

“FEED ORISSA”

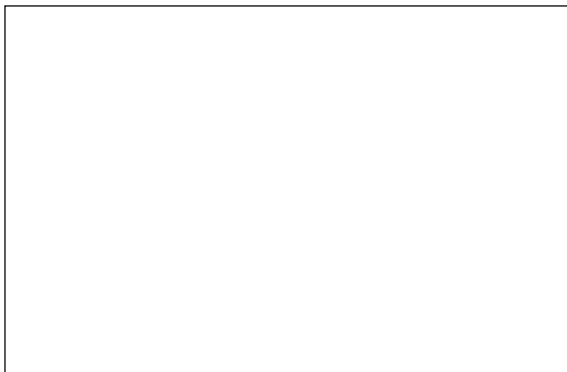
An Update by Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley

One day we gave work to a woman who begged for rice and paid her in rice, as we were advised not to make them lazy and beggarly. She worked for two days and fainted on the third day. Our conscience smote us. Though we feed only the very old and disabled, many younger ones are too malnourished to work. We have to restore their health first. Or else we'll be beating tired horses. If we feed anyone for free another 1000 will mob us. The situation is difficult. Many adults weigh 30 kg or less!

Now that we are giving rice, dhal, egg, and oil to TB patients many poor come with the hope of having TB. After check up when we give them the good news that they don't have TB, they get shattered!

We are now teaching people world news, human rights, soul, salvation, etc. The literate buy gospel portions and read. Illiteracy is the cause of many evils. Villagers are not aware of the revolution sweeping across the world. We have started Adult Education in Diptipur and Junungapally. 25 come regularly.

We are excited that the Bamboo basket weaving is making headway. About 20 ladies turn up regularly to learn. Buyers come to our place and buy at the rate of Rs.5/- piece. One person weaves 2 baskets a day. That gives them a neat profit of Rs 6/- day. That's enough for their rice. But there is shortage of bamboo.



We have supplied a goat each to 24 families. They will give us the first kid. A ripple has gone through the village after this. Our first attempt to form a Self Help Group in Pandripani village was a smashing success. People ran to either beg or borrow and 35 gave Rs.100/- each. We will deposit it in the bank and apply for a loan. The bank is reluctant just now. Pray.

We were sad when the Saturday gospel meeting was stopped. But we rejoice when village evangelists tell us that their congregations have enlarged. When we visit villages people tell us that they continue to pray in the Name of Jesus.

The Ichapalli Church building was repaired and dedicated and there was great rejoicing. We will be taking up the Barihappalli Church building next. There are 22 Christian families. Two were saved from starvation death here.

We had three guests in January. Miss Diana Suthanthirasingh, a third year engineering student from Chennai, taught doll-making. Miss Anita Henderson, a medical student from USA, spent five days with us. Mrs. Suguna Ilango from Neyveli taught girls to make plastic wire bags.

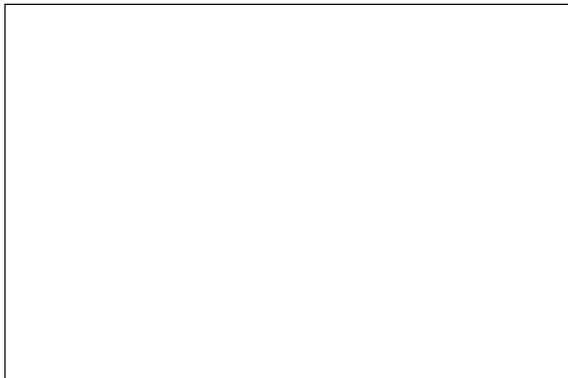


Our guests write—

“My experiences in Orissa are vivid and precious and I will carry them with me in my heart for the rest of my life. We visited an

Adult Education Class. So often the poorest of the poor are taken advantage of by the rich who can convince them to enter into unfair business deals. I was amazed at the tenaciousness of the group to pursue education in such suboptimal condition. The members sat under the cold dark sky on a mud platform killing mosquitos. They passed a single lamp from person to person as the teacher gave instruction to each member. Those of us observing spoke of the need for obtaining a roof, electrical lights, blackboard and individual slates. I also am committing my life to working with the poor. I will draw on this experience as a wellspring of wisdom and grace for the task ahead.” —*Anita*

“I came with a prayer that the lord will show me what suffering is because I have always led a comfortable life. But what I witnessed was far beyond my imagination. It was so hard for me to see a man dying of starvation. I have decided to do my best for these people. —*Suguna*



“In Diptipur I have learnt that God does not choose the qualified but qualifies the chosen. The only requirement is a heart beating, “If not I, who?” God used me to touch these people’s lives in a small way. It was a great joy to see a smile on the faces of the poverty stricken, when they received help.” —*Diana*

“People in Orissa made me feel guilty of grumbling. For the first time I met people who were forced to dream of their next meal. We visited an evangelist in the hospital who was beaten up. An unforgettable experience!” —*Hannah, Madurai*

Baskaro of Birmal village who was dying of starvation was brought to the hospital and treated. He is now well on the road to recovery. We now treat 100 TB patients. We are starting with the next hundred and need your help. Dr. Malik has left and praise God one Dr. Tirki has joined the Diptipur Christian Hospital. Thank God for this development. God cares for the poor and for those who are struggling for the poor!

A youth retreat was organised in Diptipur and 120 participated. Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Samal addressed the youth. 35 committed their lives to the lord.

Dr. Berty Chandran is taking our project jeep from Chennai to Diptipur along with missionary Tamilarasan. He is carrying 5000 doses of vaccine for the poultry in flasks filled with ice. Pray for this vaccination project to save the poultry of the poor.

We are greatly encouraged by the involvement of every one of you, in particular of the students and missionaries of various Missions in this undertaking.

Bye till we meet again!

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Money orders, cheques and bank drafts to be sent in favour of BLESSING YOUTH MISSION.

Any relief material may be sent by SRMT or TCI Lorry Service to **Bargarh**, Orissa or by Railways to **Bargarh Road**, Orissa and the waybill to Mr. Biswanath Samal, Christian Hospital, Diptipur 768 035, Orissa, India. □