

Pravaham

Bishop Anandarao Samuel's Community For Peace And Justice
297, Venkatapuram, Vellore Dist . 632507

Annual Report



*A Community
which lives to enliven;
Receives to enable,
with God as its source
Christ as its model
and people as partners*

The Vision

The vision of Pravaham is the realization of the full potential of the oppressed, marginalized and minority communities, leading to a world where all people live in peace and unity based on the recognition of the dignity and sacredness of human life.

- **To educate, train and empower the Dalits, women and other marginalized sections of the society.**
- **To stand in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed in their struggles for human dignity, social justice and freedom.**
- **To strengthen the internalities of leaders and communities working for a more just and humane society.**
- **To dialogue with and create fellowship of people from diverse fields for justice and peace.**
- **To struggle with the poor, the oppressed and the Dalits in various ways to provide for their basic needs in life .**

The mission of Pravaham

Our Core Belief

Pravaham believes in the vision of the kingdom of God on earth.

- Where love, compassion and righteousness prevail
- Where every individual is accepted, loved, respected and cherished as a person in the image of God, irrespective of caste, colour, class, gender, ability and wealth or status.
- Where there exists a seamless integration and unity across the spiritual and the material, manual and the intellectual, the private and the public.
- Where prayer, service, sharing and simplicity guide our lives and relationships.

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2016-17

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PRAVAHAM PROGRAMS

Community Education Program for Rural Dropouts

School dropout girls from rural areas belonging to marginalized and under privileged communities are given vocational and life skills. This is one year residential program which is given free to the students.



Health and Social Awareness Building

Pravaham reaches to many children, youth and women in villages around through this program, bringing awareness in the areas of health, education, child rights and personal and environmental hygiene.



Training and Retreat centre

Pravaham conducts trainings and Retreats partnering with like minded organizations for women, youth, families and senior citizens.

Pravaham training and retreat centre is also being used by various organizations, churches, groups and families to conduct training programs, seminars and workshops.



Community Education Program for Rural Dropouts

About the program

Pravaham is conducting community education program from the past 13 years. 327 students have graduated since 2004. This program has helped many women from dalit and other marginalized families to continue their education and find gainful employment, building self-reliance, dignity and confidence to face challenges of life and stand on their feet. The Pravaham community nurtures them to follow the way of love, peace and justice. By the end of the program they not only become economically independent but will also become role models in their communities building confidence and giving hope to the life of other young women in the village. Thus these students have become agents of change in their villages, persuading other young dalit women to not give up but continue their studies and be self-dependent and independent.

Area of Coverage

Tamil Nadu

Vellore

Tiruvannamali

Kancheepuram

Andhra Pradesh

Chittoor District

Key highlights:

Cent percent pass in Tamil Nadu Open University(TNOU) Examinations: All the students who appeared for the examinations passed with many first classes and distinctions. The Tutors and the staff of Pravaham community college truly deserve appreciation and praise for their dedicated service and commitment in training these drop out students.

Graduation of the 12th Batch(2015-16):

The annual examinations for the 12th batch were conducted from June 19th to 10th July 2016.. On 23rd July the 12th batch students gave farewell party to all the staff of Pravaham .and the staff to the out going students. Students organized an entertainment program for the staff. They shared with gratitude what they have experienced at Pravaham over the last year and the difference this is making in their lives. They also thanked the staff for the love they received from each one of them . Both the staff and students were moved to tears as they bid farewell to each other. There was joy and also a deep sadness as they prepared to move on in life.

Graduation of the 12th Batch(2015-16)



The Graduation ceremony of the 12th Batch took place on the 3rd September 2016 in the presence of Dr. Joseph Anthony Jacob, S.J Director, ICRDCE & Vice Principal of Loyola College, Chennai as the Chief Guest and Dr. Scott Strachan professor , University of Strathclyde as the Guest of Honour. Friends of Pravaham Ms. Christie Vanvugt Ms. Sonia Gurnamal also graced the occasion. Dr. J.A Jacob delivered the message to the students. He encouraged and motivated the students to be lights and help dispel the darkness of ignorance. The Students were awarded the Prizes for their Best Performance in Studies and other activities.

Retreat for the passing out students

Ms. Sonia Gurnamal conducted one day retreat to the passing out students on the 4th September 2016. The theme was Discovering God given purpose. She encouraged them to set goals to fulfil God given purpose in their lives. She said that it is important to have feelings of warmth, nurture, safety and love in order to heal from past fears and emotional traumas.



Placement details:

Amazing Love Home, Chennai: 7
Alisha Nursing Home, Chennai: 4
Radiant Health services, Chennai: 20
Advantage Nursing Home , Bangalore: 1
5 Students opted to find jobs nearer to their home

We have many stories of our student who have become important pillars in their families' development - economically, educationally, socially and spiritually. These girls who were ***once considered a burden to the family and community have now become burden bearers of their families.***

Sangeetha Balan



Sangeetha lost both her parents to AIDs, at a tender age of 10. She has an elder sister. Her uncle put both of them in an orphanage where both studied up to std.10. Sangeetha failed in Std.10 and was sent to Pravaham to study the Health Assistant vocational course. When she came to Pravaham she was very



timid, lacking self-confidence, always seeking attention and depressed about her life .The one year training and counselling at Pravaham has changed her personality completely. Sangeetha now is a confident woman working as a Nursing Aid in a reputed Hospice in Chennai.

