

Jesu Ashram News July 2020

Just across our boundary walls there is a big slum area of some 600 migrant families. Most of these families are dependent on Jesu Ashram. Their livelihood depends on daily availability of odd jobs, working in sand quarries, agricultural labourers for others, carrying head loads etc. In the same colony there are about 60 families of cured leprosy patients who suffer from many



physical deficiencies and handicaps. Most of these people depend on daily begging door to door for their sustenance. Youth from the slums who were working in Delhi, Mumbai, Kerala, etc. have come back because of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. Some of them have been carriers of COVID-19. On 26th June our local police took a man for COVID-19 treatment. Since then this locality is sealed. In the neighbouring area of the man who is taken for COVID -19 treatment, there are several families who depend on daily begging for their survival. Unfortunately now they are unable to go out for begging. Jesu Ashram provided them with food material. On 9th July Government of west Bengal declared several areas of our locality as containment Zones. Five of our staff members live in this restricted zones. They cannot come to Jesu Ashram for their daily duties. Two other staff members are residing in Jesu Ashram where as four are provided daily transportation.

Our works of treating poor patients and providing relief materials to the needy people are hampered very badly. We are unable to reach food materials to the needy people. Poor sick people are not able to go to hospitals for treatment. We are not able to go to the markets to buy vegetables and other food materials for our patients. Today few families provided vegetables for two days.

Since three weeks from 8th July we have been providing medicine for outdoor Leprosy patients at our gate. New cases of leprosy are have been emerging, but



we do not have access to leprosy medicine. We are advising them to try for medicine at government facilities and we endeavour to accompany them in all possible ways.

On 3rd June in a village called Bandrya Busty a person called John expired due to COCID -19 related problem. As a result entire village was sealed. People



from the village are all Tea Estate daily labourers. They had no means of survival. Jesu Ashram reached out to them with food materials for all 30

families of the village. In another village known as Salbari in the Malbazar area of Jalpaiguri district similar help was provided to 80 families.

In Malaguri, next to our Leprosy outdoor clinic, there are 17 families of rehabilitated leprosy patients of Jesu Ashram. Because of their disfigurement and handicaps their



livelihood depends on daily begging. Since they could not go out for begging Jesu Ashram reached out to them on 3rd of July for the 3rd times with food medicine and other relief materials, which is still continuing.

This year two Rehabilitation houses are under construction. One house is for Prabha, a leprosy affected lady who survives on begging. She is a widow and leprosy related handicapped person, bringing up two mentally challenged children. The house is sponsored by SELAVIP housing project and Canadian Jesuits International.



Another rehabilitation house with four living rooms and bathrooms with bore-well water facility is near completion. In this house 12 destitute cured leprosy persons will be accommodated. This is sponsored by SOS INDIA

ONLUS Italy. These houses are almost ready for occupation.

Anamika Sengupta, a mentally challenged 35 years old lady, was staying in a relief camp for three months in Siliguri. When the relief camp was dismantled she had nowhere to go. We were informed by some social workers that she was sexually



abused and is pregnant. We brought her to Jesu AShram on 10th July 2020. She will be with us till her baby is delivered and later government will take care of the baby and the mother. She seems to be very happy in Jesu Ashram.

Thanks to each and every one of you for supporting Jesu Ashram,

Jesu Ashram community remember you with deep gratitude and heart-felt prayer every day. May God continue to accompany you and your family members and shower His Blessings.

Fr. Julius

Fr. Julius