



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.

4th ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008

The Managing Committee of the Grama Jyothi National Institute For The Differently Abled has great pleasure in presenting for your consideration and approval, the 4th Annual Report, Audited Accounts for the year 2007-2008 and Budget for the year 2008-2009. The Annual Report though dealing primarily with events from 1- 04 - 2007 to 31 - 03- 2008, also includes significant developments from April to July 2008.

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works.
Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord.”

(PSALMS 105: 1-3.)

Genesis With the blessings, support and encouragement given by His grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa (Diocesan Bishop, Thirvananthapuram-Kollam Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church) the society “Grama Jyothi National Institute For The Differently Abled” got registered on Wednesday, 3rd November, 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 has got registration u/s 12A (a) of the Income Tax Act 1961 with effect from 16-12-2005 At present the major activity of the society is managing the Grama Jyothi Special School for the benefit of the Differently Abled Children (Mentally Challenged) for which our society has obtained necessary registration from the Directorate of Public Instruction (Education Department).

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

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 3rd Annual General Body meeting of the Grama Jyothi Society was held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 25th September, 2007 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, 2007 and the Budget for 2008-09 was approved and passed unanimously.

Election to the Managing Committee.

The General Body unanimously elected the existing Managing Committee members for another term of three years.

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

At present the total membership is 18 under individual category.

FINANCE

Now the Grama Jyothi Special School is meeting it's expenditure from the donations received from friends, relatives and well wishers that come in from time to time. List of Donors for the period 1-04-07 to 31-03-08 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. Required Rs 1500/- per month to sponsor a child. We solicit your whole hearted support.*

Managing Committee Meetings

During the year 2007-2008 the Managing Committee met six times and took necessary steps for the growth and development of the Grama Jyothi Special School.

THE GRAMA JYOTHI SPECIAL SCHOOL is for Differently Abled kids between the ages of 5 to 18 who have a low I.Q. The school provides a structured environment where individual attention and guidance is given at all times. The first academic session of the Grama Jyothi Special School started on 2nd June, 2005 with 2 special kids with multiple disabilities. At present the strength is 20. However due to the apathy and ignorance of parents and ill health of students, their average attendance during the year was 10. This school provides free coaching and free transportation.

During the year, on the pay roll we had the following staff.

- 1 Administrative assistant
- 2 Trained teachers
- 2 Ayahs
- 1 Physiotherapist
- 1 Speech therapist
- 1 Driver

We are grateful to God almighty for providing us with a team of dedicated staff. We appreciate their sincerity and commitment because of which we have been able to maintain the high standard of the school.

School Opening- 4th June, 2007
School Closing - 29th March, 2008

PROGRAMMES & EVENTS

P. T. A. MEETINGS

P.T.A. meetings were regularly conducted during the academic year 2007-2008. During 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. Counseling and guidance was also provided to the parents.

ONAM CELEBRATIONS

We are grateful to the Principal, Mrs. Mary Mathew, the Primary section and the members of the social service club of St. Thomas Higher Secondary School who under the leadership of the Headmistress Mrs. Lenu Thomas and teachers visited our school on 13-08-07. Cultural items such as OnamPattu, Pulikali, Thiruvathira etc were put up by them 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 24-08-07. The students helped by the teachers had fun making the 'pookalam' (floral carpet) and decorating the school. 'Payasm' was prepared at school and distributed to all.

PICNIC

On 7.9.07 the management, staff, parents and students went for a picnic to Akkulam children's park. It was a first time experience for many a parent and child. Everyone enjoyed climbing, sliding, hanging, swinging, rocking etc. Many of the students in the excitement of the moment unconsciously responded with unexpected improved responses and actions, which we all would never have dreamt of, to see in them, in the daily school settings.

COUNSELLING

On 30.10.07 the management arranged for **Rev Chacko P. George** to come and take a session for the parents and teachers. Many parents utilized the opportunity to clear their doubts and problems. It was a fruitful interactive session.

During the month of December **Dr. Elizabeth** and **Smt Neena**, Psychologist, spent a day at school. They observed the students and interacted with the parents giving them valuable advice and suggestions.

X' MAS CARDS

With the support and encouragement received from various schools and the experience and confidence which we acquired through the previous year's X'mas card sale, the management this time decided to print ten thousand X'mas cards. 10 different pictures made by a few of our students, with the help of the staff were selected for printing. On 30th October, 2007 our dear **Rtd. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa** (Diocesan Bishop, Thirvananthapuram- Kollam Diocese of the MarThoma Church) inaugurated the sale of X'mas cards by giving a packet to **Shri M.D Philoman**, (Secretary, Mar Thoma Church Educational Society) in the presence of vicars and priests of the Mar Thoma Church in Trivandrum District, at the Immanuel MarThoma Church, Paruthippara. The following schools and parishes helped us in a big way to sell the X'mas cards. We are thankful and grateful to all.

