

# FEED ORISSA

*An Update by Dr. Mrs. Lilian Stanley*

The Feed Orissa relief work was started in August 2001 with the view to help poor TB patients, starving and homeless. By the immeasurable grace of God we look back at the end of 2 years and 8 months and give glory to God for the great things He has done.

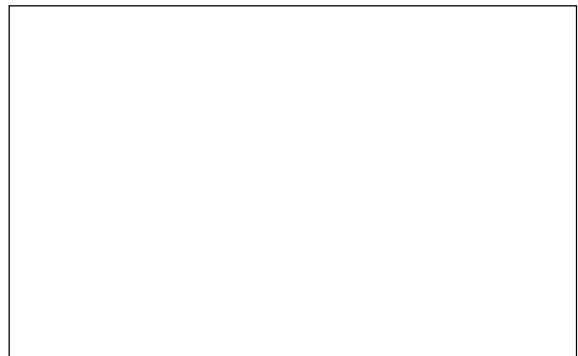
Tuberculosis has reached epidemic proportions here in the Diptipur area of Bargarh District. There are families with as many as five members suffering from TB. The reason is poverty and malnutrition. They sell their properties and lose all in the treatment within one or two months. Then due to financial constraint they stop the treatment. Some go to the Government Hospitals and consume two drugs. They feel a little better but become resistant to further treatment. So far 250 TB patients have completed treatment with us. The results are excellent for those who come to us straight. For those who have discontinued treatment for various reasons and come to us for help the results are not so good.



*A poor man's hut*

Five Hundred poor receive rice and dal. Most of these are TB patients, destitutes, handicapped or the starving. All these people have picked up health and sometimes we hardly recognise

them! 54 students have received help for education. 80 goats have been distributed. 123 homeless families were provided a small house. It is pathetic to see people living under polythene sheets, huddling in neighbours' verandas with no place to call their own. 20 have received loan to do business. 125 children receive regular teaching through our Kids Clubs in five villages. Some are very strong in their new-found faith. In one village the children refuse to sing to idols in their School prayer. They are ready to sing only Christian songs. They are paying a price for their faith.



*Feed Orissa family*

3250 patients were seen in Asish Sebasadan in the past one year. Old new and warm clothes were distributed. Four *Sevaks* (men volunteers) reach out to surrounding villages. One of them was earlier an evangelist who took to selling vegetables because of poverty. With our help now he is enthusiastically evangelising. Five *Sevikas* (women volunteers) minister in villages systematically. Three of them are illiterate who are learning to read and write through our Adult Education Classes. *Sevaks* and *Sevikas* are doing a wonderful job. In one village about forty gather in the local Club to listen to them, in another village in the School. They minister in 36 villages regularly.

Six helpers work in the office. Two have received driving training. Nine girls were sent to Balasore for training in

computer and sewing. Ten revival meetings were conducted through which many found Christ and received the Holy Spirit. Three Church buildings were renovated. Three poor tailors were given sewing machines. We were called thrice to the police station and chided. Thrice we were threatened to be defamed by a newspaper. Subsequently the District Collector visited us and commended our service. The Governor's wife gave us interview. The persecution in Orissa is mounting up. Even now we keep receiving threats from various quarters. God is keeping us.

Dr. Prabhakar Moses, Dr. Winsley and Anu Rose from CMC, Vellore visited us and we conducted a paediatric camp. Dr. Isaac Jebaraj, Dr. Sampath Karl from CMC, Vellore, Dr. Matthew Samuel from Oddanchatram and Dr. Gnanamani from Nagercoil came for a medical and surgical camp. Many poor were benefited through these camps. Dr. Berty Chandran collected vaccines and came and vaccinated 10,000 domestic birds. Birds dying in the epidemic were saved.



*Havoc by floods*

God kept us from accidents, snakes, scorpions and deadly diseases. The most thrilling of all is many of our contacts have started to believe on the living God. Some of our TB patients and contacts have been born again. In the recent Seekers Meet over 50 committed their lives to Christ. We celebrated Christmas 2003 in 17 villages.

During the August 2003 floods many villages in Bargarh District were inundated. We built 66 houses for those rendered homeless in two villages. The hailstorm of January 2004 destroyed about 1000 houses of the poor. We chose one village, Negimunda, and built eleven houses for the victims.



*Houses for flood victims*

We were able to buy a Hero Honda twowheeler with your help last year. This has facilitated our work very much. Our four bicycles are used by *Sevaks* for outreach. The project is still going strong. The poor here thank every one of you as Heaven records your names up there. For whatever is happening here we give credit to you and glory to God. We request your continued support in the days to come.

Joseph Stalin observed, "The death of a million people is a statistics, but the death of a single person is a tragedy!" Surely if the death of a single person is a tragedy, then the rescue of a single life is a triumph and a triumph worth celebrating!

*(Money Orders, Cheques and Bank Drafts may be sent in favour of and to BLESSING YOUTH MISSION, Church Colony, Vellore 632006. Any Relief Material may be sent by SRMT or TCI Lorry Service to the town namely Bargarh in Orissa and the waybill to Mr. Philip Bishoyi, Asish Sebasadan, Diptipur 768 035. Thank you!)*