling, NCML reached its goal eventually. Children gradually began to like our programs. Adding flavor to our activities was probably the reason for the change. Being different to what they do at school in the morning certainly attracted children and the adults of the village.

After many years of struggle, what we witnessed at the Christmas get-together in 2014 was beyond belief. The entire program was organized by the Children, teachers and the parents. NCML hardly got involved. We allowed them to take ownership of the event and it was unbelievable to see stage dramas that portrayed the birth of Christ without help from our staff. Except 9 children, all others who participated were from different religions. This clearly demonstrated that Christ came into this world for everybody. No religion, caste or the different language they spoke prevented the children from teaming up to sing Christmas carols as loudly as they could.

There is significant change in behavior. We are extremely happy with the change that is taking place in the Lonach CFCDP. We believe this change would certainly take root to transform the entire community.

NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES OF LANKA