



puvigham narumanam

january 2010

January 2010 brings us a lot of reasons to be joyous. First, the hostel building is almost complete and we can move in by February, after a long wait. The building was started in 2008 May and we have managed to finish it after a lot of delays and financial crunches. The Asha London and Asha Silicon Valley stewards have been in touch with us and we feel well cared for and confident that our work is worthwhile.

The Rotary Club of Salem has initiated the drinking water project at the Surabhi hostel land. The bore was done in December and we found good water. The compressor pump and pipes will be laid soon. An Architect friend in Bangalore Georg Leuzinger has donated solar panels of 940 wattage for the complete solar lighting of the hostel.



Umesh Chandrasekhar has donated a solar pump for the hostel land which we can connect with the panels and use to lift water for farming on the Surabhi land.

Another couple from Bangalore and long time friends, Suresh and Ramya have promised to donate their Solar water heater as soon as they upgrade to a newer model.

Our local support has increased and a lot of people provide meals to the hostel children for special occasions or birthdays of their family members. Mr Manikkam from Dharmapuri is tirelessly furthering the cause of Puvigham and bringing us in contact with concerned people.

A lot of old friends have come forward to donate for the corpus and we finally feel a sense of security.



The puvigham children were invited to do a performance for the meet of the Dharmapuri Theosophical society. Their performance was commendable. Further we used the opportunity to send out circulars for the formation of a consumers group who would buy the organically grown products as a part of our organic farming extension work.

The lamp dance

During Meenakshi and Madhavraj's visit in early October, it was with a warm and welcome feeling that Mr. Sunderam explained how he shifted from chemical to organic farming and how he has been challenging the output figures of the government chemical formula with his own method of integrating a lot of different systems to make organic farming a success.

After Meenakshi's visit to Mr.Sunderam Iyer's farm she held meetings with the local farmers and they will be taken for another exposure cum training to his farm where major crops like sugarcane and turmeric are grown using intercropping and mulching, applying green manure and vermi compost.

The organic farming extension work was started and three farmers have decided to give organic farming of vegetables and paddy a good try. We plan to start in earnest in the next farming season which is in end of May, if god willing, the rains are on time.



To top all this is our team. We are grateful to have two new members Palanisamy and Pacchiamma. Palanisamy is playing a leading role in the farming work of Puvudham at Surabhi land. He is also the person doing the experiments in Natueco farming under the guidance of Meenakshi.



After learning the Natueco method, the idea of minimum but effective use of water seems to be making a change in the children's farming activity. We have made farming plots near the school this time after Palanisamy helped put a small motor in the open well at Puvudham school land which was lying unused because it has very little water. They do not have to walk one km to the hostel land to their farming plots and their work is much more focused. They are also able to



spend more time in making mathematical correlations of survival of seeds, rate of growth, rate of putting out new leaves and flowers and finally the wet and dry weight of the plants and finding the ash quantity. They are also working on finding out how to check the PH of the soil using some crude methods.

Rani and Muthulakshmi have been going for tailoring class and will soon have certificates to be able to teach tailoring to aspiring children in the locality. Pacchiamma is busy doing science experiments and we hope that she will be a major asset for the organization.

Now that the construction work is complete, Jothi is finally free to get back to the Nursery work. He also went for a short training in vermicompost at Mr Piyush's farm near Salem. And has started a vermi compost pit. Ramesh one of our oldest hostel residents; now studying in the 9th grade in the nearby government school, rescued under the National child labour prevention program works with Jothi after his school hours and on Sundays learning from Jothi and Palanisamy skills like plumbing, vermi composting, organic farming, vehicle maintenance and nursery management.

Our other students who passed out from the 8th last year are doing well in the mainstream and ranking in the first 10 in their class. This gives us a lot of courage since that is the stumbling block we were worried about. The first pass outs Murugan and Sabari are in their 12th and preparing for their exams with great seriousness.

Lakshmi who passed out last year has dropped out of school for health reasons and we hope she will come back to puvudham. She is good at art and we hope to re start our puzzle making with the help of Palanisamy and Lakshmi.

All in all, we are on an up wave and feeling good like the palm tree that feels bigger than the hill in the picture.



Do look us up at www.puvudham.net or come to puvudham in person any time.

If you would like to foster one or more children or contribute to any of the activities, do contact us at puvidham@gail.com

PUVIDHAM RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST	Phone: 09600491176/09500964830 /04342291100
FCRA number: 075870079	80G no: c.No:9755(23) / SLM / 2003-2004
Postal address: Puvudham, Nagarkoodal village and post (via) Indur, Dharmapuri ,Pin no: 636803. Tamilnadu. India.	