Dear friend,

Greetings of love and peace from Father Ben Chinnappan.

I pray that you and your family are doing well during this unprecedented time. Our lives have been affected in so many ways by this corona virus pandemic. We see and experience so much suffering on many levels for so many people. Our sorrows run especially deep as we experience the reality of death or the struggling for survival of friends or family members as a result of this disease. And through this experience we have come to realize a deep sense of gratitude for those who are continuing the front-line battle against this disease. Those doctors and nurses, all hospital workers, who are putting their lives on the line to save others. **Thank you brave front-line warriors** – May God give you strength and good health as you fight this battle to save lives.

Our faith can be challenged, and it can be hard to see where God fits in with this new normal. In times like these, hope can be a powerful source of reassurance. Many who are locked at home, others who are working to help and prevent the virus, also need the reassurance and the hope that **“We shall overcome this”**. The pandemic is aggravating the inequalities already present in our societies; as the poor and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters risk being neglected, excluded and forgotten. Each of us is invited, in fact, to work daily for the building of an ever more just, fraternal and united world. This year's COVID Christmas could actually be an opportunity for us to rediscover or better celebrate the true spirit and meaning of the season.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2021**
BATTLE AGAINST COVID IN INDIA

India continues to battle the pandemic; the economic impact has been devastating on our vulnerable communities. The country has lost 1.5 million to COVID-19 and more than ten million have been confirmed to the virus. We are desperately trying to address their pressing needs. We distributed free food kits and hygienic products. Your generosity has saved many children from malnutrition and hunger.

With your generosity, more than 5,055 families from 150 villages benefitted through our relief packages. Food packages contained rice, oil, dal, chili, coriander, turmeric powder, mustard, garlic, sugar, salt, etc. Hygienic products were also distributed to them along with masks and sanitisers. Our work depends on friends like you who care about our life-transforming work.

IMPACT OF OUR RELIEF EFFORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>FAMILIES BENEFITED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chennai Metro City</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kanchipuram District</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Villupuram District</td>
<td>2189</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pondicherry Union</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Thiruvannamalai District</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Perambalur District</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5055</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ONLINE EDUCATION AT ST. PATRICK’S

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. Children have been experiencing trauma and nightmares due to the lock-down and isolation. Our teachers have engaged these children with online classes although many kids could not afford to have smart phones and internet facility. Your sponsorship of children is a great help to continue our schooling this year. 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.

GIFT OF EDUCATION

SPONSOR A CHILD $30 PER MONTH
$360 PER YEAR
COMMUNITY HEALTH AT ST. MARY’S

We are proud to serve the local rural communities for the last fifteen years in providing basic health care through St. Mary's Health Center at Odiyathur. We now have a team of physician, nurses, lab tech and pharmacist. Patients from nearby villages come to us for treatment as the care is both affordable and qualitative. We give them health education and conduct medical camps to give awareness of health issues. Although leprosy has been routed out in most parts of India, still we support people who suffer from leprosy and other skin diseases.

At St. Patrick’s Community College, we offer two years of training in Medical Lab Tech and Nursing Assistance for 18 students. This is excellent for our youth who are first starting out in the job market.

SUPPORTING THE WIDOWS & GYPSIES: AN OUTREACH

We provide 150 widows with opportunities and training that would support their livelihood through micro finance. We offer loans and support their business such as milk cooperative, grocery store, food stall and clothes. We have helped them with 70 individual homes to live with dignity and self-esteem. Can you please afford to provide a home for the poor at a cost of $2500?

We are very happy to share the joy and happiness of Gypsies who are the marginalized and stigmatized community at Tindivanam. There are 115 families who face discrimination that translates into low education, low economic status and lack of appropriate access to health care. As they lacked drinking water for a long time, a borewell was now drilled for them with a tank. Can you please donate a borewell just for $1500?

HOME FOR THE DESTITUTE: A NEW INITIATIVE IN 2021

India has a population of more than 340 million destitute and homeless. Poverty is an ongoing reality. They are deprived of basic necessities of life such as food, water, housing and health care. We are launching a home for the aged and destitute mostly for women in January 2021 at Acharapakkam. We provide love and care along with room and board. Dalit Solidarity is a beacon of hope for the poor. Can you please join us on board with just $50 per month to care for them?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SELFLESS CONTRIBUTION.

EMPOWER WIDOWS

SUPPORT A WIDOW WITH A COW $600
AND TWO GOATS $300
As the year is winding up, please consider us in making your **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE YEAR-END DONATION** of cash, stocks or other liquidities to Dalit Solidarity. Small or large, your donation will pave the way to a bright and limitless future for our children. Remember us in your Will and help the good works live on. Your support will enable us to continue our mission. You can further help us by enrolling yourself for matching funds by your company if such plan is available. For more information please contact us.

Through your generosity and kindness to our 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity, you give the poor a chance to break through generational cycles of poverty and oppression. All donations to Dalit Solidarity are tax-deductible.

You can also donate online 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 bless you and your loved ones during this holy season of Christmas and New Year 2021. **Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year!**

Yours Truly

Father Ben Chinnappan

**GIFT A SAFE HOME**

**PROVIDE A SAFE FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR: $2500**