



Date: March 25, 2021

OUR LOVING SPONSORS OF CHILDREN AT PURI,

On behalf of the loving children you have sponsored at BEATRIX SCHOOL, I extend to you very warm and loving wishes of **EASTER**. May the Risen Lord give you his peace and love in abundance. This year the children have not been able to attend class for the whole year. As the Schools have been indefinitely closed, all the children are supplied with text books in their homes by the School Teachers. Our efforts at online classes had to be discontinued, as 80% of our children could not afford a smart phone. We are in touch with the children over telephone to know of their well being.



SCHOOL REOPENING...

Regular classes started for Class IX & X in the first week of February, 2021 under strict observance of Covid guidelines. Government declared that the final examinations for these 2 classes will be conducted from **3 May, 2021** after completing 100 days of class room teaching. The School premises were sanitized before opening the classes. Thermal screening of the teachers & each child has to be recorded as they enter the School and the same has to be uploaded to the Education Department daily. Since we have over 60 students in each class, we divided the class in two sections to ensure distance is maintained in the seating arrangements in the class. It took some time for the children and teachers to get used to the changed situation.

The latest information from the Education department says, all children from Class 1 - 8 will be promoted to the next class without any examination. But, there is no clarity as to when the Schools will finally open. I feel very sad for children at the loss of one precious one year. How they will adjust to class room study after such a long break is a cause of serious concern.



RENOVATION OF OLD SCHOOL BUILDING...

We utilized the lean time in the school to attend to some pending works at the School. The major work that we undertook was the renovation of the very first block of Beatrix School constructed by Father Marian in 1983. Six class rooms of 19' x 16' dimension were merged to make 3 large rooms. The first room is converted into the Boys' Hostel dormitory, second room as the study room for Hostel boys and the third room as a meeting hall for class wise

Parent-Teacher meetings. With floor tiles, new doors & windows fitted with grills and a fresh paint, the block has a beautiful look. The total cost of renovation of the old school cost € 12,000.



FATHER MARIAN CHILDREN'S PARK...

The 'Play Area' of the little kids of the school was lying unused since the time I came here in 2016. My one wish was to restore this important area of the school to provide a place for play and fun for the little kids. The abandoned play and amusement fixtures were restored with great care. With the procuring of the necessary fixtures for these sets, and painting with attractive colours FATHER MARIAN CHILDREN'S PARK is waiting for the kids to return to school. The restoration works of re-commissioning of the children's park cost € 2500.



FIRE SAFETY & LIGHTENING ARRESTER INSTALLATION IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING...

Taking advantage of the available time, we also installed Fire Safety System in the School. The existing overhead water tank with 15,000 litre capacity has been set aside for the necessary water supply to the fire safety system. Alternative water tank is installed for the supply of water to the School & hostel use. We also installed the 'Lightening Arrester' devise in the school to ward off any damages to the computers and other equipments of the school. Fire Safety devise cost us € 2500 and the lightening arrester system € 1250 respectively.



SOLAR POWER REINSTALLED...

During cyclone Fani, along with other damages to the school structure, 40 Solar panels of the 10 KW Solar Power station at Beatrix School were completely blown away by the Cyclonic storm in May 2019. It took about 10 months for us to find a source to replace the solar panels at a cost of € 5300. Though the power station was re-commissioned with the installation of the new solar panels, due to the long gap of 10 months of lying idle, the solar batteries were damaged beyond repairs and the solar power system failed completely once again. Finally, with the generous support of MAITRI, POLAND, we were able to purchase 10 numbers of – 200 AH Solar Batteries at the cost of € 2300. With the installation of the new batteries, the 10 KW Solar power station at Beatrix School is functioning again. The whole school campus, including the hostel facilities are on solar power now.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE...

