

Ever flowing stream

January, 2019

Warm greetings to you from Pravaham. It is always a joy to share with you the news about Pravaham. Pravaham, started as a community for Peace and justice in 1993, has completed 25 years of its mission. On the 17th of November 2018 we celebrated the silver jubilee.

The day-long celebrations started with Thanksgiving Service in the morning at Pravaham Chapel. The trustees, staff and old student of Pravaham shared about God's faithfulness to Pravaham in sustaining it all these 25 years and enabling it to continue in spite of many challenges. They remembered the founder, Bishop Ananda Rao Samuel, his vision, his life and how God used him as a 'wounded healer' to those who are hurting in the society. Mrs. Anne Raj Kumar, Trustee of Pravaham, gave an inspiring message on 'God's call and our response'.



Silver Jubilee Gate opened by Ms. Christine Donald, Lady Eileen Mc Donald & Fr. Aloysious.



Students welcoming the guests



Thanks giving service at Chapel



Opening Of the Class Room by the Gurnamals



Photo Exhibition

A gate to Pravaham was built to mark the silver jubilee and it was inaugurated on the same day by Ms. Christine Donal and Lady Eileen McDonald of University of Strathclyde, Scotland.

A new class room donated by Mrs. Purviz Shroff, Hongkong, was added to the Learning Resource Centre. This was also opened on the same day by Ms. Sonia Gurnamal.

A photo exhibition depicting the 25 year history of Pravaham was displayed which documented how God transformed the barren land and straw roofed buildings to a lush green campus with many beautiful buildings and how its programs reached out to the marginalized and deprived.

Later in the evening we had the silver jubilee celebration which was attended by many friends, partners, well wishers who came from different parts of India and by some old students and the community of Pravaham. We were immensely happy to have our friends from overseas, Mrs. Sonia Gurnamal, Mr and Mrs. Nanik Gurnamal from Hong kong, Dr. Shameen Prashantham from China, Mrs. Christine Donald And Lady Eileen Donald from Scotland with us on this special occasion.

Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National convenor, Safai Karamchari Andolan, was the chief guest for the occasion. Dr. Prashantham, Mr and Mrs. Nanik Gurnamal were the guests of Honour.

A documentary made by Fr. Michel Raj, on the 25 years of Pravaham and its impact on the society was shown.

Two books, "Stepping stones" and "All things work for good" written by Dr. Anita Coleman, Author and Professor of Library Science and a dear friend and supporter of Pravaham, were released to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Pravaham.



Evening celebration



Lighting of the Lamp commemorating the Silver jubilee



Books release by Mr. Bezawada Wilson and Dr. Shameen Prashantham and first copies received by Ms. Swarna Rao and Ms. Sonia Gurnamal



Honouring the staff - Mr. Ravi & Ms. Rani

Pravaham Theme song composed by Mrs. Priscilla Paul for this special occasion and sung by her daughter Beryl Natasha, a popular Tamil Gospel singer, was released on that day. Pravaham student presented a colourful cultural program. Pravaham honoured the staff and volunteers of Pravaham who put in more than 10 years of service. The program ended with fellowship dinner.



Silver Jubilee- Cultural program

It was a joy to see the old students of Pravaham Community Education program come back...some with their families, to join in the celebrations. **Some of them shared how Pravaham was a stepping stone that changed their lives from depravity to dignity.**

Sheba comes from a village named Kandipedu near Tamilnadu - Andhra border. Her father is a daily wage labourer and both her parents did not have formal education. They sent their children to school hoping they will study and get a decent job. Sheeba, seeing some women from her church working as Nurses in CMC hospital always dreamed to become a nurse. As she failed in class 10 she couldn't study further and fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse. Her parents forced her to go to work as they were finding it difficult to run the family with their small wages. Having lost all hopes of studying further she went to work as daily wage worker in the agricultural fields and in factories to support the family income.

This continued for 6 years. At the age of 22 she heard about Pravaham from her pastor. She begged her parents to send her to Pravaham Community College. Her parents willingly sent her as there was no fee charged for studies in Pravaham. She joined the Health Assistant course and completed it in 2010. Soon after that Pravaham helped her to find a job in a Senior Citizen Home in Bangalore. After working there for two years



Sheba sharing her story

and gaining experience, she found a job in a Hospital in Bangalore. From then on Sheeba's life took a U-turn. She supported her family and the family was able to move from a small hut to a concrete building. She got married to an educated boy and their family status has improved considerably.

Sheeba says "Thanks to Pravaham for lifting me and my family up from poverty and making me stand on my own legs with dignity. Pravaham not only equipped me with skills but also gave the confidence to lead a fulfilled life. God has made me a blessing not only to my family but also to many in my Hospital."



