

“ ...He sent His only begotten son into the world that we might live through Him”-1 John 4:9.

Our Dear & Respected and Sisters,

Loving greetings and prayer from all our TELC Deaconess sisters, women and children of Deaconess Homes, Thanjavur.

Towards the end of this year we look back with deepest gratitude for you, as you hold us before the Lord in prayer and kind supports us. **Sisters** – for Sr. Packiam, for whom God heard many, many people’s prayer and brought her back safely from CMC-Vellore after one year treatment of 6 chemo therapies and a major surgery for cruel abdominal cancer disease and now with great testimony.

She served with Jesus compassion for invalid Bethesda inmates and many patients with great testimony. On 2nd December, we celebrated Sr. Packiam’s 31st consecration Day with all sisters with communion.

Sr. Mani also got better and now continues in Bethlehem after some treatment in other places. Sr. Susila last month underwent cataract operation and got well back. Now Sr. Salomi often falls and hit her self and now under treatment with rest. Sr. Margaret has constant knee pain in right leg. Otherwise we are as usual, you know us well.

Bethesda As usual we do church visit program for the income through handicraft sale and some collection. Many people come and buy candles and other handicraft things in the office down stair.

Daily many people come and ask for help, many come ask for admission of mental patients and old age, some women, drunkards wives with their children come and ask help, to join in the Home. We handle all these matters with prayer and counseling. Mrs. Manimegalai, part time nurse and Jessie-part time physiotherapist are helping in Bethesda. We conducted twice medical checkup in Bethesda in July and November. Nowadays it is very difficult to provide the basic needs of all inmates.

The old Bungalow-centre Hall is heavily damaged. The ELM, Germany sent for roof repair, now the roof starts falling down due to the heavy flooded monsoon rain. Now the Engineers review and plan to replace the roof, it may cost more than ten lacs, they informed. This is the only gathering Hall for meeting, function and other prayer.

This year heavy flooded monsoon rain destroyed all the Tamil people’s livelihood. Cost of living is so high. People are shocked and much worried, hope you saw the news about the affected Tamilnadu. We have to prepare and get ready to wait for the Lord’s coming.

Nazareth: It is a great challenge, not so easy to run homes both Bethlehem and Nazareth nowadays. The government restrictions, to fulfill the norms, rules and regulation are very difficult at this present. State and central governments are not favor for Christians. We have produced annual Building stability, Building License, sanitary certificates, Fire proof certificate, monthly submission of

children particulars, Children Welfare committee meetings minutes and so many, apart from daily routine work, ministry work etc. The Government Child Welfare Officials suggest obtaining Adoption License. I am afraid how I am going to do all these things.

This year also, the volunteers Helena and Imke are so helpful for Nazareth children and Bethesda inmates. Nazareth Building is blue beautiful look after some carpentry, plumbing, masonry patch work repair and beautifully white washed and painted in and around, for which Stahle Amma helped with some money.

We get some donations for Bethesda inmates and Stahle Amma helps a little for Nazareth children. But there is no support for Deaconess Sisters for food, clothes, medicines, pocket money etc. Nowadays medicine bills are so high for sisters and most sisters are aged. This year, we remembered Christmas function with singing, candle dance and manger scene only, not decorations, dancing etc.

We wish and pray for God's Blessings of good health, strength, happiness and peace at this Christmas time and prosperous and blessed New Year 2016!.

Yours sincerely,
Sr. Grace Padma
/Deaconess Mother/