COVID-19
CRISIS RESPONSE

HOLISTIC HELP DURING PANDEMIC
MESSAGE FROM FATHER BEN

Dear Friend,

I send you greetings of love and peace, and hope that you and your family are doing well during this unprecedented pandemic. Like most of you, I am heartbroken at the heavy death tolls in the US, India and elsewhere, and strive to maintain a positive attitude during this difficult time. My daily prayers and the Eucharist are great sources of comfort and strength to me. As an essential employee of the VA (Veteran's Administration) Hospital in San Diego, California, I am privileged to care for our veterans and their families on the front lines and ask you to please keep them in your prayers; especially those affected by the Corona Virus.

Currently, all of India is on lock-down. This pandemic is already being felt most among the vulnerable communities of Indian society, the very people Dalit Solidarity exists to serve. Already there are millions of migrant workers traveling on open roads. Kicked out of their homes, they travel by foot for days trying to get back to their families and villages. They are without food and water. As I see videos and pictures of people carrying their little ones on their backs, walking hundreds of miles to return to their villages after fleeing unsafe conditions, it breaks my heart. Our team is mobilizing community health workers and teachers in remote areas. Dalit Solidarity is in all these places providing food, health, healing, and hope.

PROGRAM UPDATES IN INDIA

Since March 2020, the children and staff at St. Patrick's Academy have endured much stress and uncertainty due to the indefinite shutdown and closure of the school. The tenth-grade students were also worried about their future, as their exams were frequently postponed, and then eventually cancelled, due to the pandemic. Most of the parents of St. Patrick's students are day laborers, who depend on their meager daily income for they and their family's survival. The Corona outbreak has robbed these good people of their routine and their livelihood, and left almost 60 members of the school's staff uncertain of their future, as lock-down continues past the four-month mark.

Despite the great difficulties, there have been sweet notes of blessings, as well. First, St. Patrick's facilities have been made available for the use of local health officials, as they strive to care for Corona virus patients. We are pleased to be able to contribute to the care and healing of the sick in this manner. Second, Dalit Solidarity swung into action from the very first day of Lock-down in the month of March, as marginalized groups, like the Dalits and the unemployed, have faced challenges from both the virus and Lock-down. Migrants from poor, rural areas have been hardest hit in India, as well as impoverished Dalits, tribal people, widows, gypsies, and daily coolies. No one can fathom the full proportion and magnitude of this pandemic. This has been the worst-ever migrant crisis seen in India, since the 1947 partition of our nation.

GIFT OF EDUCATION

SPONSOR A CHILD $30 PER MONTH
$360 PER YEAR
CLICK HERE TO DONATE
The shutdown has hugely impacted the daily wage workers, as they lost their both their jobs and income instantly. All the villages have seen a huge influx of migrant workers returning from Chennai and other big cities. Food provisions were purchased wholesale, and distributed in the local villages, in order to stem the tide of hunger. The basic food packs fed 4,303 families in 61 villages, and contained rice, oil, dhal, and assorted spices and cooking supplies. Almost $50,000 U.S. was spent, in order to provide food and supplies in the districts of Villupuram and Chingleput, during this first phase of relief effort.

We are now seeing a huge spike in the spread of corona virus all over India. In spite of all efforts on the part of the government to contain the virus, more than 700,000 have now been infected. More than 30,000 have died. In the State of Tamil Nadu alone, we have 150,000 cases and 3,000 deaths. As Lock-down continues in many parts of India, underprivileged migrant workers and poverty-stricken families can easily fall through the cracks. A recent survey conducted in the area found that 96% of families residing locally had their income reduced to $0 following Lock-down. The near-term impacts of the shutdown will be starvation, death, and destitution, as serious issues of food insecurity take their toll. As an organization, we are desperately trying to address these pressing needs.
WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>NO. OF FAMILIES BENEFITED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chennai Metro City</td>
<td>680</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kanchipuram District</td>
<td>867</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Villupuram District</td>
<td>1867</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pondicherry Union</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Thiruvannamalai District</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Perambalur District</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4303</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TYPE OF BENEFICIARIES

- Inter-State Migrants
- Overseas Migrants
- Elderly People
- Domestic Workers
- Transgenders
- Students & Parents
- Self-quarantined people
- Gypsies
- Brick kiln workers
- Irular Tribals
- Poor Dalit people
- Sri Lankan refugees
- Urali Tribals
- Differently-abled
- Arunthathiyars
- Dhobi community
- Physically challenged
- Washermen
- Sanitary workers
- Lepers
- Mentally Challenged Persons
- Non-teaching staff
- Widows
- Udalai Tribals

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PROVISIONS TO THE DOMESTIC WORKERS

