



GRAMA JYOTHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
Registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable
Societies

Registration Act, 1955
No T. 3117 of 2004
NALANCHIRA P. O.
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695015

Annual Report 2010-2011

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“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.”
(Ps 28:7)

The Managing Committee of the Grama Jyothi National Institute For The Differently Abled has great pleasure in presenting for your consideration and approval, the 7th Annual Report, Audited Accounts for the year 2010-2011 and Budget for the year 2011-2012.

SMALL BEGININGS:

With the blessings, support and encouragement given by His grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa (Diocesan Bishop, Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church) the society “Grama Jyothi National Institute For The Differently Abled” got registered on Wednesday, 3rd November, 2004 under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act-1955. Registration No is T.3117 /2004. The Society started its functioning with a donation from Mr. Thomas Mammen and Mrs. Anamika Thomas in memory of their late parents (Mr. Ajoy Kumar Ghose, Ms. Sushila Rudra & Mr. and Mrs. C.C.Mammen Charivukalayil Kumbanad). All expenditures initially were met from this amount.

This society is formed and registered with the sole purpose of giving necessary support and help to the Differently Abled so as to make their life more easy and comfortable. We strive to help them to get the necessary acceptance and recognition in the society. We train them to be independent as far as possible. In a nutshell, we aim to make the Differently Abled an asset instead of a liability to the community.

The motto of our Society is “LOVE LIGHTS LIFE”.

REGISTRATIONS & APPROVALS

...So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow”
(1Cor. 3:7)

By the Grace of God, our society has got the following registrations & approvals:

- Registration **u/s 12 A (a) of the Income Tax Act 1961** with effect from 16-12-2005
- Registration from the **Director of Public Instruction** (Education Department) Government of Kerala for running the Grama Jyothi Special School.

- Registration under Section 6 (1) (a) of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976(FCRA)** from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India w.e.f 11-07-2008.
- **Exemption u/s 80G (5) (i) to (vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961** to our society w.e.f 1-04-08 vide orderNo.302/ADIT(E)05/08-09/2009-10 dated 24-11-2009.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 6th Annual General Body meeting of the Grama Jyothi Society was held at 4 P.M on Saturday, 18th September, 2010 at the Grama Jyothi Special School Nalanchira. Rev. T. J. Abraham, President of the society presided the meeting. Annual Report, Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2010 and the Budget for 2010-11 was approved and passed unanimously.

M/s Thomas Jacob & Co has been appointed as our auditors for the year 2010-2011. The General Body unanimously requested the existing managing committee to continue for the next three years - 2010 to 2013.

MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rev T. J. Abraham	:	President
Rev K. E. Geevargese	:	Vice president
Mr Thomas Mammen	:	Secretary
Mr Thomas Chacko	:	Treasurer
Dr W. Alexander	:	Committee member
Mr John C. Kurien	:	Committee member
Mrs Anamika Thomas	:	Committee member

During the year 2010-2011 the Managing Committee met **Five** times and took necessary steps for the growth and development of the Grama Jyothi Special School.

FINANCE

The Society meets its expenditure to manage the Grama Jyothi Special School from the donations received from friends, relatives and well wishers that come in from time to time. List of Donors for the period 1-04-10 to 31-03-2011 is included in this report as annexure. ***We place our humble request to all our friends, well wishers and relatives to extend a helping hand for this noble cause. You can help us directly, individually or through your activity groups, organizations, institutions etc. Now because of the price escalation in every sphere of life, the average monthly expenditure per student has also gone up drastically. We now require minimum Rs. 2500/- per month to sponsor a child. We solicit your whole hearted support.***

THE GRAMA JYOTHI SPECIAL SCHOOL

At present the major activity of this Society is managing the Grama Jyothi Special School for the benefit of the differently abled children (Mentally Challenged). During the academic year 2010-11 there were 31 students on our roll. To manage the daily affairs of the school, we have a Principal, an Administrative Assistant, four specially trained teachers, one pre-primary trained teacher, two Ayahs, Speech-therapist and two drivers. The school provides free food, free coaching and free transportation to all students. Uniforms are also provided to the poorest of the poor.

We are grateful to God Almighty for providing us with a team of dedicated staff. We appreciate their sincerity and commitment. It is only because of their dedication that we have been able to maintain a high standard at school.

Our school re-opened for the academic year 2010-11 on 2nd June, 2010 and closed on 31st March, 2011 for the summer vacation.

P. T. A. MEETINGS & COUNSELLING

During this academic year, **eight** PTA meetings were held. In these sessions there was a healthy interaction between the parents, teachers and management so as to enable everyone to get the best positive growth and development for each student. Smt. Litty Jose, Rev. David P. Titus, Rev. M. P. Solomon, students of the Hospital Guidance & Counseling Centre & Dr Aleyamma Simon provided invaluable tips to the parents & counseled them as a group and also on a one to one basis.