Schools

St. Thomas Central School
St.Thomas Residential School
Sarvodaya School
Le'cole Chempaka, Edavakode
St.Thomas Higher Secondary School
Madras Christian College, Tambaram
St.Thomas B.Ed training College
Navajeevan Bethany School

Parishes

Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Nanthancode
St.Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Pattor
Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Paruthippara
Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Medical College
Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, Peroorkada
Brethren Assembly, Pattom
Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Mukkolakal
Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Sreekariyam

Our heart felt thanks to all the managements, Principals, staff and students of the schools, the vicars and members of the Mar Thoma Parishes in and around Thirvananthapuram city and the Brethern Assembly, Pattom for extending their whole hearted support for the sale of the X'mas cards.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Sidharth Oommen, Vivek Vallakalil and Sujoy Mammen Thomas, brought joy and happiness to the children by spending the whole day at school and joining in the games and competitions organized by the staff. The large heartedness of **Sidharth** in donating his CD player and setting it up for them with **Vivek** on Children's day itself was a gesture which made a special place in the hearts of all present. The radiant beams on each one's face and their effortless clapping to the music was a reward received in full measure. Meera's dancing and Ajanshas drumming abilities were discovered as an outcome of this impromptu event.

FOUNDER'S DAY

On 26th November 2007 the 3rd Founder's day was celebrated at J.M.M study centre. The day will be recorded in the history of our society with golden letters as it was graced by none other than our most beloved **His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom, the Valiya Metropolitha of the Mar Thoma Church, as Chief guest**. We consider ourselves blessed, that **His Grace** made the special effort to travel all the way from Thiruvalla, despite poor health at that time, to bless a school with small beginnings and to encourage the initiative taken by a few of his flock. The golden message from the golden tongue was thought provoking, an eye opener, interlaced with his usual humour, lightening the hearts of all especially the heavy burdened parents – "... these special children are God's gift and we the normal people are 'handicapped' to understand them in the sight of God".

Mr. A.J. Cherian & friends and **Mrs. Rachel Varkey** touched the hearts of all by using their God given talents of melodious voices for His Glory. After the opening prayer by **Rev.T.P.Koshy** (Vicar, Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Paruthippara) and welcome by the Secretary Sri. **Thomas Mammen**, the students were all set to take over the stage with the X'mas pageant, prayer song, action songs and story telling. **The X'mas decorations for the hall were made by the students of Grama Jyothi Special School**. The rewards for their hard labour were indeed doubly sweet as **Santa Claus** came laden with gifts and sweets which were given to them by the Valiya Metropolitha. Presidential address was given by **Rev. T. J. Abraham**. Felicitations were rendered by **Rev.K.V.Mathew** (Bishop's Secretary Thiruvananthapuram Kollam Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church) and **Dr. Daphene Gomez**, Principal, Le'cole Chempaka. After the vote of thanks by **Mrs. Kanchana Alexander** (Principal GramaJyothi Special School) the programme came to a close with a prayer by **Rev. Thomas K. Jacob** (Vicar Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church Nanthancode).

The 2nd edition of the School Magazine **Divya Prakasham 07** was released by Valiya Metropolitha and the first copy was handed over to **Rev. Oommen V. Varkey** (Associate Director J.M.M Study centre) It is not only a pictorial representation highlighting the step by step growth of the institution and the achievements of the students from its inception but also this time included inspiring messages, articles from eminent personalities, students and friends who visited the school. It also includes the annual report and the details of the donations received. 1000 copies were published and circulated.

X'MAS, NEW YEAR AND ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

30 -11-2007 ushered a new milestone in the lives of the students of the Grama Jyothi Special School. It was at the invitation of the **Principal, Staff and the outgoing students (std XII) of the St. Thomas Central School** that our students for the first time stepped out of their school boundary and had a peep into the world of a normal school by sharing the stage with them for the X'mas celebrations. We are very grateful to the Std. XII (2007-08) students, especially **Ishana Mariyam Biju** and the Principal and staff for taking the initiative and giving our children a wonderful and memorable experience and also for selling the highest number of X'mas cards.

We are also indebted to the staff & students of **St. Thomas Residential School** and **St. Thomas Training College** who visited our school during the festive season to share their joy and happiness of Christmas.

On **19th December** the President, General Secretary and Board members of the **Thiruvananthapuram Y.M.C.A** visited the school and handed over the contribution under their community programme.

On **14-03-08** at an ecumenical retreat, jointly organized by the ABUNDANT LIFE-INDIA, YMCA, YWCA and BIBLE SOCIETY held at the YMCA hall, a donation by the **Abundant Life - India** for Grama Jyothi Special School was handed over by **His Grace Elias Mar Athanasios Metropolitan** of Jacobite Syrian Church to the secretary Thomas Mammen.

