

Saturday, 26 March 2005

Dear Father Jeyakumar

It was good to talk to you yesterday and you caught me in the nick of time as I was leaving for UK where I had just arrived. Please go ahead and spend £5,000 towards rehabilitation and normalising of situation on the ground for AL students and any other similar normalising projects in North East, especially in Fr. James Pathinathar's area.

I am glad that we established contact and was advised by Fr. Gerard Saverimuttu of your organisation and its good work.

I await your bank details so that we can transfer the monies electronically without any delay.

Whilst in Sri Lanka (22nd March) we funded Bishop of Battaramulla £5,000 towards buying electric tools for carpenters in the area to get them back to work. We also gave £1,100 to Holy Family nuns outside BATTI who are running an excellent centre for learning disabled children. We have also funded a new vocational training centre in MAVADIVEMPU (EAST) for mentally ill patients and for general use by the local community (£10,000). The last initiative is going to be developed by Dr. Ganeshan who is the only psychiatrist in the East of Sri Lanka.

We have also funded in full (£11,000) a start of an orphanage in Trincomalee or Amparai for 30 children and its ongoing costs which will be borne by monthly contributions from 25 of my batch mates from 1982/1983 Colombo medical graduates.

We have also funded Prof Somasunderam (£5,000) towards his post-tsunami counselling work in the North and UK- Sri Lanka Trauma group (£5,000) towards its psychological work in mainly Southern Sri Lanka though it has to be acknowledged that they have done some good work in the North and East as well.

Last project we funded whilst in Sri Lanka was a community Psychiatry Initiative in Kalutara in the South of Sri Lanka by Prof Nalaka Mendis to the tune of £5,000.

All of the above work was undertaken through a combination of personal efforts with a support of some friends and a body called South Asian Psychiatrists Forum of which I am the current Chairman.

Finally we (Dr. Sherva Cooray, Dr. Somasunderam and myself) have had good meeting with Galle based psychiatrists and have explored many areas of collaboration and will be doing ongoing work in the South which will be our next project. This we intend to do through the Sri Lankan Psychiatrists Association of which I am an active member. There is a special Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Markar which will take a lead in this area.

My regards to you and Fr. Pathinathar.

Best Wishes

Prof R N Mohan  
Chair of the South Asian Psychiatrists Forum