ONAM CELEBRATIONS

We are grateful to the Principal, Mrs. Mary Mathew, teachers, the students of the Primary section and the members of the social Service Club of St. Thomas Higher Secondary School for visiting our school & presenting cultural items such as *Onampattu*, *Thirvathira* etc which made the Grama Jyothi students

ecstatic. It was sheer joy to see their radiant smiles. Our school students were amused to see *Mahabali* in his royal attire with the *Olakkuda* (umbrella made of palm leaf). They were also thrilled with the 'goodies' received.

Our School celebrated Onam on 20-08-10. The students helped by the teachers had fun making the *Pookalam* (floral carpet) and decorating the school. Parents also came to participate in the Onam programme. Rev. George Jose (Bishop's & Diocesan Secretary) inaugurated the programme. Message was given by Mr. Christie George, of Gems Foundation. Rev.T. Jacob Thomas & Rev. Mathew John also blessed the occasion by their presence. Visitors from in & around Trivandrum as well as abroad were also present. For the first time a cultural programme for Onam was put up by our students which included a skit, *vanchipattu*, *pullikali* etc. It was well appreciated by all. This was followed by an *Onam Sadya* (traditional vegetarian feast). It was a happy, memorable occasion for all.

EXHIBITION

For the first time on 20.8.2010 all the arts & craft work & vocational training products made by our students were exhibited at school. It was a proud moment for the parents.

STUDY TOURS

This year instead of taking the students for a picnic they were taken for various exhibitions & melas held in Thiruvananthapuram throughout the year.

27.7.10

Bird, animal & food *mela* organized by the Animal Husbandry Department

20.10.10

Exhibition at Shantigiri Ashram, Pothencode

13.01.11

Flower Show at Kanakakunnu Palace

08.02.11

Forest Mela at Kanakakunnu Palace

X' MAS CARDS

This year also 10 different pictures made by a few of our students, with the help of the staff were selected for printing. On 2.11.10 Mr. P.M. Abraham, (Rtd. IAS) Secretary MTCES inaugurated the distribution of the

X'mas cards by handing over packets to the school Chaplain Rev. Issac P Johnson & the Principals of STCS & STRS, Mr. George Oommen & Mr. Rajan Varghese at the STRS Auditorium in the presence of STRS students. With the support and encouragement received from following schools, parishes & institutions we were able to distribute 18000 cards.

SCHOOLS

St.Thomas Residential School
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom
St.Thomas Higher Secondary School
Sarvodaya School (ICSE), Nalanchira
Sarvodaya School (CBSE), Nalanchira
Le'cole Chempaka, Edavakode
Nirmala Bhavan HSS, Kowdiar
St Thomas Central School

PARISHES

Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Medical College
Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Paruthippara
Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, Peroorkada
St.Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Pattoor
Yuvajanasakhyam - Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Nanthencode
Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Nanthencode
Salem Mar Thoma Church Vazhuthakad
Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Mukkolakal
Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Sreekariyam

INSTITUTION

The Park Centre, Technopark

Once again our heartfelt thanks to the Managements, Principals, Staff and Students of all the schools, the Vicars and Members of the Mar Thoma Parishes and the Chief Executive & staff of the Park Centre, Technopark for extending their whole hearted support for the distribution of the greeting cards.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day was celebrated by organizing games and competitions for the students. Sweets and prizes were also distributed to them.

FOUNDER'S DAY

On 23rd November, 2010 the 6th Founder's day was celebrated at J.M.M study centre. Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Varghese, Dr. T. P. Jose, Mr. Bijoy Rudra Thomas, Mrs. Jyothi Kurian & Km. Remya, members of the Bethel MarThoma Church Choir touched the hearts of all, praising God with their melodious voices. After the opening prayer by **Rev. Jolly Thomas, Vicar, Trinity MTC, Medical College** and welcome by the **Secretary, Shri. Thomas Mammen**, the students were all set to take over the stage. They started with a **prayer song followed** by aerobic exercises, **action songs, fancy dress, cinematic dance, skit – The race of the Hare & the Tortoise.**The juniors presented an **X'mas pageant.** The highlight of the programme was the visit of **Santa, heralded by the drummer boys from Mukkolakal.** **X'mas decorations** for the hall were made by the students of Grama Jyothi Special School. **Prizes** to all the students & staff were given away by His Grace Most **Rev. Philipose Mar Chrysostom.** The **Presidential address** was given by **Rev T. J. Abraham.** Thereafter our special guest **Dr. Miss Pauline Brown, Aged 87 years a Canadian Missionary working amongst the Bhil tribes in Jobat, Indore for the last 65 years** addressed the gathering & shared her experiences in India. From her God fearing nature, indefatigable spirit & simple living we have much to imbibe. The icing on the cake was a most blessed & inspiring message by our beloved **Valiya Metapolitha.** This was followed by the release of the 5th edition of the School magazine – **Divya Prakasham – 2010** by his Grace Most **Rev. Philipose Mar Chrysostom.** **Dr. W. Alexander,**an Executive member of Grama Jyothi handed over a copy to **Valiya Thirumeni.** Thirumeni then presented the same to **Rev. David P. Titus, Assistant Vicar, Paruthipara,** who very thoughtfully gave the felicitation in Hindi. The vote of thanks was given by **Mr. John C. Kurian,**an Executive member of Grama Jyothi. The Programme came to a close with a prayer by **Rev. T. Jacob Thomas.**