On **5th January 2008** we celebrated X'mas, New Year and Annual Day at the school premises with the active participation of the Udayannur Residence Association. The following dignitaries graced the function. **Prof. M.V. Abraham**, (President URA) **Shri.V. Sathesachandran Nair**, (Deputy Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Government of India) **Shri.B.SudhakaranNair**(Grama Panchayat),**Shri. T. K Bhaskarapaniker** (President FRAT) **Shri. B. Subash** (Vice President Kudappanakunnu Grama Panchayat).

Mrs. Rosamma Thomas & family and the **URA team** entertained the gathering with Carols and distributing of sweets by Santa Claus.

SCHOOL BUS

By the Grace of God we were able to purchase a School Bus (Traveler 17+D) for a total cost of Rs. 6,53,000/- by availing a term loan of Rs 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand) from the Canara Bank on 4th August, 2006. This amount was to be repaid within a period of **72 months**. However, God Almighty, in His grace and mercy, used many as His instruments and abundantly blessed us to **clear the loan liability in full within a short span of 18 months**. We have been witnessing over and over again the unseen hand of God Almighty working amidst us. We praise and thank God for making the impossible, possible and turning our dreams into realities.

SOCIAL SERVICE

For the first time, the Society extended its services to few of the aged friends residing at Eventide who had been longing for an outing. We are happy to have been able to fulfill their desire by providing transportation and support by taking them to Church and Veli park for a picnic.

REGISTRATION UNDER FCRA – A MIRACLE.

Amidst great discouragement we applied for registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act on 11th January 2008. We faced hurdles at each stage, and never in our wildest dreams did we expect to get the registration so fast. All we can do, is once again, give praise and thanks and proclaim that our living God is Almighty, wonderful and faithful in answering our prayers. We can boldly say “if **God is for us who can be against us**”. Exactly within six months i.e. on 11th July 2008, our society has got registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

OUR VISION AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS

God’s faithfulness and His miracles in the past have emboldened us to attempt greater things for Christ in the future. The rehabilitation of the mentally challenged is a burning need of the community. After the parent’s lifetime, the differently abled become a liability for the community. Thus the rehabilitation of the Mentally Challenged, Differently abled children and the aged is the need of the hour. For the past 4 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 people, our urgent requirement is to accommodate the school in a spacious campus with full-fledged hostel facilities for girls / ladies and boys/gents.

Old age is the second childhood. To utilize their wisdom and experience for the benefit of the community and to keep them occupied, we plan to involve them with the activities of the school, so that they do not drown in loneliness and self pity. For this we plan to establish a home for the senior citizens who have been left alone, to face the battles of the life at this late age, by their children, who have left them and gone in search of greener pastures.

In order to implement our vision into a reality, we require 15 to 20 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 and finances. Keeping in mind God's promise "**HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED FOR THE POOR; AND WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE POOR, IT IS LIKE LENDING TO THE LORD AND THE LORD WILL PAY YOU BACK**" (Psalms 41:1, Proverbs 19: 17).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank our Almighty God for all His Blessings showered upon us during all these years. **We praise Him for going before us, for His precious blood all over 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 heartfelt gratitude to our beloved **Dr.Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa** for his love and blessings showered upon our students and for his support and encouragement to us. We are also grateful to Thirumeni and the Associate Director, Rev. Oommen V. Varkey and 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. We place on record our immense gratitude to our President beloved T. J. Abraham Achen and dear Kochamma for their unflinching support, help, guidance and service rendered daily for the smooth functioning of the Grama Jyothi Special School. We request everyone to pray for their good health and happiness.

Our sincere gratitude also goes out to Shri.V. Satheesachandran Nair, (Deputy Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Government of India, Nalanchira) for his timely support and advice. We are also indebted to Shri M.D Philoman & Sri Mathew John (Secretary & Treasurer of Mar Thoma Church Educational Society), Principals of three Schools and Training College - Mrs. Achamma Zachariah, Mr. George Oommen, Mrs. Mary Mathew, Dr.Ajitha Nair, staff, students, and the transport supervisor Sri, P.V Oommen for their encouragement and support at each step throughout the year.

We take this opportunity to appreciate and thank a few of the prominent volunteers who have helped us silently in many ways. Mrs. Elsamma John & Miss. Feby John, Mrs. Tetsy Varkey, Miss Ann Santhosh, Dr. K.M Rajan, Mr. Lalan John, Mr. Thomas Cherian, Mr. Joseph Oommen, Mr. C.G Mathew, Vivek Vallakalil, Denny Cherian Thomas, Suman Philip John, Jith Varghese Ninan, Aby John and Ezra Chacko

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.

CONCLUSION

"What am I to do? I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good work, therefore, any kindness, or any service I can render through any soul of man ..., let me do it now. Let me not neglect or defer it, for I shall not pass this way again." Let us all therefore remember that

“Everyday that comes to us is a gift of mercy. It is an opportunity to develop ourselves; to render some service to our fellowmen; to take one step nearer to God.”

For and on behalf of the Managing Committee

Thomas Mammen



“If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated.”

(Luke 6:38)

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