Past 3 months have been very hectic with all these works. Presently, carpenters are busy repairing the broken furniture of the School and getting ready with the required additional desk-benches for the new session. Major costs of the restoration work of the old school building and the total cost of the new Solar batteries has been generously supported by the financial assistance received from MAITRI, POLAND. Your sacrifices and love has made it possible to provide all these facilities for the poor children in our care. Please accept children's and my personal gratitude. Accompanying pictures of the works mentioned above will give you a feeling of satisfaction that your partnership and support has made it possible for us to fulfil the needs of Beatrix School & Hostel.



OTHER CONCERNS OF THE SCHOOL...

We appointed a new science teacher from 4 March 2021 for the high school section in place of a teacher who left the school due to her marriage. We still have a vacancy in the primary section due to the retirement of a teacher in January 2020. We shall fill up the vacancy when normal classes resume. The High School has obtained eligibility to receive government aid for the teachers. We have submitted the application for 'Grant-in -Aid' for the School and it is under government's consideration. Do pray that our application gets the necessary approval of the government.



LEPROSY CARE CONCERNS...

Other Leprosy care works of Karunalaya Leprosy Care Centre have been carried on during the year without any break, in spite of the anxiety caused by Covid 19. The Hospital has continued its good service of compassionate care of the victims. 40 Mercy Kitchen beneficiaries have been supported through the year with nutritious diet. The 'cup of milk' program is supporting 70 children in the Colony while 'egg a day' has been discontinued as the government has introduced a new program for the supply of eggs to children in the young age group.



EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC IN PURI...

With the return of tourists and pilgrims to the city, life in Puri seems to be normal. Jagannath Temple has undergone a big face lift. All the shops and buildings in the temple vicinity for 75 meters have been razed to the ground and a corridor has been constructed round the Temple for free access and movement. Suddenly the Temple area looks completely different and the devotees can view the magnificent look of the Temple without any hazards. Likewise the Temple administration has also streamlined the visit of the devotees by introducing queue system for the entry into the Temple.



PURI - BEGGAR FREE ZONE...

One remarkable change in Puri is stopping of begging. People who have visited Puri will have memories of beggars crowding all over the streets and city squares. Begging is a thing of the past now. During the time of the pandemic, taking advantage of the ban on tourists visiting Puri and the closure of the Temple for public worship the administration came heavily on people begging on the streets. With a declared motto of 'beggar free zone in Puri' the government rounded up anyone found begging in Puri and put them up at the exclusive rehabilitation facilities created for them.

Karunalaya Rehabilitation Centre where Coir & Jute units were functioning were requisitioned by the local administration to set up one such rehab centre. We were asked to extend our hand in co-operation to the local civic administration to establish this centre to rehabilitate beggars suffering from Hansen's disease at this place due to its vicinity to the leprosy colony. Due to this demand of the administration, we had to painfully close the rehabilitation centre that provided for livelihood for many victim families from the colony for over 35 years. 40 persons found begging on the streets or at the temple square are housed at this facility. All their needs are taken care of by the local administration.

During the past one year I am sure, your energies too are drained by the restrictions and crisis caused by Corona virus. We all have faced the testing times with courage. I share with you your pain and agony experienced during this period either due to loss of job, financial crisis, ill health and in some cases loss of the dear ones.



A GLIMPSE ON THE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES...



At Easter time

I EXTEND TO YOU GREETINGS OF PEACE AND JOY
THAT ONLY THE RISEN LORD CAN GIVE US.

MAY THIS EASTER ALSO HERALD A NEW BEGINNING FOR EVERYONE
BY REMOVING THE FEAR OF COVID 19 FROM OUR MINDS AND
MAY WE ALL LIVE IN A WORLD FREE OF CORONA.



BE ASSURED OF A PERSONAL THOUGHT AND PRAYER AT EASTER VIGIL
FOR EACH OF YOU CONNECTED WITH **BEATRIX SCHOOL MISSION**.
MAY THE RISEN LORD KEEP YOU IN HIS TENDER CARE
AND BLESS YOU WITH HIS PEACE.

Happy Easter

Your Loving

Fr. Baptist, SVD

Fr. Baptist D' Souza, SVD