Sheba at her work place

D.Priya is from Vellore. She lost her father when she was young. Her mother worked as a house maid and brought up her children .Priya passed class 12 with good marks but her mother could not afford to send her to college. Priya thought that her life would also be like her mother's.... working as maid..... and she lost all hopes of a better life. Few weeks later she heard of Pravaham from a neighbour and she told her mother who was willing to send her. She joined Pravaham Community College in 2008 and completed the course in 2009. She worked for one year as a Home Nurse in Bangalore and then she got a job in CMC Hospital, Vellore ,as a Health worker.



Priya is married now and has two children. She helped her brother in his education. She says “I can not imagine my life if I had not come to Pravaham. I do not have words to thank Pravaham for giving me a new life and hope”.

Community college programs:

Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2017-18 was held on 1st September 2018. Dr. Anbu Suresh, Director of Scudder Memorial Hospital was the chief guest and Mr. Rene Ferrer, former Deputy Sherriff, Orange County USA was the Guest of Honour. 40 students graduated as Health Assistants. 36 students were placed in different Nursing Homes, Health organizations and Senior citizen Homes in Chennai.



Dr.Anbu Suresh, Mr. Rene Ferrer, Ms. Gurnamal and Fr. Aloysius inaugurating the ceremony



Ms.Annie Namala Lighting the lamp



Graduating students taking the oath.



Christie receiving award of appreciation for 10yrs of dedicated contribution to Pravaham

Class of 2018-19:

40 students were enrolled for the Health assistant course and the classes commenced on the 2nd of August 2018.

Talents Day was conducted for the freshers and all the students took part with enthusiasm. They had fun exhibiting their talents in singing dancing, acting , drawing and rangoli.

Independence Day was celebrated on the 15th of August with flag hoisting and cultural program. Mr Charles ,former principal of Voorhees High School, was the chief guest.

Founder’s Day was celebrated on the 30th of September 2018. Mr. Durai Jasper, Public Relations Officer , CMC was the chief guest.



Flag hoisting- Independence Day



Winners- Rangoli- Talents' day



Founder's day

Cultural program and community Christmas celebration was on the 8th of December 2018. **Mr Arun Henry**, Chemical Engineer from Chennai, was the chief guest and delivered the Christmas message. Blankets and towels were distributed to the senior citizens and single mothers by our Trustees ,Ms.Ann Rajkumar And Mrs. Mariamma Wilson. Pravaham community college students put up a cultural show of dances and skits which was much enjoyed. After which all participated in community lunch.



Christmas dance



Chief Guest Mr. Arun Henry



Skit – 'True Love'



Ms. Ann Rajkumar distributing gifts to seniors citizens



Community Christmas Lunch

Community out reach programs:

World Environment Day was observed on 6th of June 2018. Students planted trees in the campus and were given the awareness on protecting the environment and keeping it safe and also on the harm caused by indiscriminate use of plastic.

Medical Camp: Pravaham and Bagayam Oval club of Vellore jointly conducted medical camp at Palamathy on the 8th of July. 95 patients benefitted through this program. Medical Camp at Prvaham campus was conducted every second Saturday of the month. Many senior citizens and children were treated by eminent doctors every month.

Dengue Fever Awareness program was conducted on the 24th of September at Palamathy village.

Oral Hygiene Day and Nutrition Day was observed on the 20th of September. Dental camps were conducted for the students of Kolavimedu Government primary school and Veerachtti palli Village. Pravaham staff and students gave talks on dental hygiene. Dr. Priya, a practising Dentist from Vellore, volunteered her services and checked all the students and the adults for dental cavities and caries. 57 students and 42 adults benefitted through this program.

Awareness on Prenatal health, importance of immunization and breast feeding:

Mrs. Selvi Dayalan and Mrs. Anitha, our staff, along with students of Pravaham visited Thimiri Government Hospital and gave talks using visual aids, on the importance of taking nutritious food and supplements like folic acid and iron during pregnancy and the importance of breast feeding to the baby.



Pravaham students assisting at Medical camp at Thimiri



Oral Hygiene Awareness and dental check up at Kulavimedu primary school



Prenatal health and Breast feeding awareness program at Thimiri



Free eye Check up and distribution of Spectacles to students by India Vision.

India Vision, an organization working towards better vision among rural India, visited Pravaham on 2nd November 2018 and conducted free eye check up for all the students and staff of Pravaham. They also distributed free spectacles to those who were in need.

Arcot revenue department officials visited Pravaham on the 11th of October 2018 and briefed them on **voting rights and the importance of casting vote**. They also informed them of the facility to enrol online on completing 18 years of age to get their voter's ID



Students planting trees on world environment day



Awareness on Voting and procuring Voter's ID

Please keep our future plans in your prayers:

- Hostel for 60 Students
- Home for the Senior Citizens
- Primary Health Care Centre

On behalf of the Board and the Community of Pravaham I convey my heartfelt thanks to all of you who stood by Pravaham all these years. Your constant support and encouragement has motivated us to carry out our plans and make an impact on the communities we serve. Thank you for your prayers, love and resources you generously share with us. With warm wishes and deep gratitude,

Lucy Shyamsundar



**For more information check our website – www.pravaham.org
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