

22.12.2018

“He protects me(us) like a shield:

He defends me(us) and Keeps me(us) safe.” Psalm 18:2

Our Dear and Revered Madam,

Loving and Prayerful greetings to you in the Holy Name of Our Savior Jesus Christ. We praise and thank the Lord for what God has done, all favors, provided, nothing we lacked all through the past year, happily we celebrate because of the generous people like you.

With much tearful sadness, we inform that the heart breaking natural disaster hit the worst by the recent ‘Gaja’ Cyclone and heavy destruction in our Bethlehem Orphan Children Home, the whole big compound at Pattukkottai and the heavy damages are as follows:

The Big Name Board felled away and front Grill-Gate has been bended. The two tiled roofs of the first floor of Bungalow building were broken and most of the tiles flied away. The first floor- two big rooms are Guest room and Staff room. As the roofs are opened full rain water comes down in to the ground floor which has prayer room, office room, sick room, and staff room. -The staircase is wooden-made and soaking with water. The roof has to be covered and the wooden staircase to be saved.

Dormitory No.3 – Previously Dining Hall – the tiled roof has been broken and the tiles flied away. As the roof now opened no safety and full of rain water inside. The outside small kitchen AC shed fell down and it is very difficult for cooking outside. Backside compound wall has been broken in 4 places and opened and it is unsafe for the girl children at present. Bathroom and Toilet blocks are also damaged.

80% trees such as Coconut grove, 14 big and small Mango trees, Jackfruits, Sapota, Sandal wood, Neem trees, Tamarind trees, beautiful garden have been fell down and destroyed and collapsed. The Whole nice campus was affected and we are under troubled, helpless situation. By God’s grace all Children and Staff are safe under the mighty wings of God, but we are in need and aid of the victims of the calamity wrought by the Cyclon Gaja”.

It was a great help to repair the broken damaged places. Along with the Former Children Fellowship we have collected nearly one lakh, for the renovation work.

The enormous scale of the destruction has moved us to seek your help with concern in our helpless sufferings and relieve our burdensome hearts. The local government officials helped us for food provision for electrical lining, correction and

Sanitation, hygiene for Children sake. By God's grace and guidance, we pray for the renovation works to be done at the earliest.

2019 is the 80th year of our Deaconess Ministry. After the new Bishop Consecration, we have to fix to commemorate the occasion, with a Souvenir Booklet for which, we request you to write and send an article, about how you are so much concern, supporting always with your Motherly love with your greeting message. We have two Deaconess Trainees, Nahomi 41 years, Veronica 32 years, now – CSI Ministry Training Centre in Nagalapuram, where our former Sisters trained. We will also arrange for their Consecration then.

Bethesda: Some new inmates joined from TELC pastorates as we go for church program. We get good response and support from our TELC congregation members. This time we made more candles and sold after Cyclone, electric problems in delta districts. More sickly and weak women in Bethesda and we don't get proper, regular nurse.

Nazareth: Along with small kids, we also keep primary school children. Most of the Children are orphans, brought by Government Child Line, rescued by police during begging with elders. Soon we have to proceed with Adoption Licence for approval. We also need proper workers to deal with it.

Bethania: As usual, some workers are staying, candle making, Communion-Wafers making, stitching of stoles, sewing work etc., are done here. Deaconess office maintenance is in ground floor.

Lydia Home: We are so much missing our Sr. Packiam and Sr. Jayaseeli, in these days. Their contributions specially Sr. Packiam in medical, care taking of sickly people and Sr. Jayaseeli in hospitality work, gospel-spiritual work, talent potentials, singing etc. They made us always thinking of them.

The two volunteers for 6 months every year are helpful. Mrs. Vathsala Thomas and friends in Canada help for Christmas dress and Christmas meal every year. We pray for our TELC church to get the God fearing, pure hearted Bishop filled with Holy Spirit to prepare the church for the 2nd coming and God's Kingdom.

We pray and greet you for **Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year 2019!**

Yours Sincerely,
Sr. Grace Padma, Deaconess Mother
Thanjavur, India