APRIL-2020

MAY-2020

DISTRIBUTION TO THE WIDOWS

HAND-WASHING KIOSK

HELP BUILD A HAND-WASHING KIOSK IN A POOR COMMUNITY FOR $100

CLICK HERE TO DONATE
Migrants from poor, rural areas have been hardest hit in India, as well as impoverished Dalits, tribal people, widows, gypsies, and daily coolies. No one can fathom the full proportion and magnitude of this pandemic.
Dalit Solidarity has developed a plan to distribute free food kits to those who need them most critically, in order to stem the tide of starvation and malnutrition in the area. The staff of St. Patrick's will coordinate procurement and distribution of these goods, using the school's buses and resources, and will be able to provide a family of four with one week's worth of food and cooking supplies, as well as soap to help minimize infection. The proposed food kits would include the basics of nutrition, using local foods that are both familiar, and more easily acquired. Each food kit will contain the following essential items: 10 kilos of rice, 1 kg sugar; 250 g tea powder; 1 kg salt; 1 kg green gram/lentil; 1 kg Bengal Gram/lentil; 250 g dal; half liter coconut oil; 1 liter sunflower oil; 2 kg whole-wheat flour; 1 kg semolina, 1 kg black gram/lentil, 100 g chili powder; 100 g coriander powder; 100 g turmeric powder; 100 g fenugreek; 100 g mustard; and two bars of soap.

Our immediate goal is to raise $100,000 U.S., which would allow us to feed and equip with sanitation 7,500 impoverished families, at a cost of $15 per family.

REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PROVISIONS - JUNE 2020

TO THE SANITARY WORKERS

TO THE TRIBALS & DISABLED

MEDICAL CARE

PROVIDE FOOD PROVISIONS AND MEDICAL CARE FOR $300

CLICK HERE TO DONATE
Our immediate goal is to raise $100,000 U.S., which would allow us to feed and equip with sanitation 7,500 impoverished families, at a cost of approximately 1,000 Indian rupees per family ($15 U.S). I have no words to describe the hiddenness and desperation of many of these families, who have no lifeline of support, beyond what we can provide. Our district was already economically backward and underdeveloped, before the virus hit. Now? The situation is truly pathetic. Although our efforts are but a drop in the ocean of need that covers this economically backward and under-developed district, our humanity and our faith both require us to do what we can to stem this tide of human suffering.

You can help us exponentially expand our ability to impact the people who are suffering greatly because of this world-wide pandemic. This is a global fight. You can do things like:

- Feed hungry families.
- Purchase PPE for healthcare workers.
- Build a hand-washing kiosk.
- Support a community health worker.

I earnestly beg your kind help for the poor and underprivileged people of my district, who are suffering so deeply at this time. Please, won’t you join us in sending a refreshing wave of prayers, love and aid their direction? I am asking for your help, as much or as little as you are able, to help us implement this worthy goal.

Here are some things you can do to provide holistic health in this time of crisis

$15 - A Week Food Pack for One Family

$35 - Helps a Poor for Basic COVID-19 Test

$60 - Purchases 5 PPE Kits for Community Health Workers

$100 - Helps Build a Hand-Washing Kiosk in a Poor Community

$200 - Provides 1-Month Salary for a Community Health Worker

$300 - Provides Food Provisions & Medical Care for a month

EMPOWER WIDOWS

SUPPORT A WIDOW WITH A COW $600
AND TWO GOATS $300

CLICK HERE TO DONATE
We are proud to report that 95% of our total expenses in 2018 & 2019 went to support the programs and activities. Dalit Solidarity has become an accredited charity by meeting the standards of BBB (Better Business Bureau) Guide Star, USA has classified us to the Platinum 2019 as a transparent organization.

Through your generosity and kindness to our 501(C)3 charity, you give poor children a chance to break through generational cycles of poverty and oppression. You can donate via check or give financial securities (stocks, bonds and CDs). All donations to Dalit Solidarity are tax-deductible. Please consider what you can afford; no matter how small or big, every donation matters. We truly appreciate it.

Your support will enable us to continue our mission. You can also donate online easily and securely at www.dalitsolidarity.org. Please forward your enquiry to Dalit Solidarity, P.O.Box 178995, San Diego, CA 92177 or call us at 708-612-4248 or email at dalitsolidarity@gmail.com. Thank you for your concern and generosity. May God abundantly bless you and your family, for keeping His poor near and dear to your hearts

Yours Truly

Father Ben Chinnappan

visit our website for more details and programs

WWW.DALITSOLIDARITY.ORG

GIFT A SAFE HOME

PROVIDE A SAFE FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR: $3000

CLICK HERE TO DONATE