X'MAS CELEBRATION

We are indebted to the Principals, staff & students of St. Thomas Higher Secondary & Christ Nagar Schools & also to the members of the Senior Citizens association for visiting our school during the festive season. At the invitation of the **SCM,** during their X'mas celebration our students put up an item at the SCM Centre, at Pattom, on 10th December, 2010. **Christmas was celebrated by the school on 23rd December, at the JMM Study Centre.** The Programme started with a Prayer by **Rev. M.P. Solomon,** followed by **Welcome by the Grama Jyothi Secretary, Mr. Thomas Mammen & the Presidential address by Rev. T. J. Abraham.** A Cultural programme was put up by the students – **Solo (Soniya), Cinematic dance & Tableau.** A thought provoking X'mas message was given by **Rev. Dr. Valsan Thampu, Principal, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.** **Mr. Alex Abraham, President, Abundant Life India, Kerala Chapter,** gave the felicitation. **Dr. Samuel Mathew, Executive Director, NISH & Mr Manoj Kumar Mishra, Vice Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom,** along with members of the staff blessed

the occasion by their presence. This was followed by a Fellowship Lunch for the guests, parents, students, staff & which was blessed by none other than our dear Diocesan Thirumeni-Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos.

The donation for sponsoring a child by the **Abundant Life India - Kerala Chapter** was handed over by Rev. Dr. Valsan Thampu to the Grama Jyothi Secretary, Mr. Thomas Mammen, on 30th December, 2010. Our sincere thanks to all those who made this possible.

Smt. Suchitra of our school received the best teachers' award from the Rotary Club. We are also grateful to the Rotary Club for providing each student with a pair of new 'party' dress which they all wore happily for our X'mas day function.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Students were taught how to make cloth & paper flowers, bowls and trays. With assistance from vocational trainers they made Candles of three different sizes & colours, washing & bathing soap, paper files, bead necklaces, earrings & perfumed cleaning lotion. We request all of you to encourage the students by promoting the items made by them & donating generously for this cause.

AUDIO TEST

We successfully organized a special Audio Check Camp for all the students with the support of NISH & Santwana Hospital on the 8th & 9th of March, to detect hearing related problems and to find ways and means to overcome them. We are grateful to the Executive Director, Dr. Samuel Mathew & the staff of NISH, the Management, Doctors & staff of Santwana Hosiptal for helping us whole-heartedly in this endeavour. On 25th February, 2011, few students under the guidance of Ms. Helga Robby Alex, coordinator NISH, visited our school as part of their study project.

VISITORS

Space does not permit us to acknowledge each one personally but we hope and pray that our sincere thanks are accepted by all individuals & groups from in and around Thiruvananthapuram, outside Kerala and across the oceans who have immensely encouraged us by their visit. Names of only a few are mentioned below.

Mr. Paul Balasundaram – Rtd Executive Director, Haggai India, Hyderabad

Mrs.& Mr. N. Balachandran Menon - (Rtd IAS & OSD to former Vice-Presidents - Mr. K. R. Nayarayan & Mr. Krishan Kant.) New Delhi.

Miss Kusum Biswas – (former Admin. Assistant, Trinity Boys High School) - Allahabad

Dr. Miss Pauline Brown (Order of Canada-CM) - Canada/Jobat, MP, India

Mr. P. Da niel & Sara Thomas - Canada

Mr. Mathew Daniel & family - Kuwait

Miss Ann Marie - France

Mrs. Koruna Varma - Hyderabad

Members of the Y's Mens Club, Thiruvananthapuram

Senior Citizen Association, Thiruvananthapuram

Condor Flats, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram

NOON MEAL

By the Grace of God we were able to start our own noon meal scheme for only the BPL students on 16th July, 2009. God blessed our small effort and this year (2010-11) our school was also included under the noon meal scheme of the Education Department of the Government of Kerala. With this support from the Government we were able to provide daily wholesome veg / non-veg meals to all the students, instead of just 'Kanji & Payar' to a few. Milk & egg was also provided under the government scheme.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

By the blessings of God Almighty we have been rewarded for our efforts, and the school's name has been included in the DPI list for providing Grant for the year 2010-11, to meet a portion of the expenditure, incurred by us for the school.

IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS

We humbly request all our well-wishers to pray sincerely, in unity and with one accord, for our dire need & to contribute generously towards purchasing a suitable plot of land and for constructing the school building.

A giant leap of faith is required at this juncture on our part. Pray that our steps may not falter and hands grow weak and that God in His mercy may provide us all with strength equal to the tasks ahead.

OUR DREAM

For the past 5 years we have been able to reach out to only a 'drop' from out of the 'ocean' of the differently abled people, in a rented building. In order to extend our scope of service on a permanent basis to a larger number of these people, our vision in the long run is to provide full-fledged hostel facilities for them.

Old age is second childhood. For these 'senior children' who have been left by their dear and near ones to face lives battle alone, we plan to establish a **home** of International standard. Our mission is to utilize their wisdom and experience for the benefit of the School. We plan to keep them occupied, and engage them in the activities of the school, so that they do not drown in loneliness and self pity.

In order to implement our vision into a reality, we require 5 to 10 hectares of land and buildings for the School, Rehabilitation Centre, Hostels, and Home for Senior Citizen etc. At present the land value in the interior village area in Thiruvananthapuram district is about Rs.60 to 65 lakh per hectare. Hence our immediate need for the project (including land and buildings) is approximately Rs.8 crore (\$2 million). The number of differently abled children and senior citizens who are in need of special attention are increasing manifold every year. We feel that it is our duty in Christ, to take up the yoke of responsibility to do something for the benefit of the neglected, downtrodden and the needy. 'Grama Jyothi National Institute For The Differently Abled' was formed with this firm conviction – i.e. doing His service for the benefit of the underprivileged. We request our relatives, friends and well wishers, social organizations, institutions and agencies all over the world to join us to make this dream a reality, by contributing magnanimously with their time, effort, finances and above all their sincere prayers.

OBITUARY

With overwhelming grief we report the sad demise of our dear little student Jishnu (8 years) on Sunday, 27th February, 2011. He came to us at the age of 4 years, unable to walk. Dragging himself on his back-side & barely able to stand, he collected his first prize from Valiya Methrapolitha, Philipose Mar Chrysostom at the Founders day celebration in 2007. The years with us saw him steadily improve & bloom into a sprightly, smiling, singing flower. His progress was acknowledged by one and all as he happily rode the tri-cycle in a jokers fancy dress attire on stage, at our last Founder's day celebration,(23rd Nov. 2010) at which once again His Grace Most Rt. Rev. Philipose Mar Chrysostom was the Chief Guest.

ANNUAL DAY

The School Annual day was celebrated at the JMM Study Centre on 28.3.2011 on Rev. T. J. Abraham's Birthday. After the opening Prayer by Rev. George Jose, condolence for Jishnu by Rev. T. J. Abraham & welcome by Secretary, Mr. Thomas Mammen, the students put up a cultural programme.(Christian Devotional Songs, action songs & cinematic dance) Progress sheets of the students were handed over to the parents by the Adm. Assistant Mrs. Susan Jacob. Rev. T. J. Abraham presented a photo album of Jishnu to his parents. Financial support by the members of the Sreekariyam YMCA was handed over to Jishnu's parents by Dr. W. Alexander.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank our Almighty God for all the Blessings showered upon us during all these past years. **We praise Him for going before us, for His everlasting arms underneath us and His Grace and Mercy following us in the past and the days to come.**

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our beloved **Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos Thirumeni** who found time to guide and encourage us in this endeavor. We are also grateful to **Thirumeni** and the **members of the committee**, for allowing us to use the facilities at the **JMM Study Centre** for our programmes free of cost and also for granting permission to park the School van at the premises.

Our sincere gratitude to our President **T. J. Abraham Achen** for his whole hearted support, help, guidance and service rendered daily for the smooth functioning of the Grama Jyothi Special School. We request everyone to pray for his good health and happiness.

Our sincere thanks to each and everyone who has supported and contributed whole-heartedly with their prayers, talents, advice, time and donations in cash and kind, without which we could not have functioned effectively and reached this far. However there are still innumerable milestones to be reached and for which we humbly solicit your prayers and support in the future also. We praise and thank God for using each one of you as bricks for the building of His Kingdom.

In the end, once again we thank God for both the trials and blessings, taking them as divinely forces, pressing on with faith and patience believing that on Christ the solid Rock we stand.

For and on behalf of the Managing committee.