Anitha



Anitha comes from a village in Kanjeeपुरam. Her father is daily wage labourer. He earns his living by carrying loads from the store house to the truck for a meagre amount of Rs. 5 per bag. In spite of severe



poverty Anitha's father sent his children to school with the hope that their future will be better. Though Anita studied up to 12th her father couldn't send her to college. Dejected Anita came to know about Pravaham community college and that has brought a great change in her life. Now Anitha is a confident woman working in Chennai as a care giver in a reputed Nursing Home.

Renuka



Renuka comes from Nagendrapuram village in chittoor district. Her father worked as a daily wage labourer and mother works in the fields. Two years back her father was diagnosed with cancer which shattered the family. The long treatment and frequent visits to the hospital affected their lives adversely. CMC, the hospital from which they were taking treatment supported them. Social worker from the hospital brought Renuka to Pravaham who failed std.12 and lost all hopes of



studying further. Renuka completed her training successfully and is now working as a Care giver in a Nursing Home in Chennai. She is now the bread winner for the family as her father passed away and mother could not go for work regularly because of her ill health. She is also supporting her brother to do electrician course.



Reaching out to the deprived out of love and responsibility

We are proud to place it on record our deep appreciation to the 2015-16 batch for donating Rs. 77000 to Pravaham towards supporting the education of the drop out students from poor families like them. They have donated their one month's salary to support the work of Pravaham. It is a great sacrifice they have made considering their family circumstance.

This shows the impact Pravaham has made in their lives and the values they have imbibed at Pravaham during their course of study.



XIII Batch of Pravaham community college 2016-17

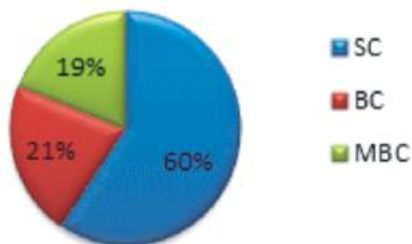
Admissions and Inauguration of the 13th batch:

Forty two students were selected from the 64 applications received for the academic year 2016-17. 41 students opted for Diploma in Health Assistant course and 1 student for Computer Application course. Orientation classes commenced from 1st of August. On 2nd September the inauguration of 13th batch took place along with the graduation ceremony of the 12th Batch. Mrs. Mariamma Wilson, Trustee of Pravaham dedicated the 13th batch with a word of prayer.



Profile of the 13th batch:

Students' profile



Educational status



Important Events of Community College:

Hospital exposure: - The DHA students of Pravaham Community college were taken to CMC hospital, Vellore, on the 10th of September 2016, to familiarize them with the working of a hospital. Mr. Durai Jasper, the Public Relations Officer of CMC took the students on a guided tour to all the departments of the hospital and explained the workings of a hospital.



Internship at CMC Rehabilitation centre:

After completing seven months of training at Pravaham campus, the students of Health Assistant course went to CMC Rehabilitation centre for six weeks of internship from March 1st to 11th of April to receive hands on experience in Nursing Skills. Under the expert guidance of Sr. Josephine, Head of Nursing department, students



gained a lot of experience in many Practical procedures like bed making, bed bath, vital sign monitoring, catheterisation, dressing, perianal care, injection, medication administration etc. . . . They were also posted in physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy departments to give them an exposure to these disciplines. Dr. Guru Prasad, social worker

and Dr.Suganya , psychologist took classes on ways to deal with the patients.

Life skills and counselling classes were given to Pravaham students by Christian counselling centre for 4 weeks from 1st of March to 4th of April 2017. Students found the classes very interesting and valuable both for their personal and professional life. On the final day certificates



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distributed to the students and a cultural show was put up by the students for the CCC staff. We are grateful to CCC for accommodating Pravaham students in spite of shortage of faculty at that juncture. We are deeply touched that Dr.Prashantham, the director of CCC, himself took classes for our students.



Independence Day was celebrated on the 15th of August with flag hoisting by Ms. Flora Sudharani, Project Officer of KNH, India.



Talents day was conducted on Sep 21st to allow the students to exhibit various talents in dancing, singing, acting, mimicry etc. The students performed in groups and in solo and put up a good show and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.



Founder's Day: On 30th September Pravaham remembered its founder Bishop AnandaRao Samuel and Mrs. Flora Samuel, who were role models of walking in faith and prayer who excelled in the ministry not as a responsibility or duty but did it with compassion, love and humility. On Founder's day



thanks giving service was conducted at Pravaham to celebrate the life and service of Rev. Philip Asirvatham, who passed away on the 16th of April 2016 and his valuable contribution to Pravaham.



Cultural program cum Christmas Celebrations :

Cultural program cum Christmas Celebrations was conducted on the 17th Dec 2016. Ms. Sonia Gurnamal and Mrs. Annie Namala were the Guests of Honour. Students put up a beautiful show of drama , dances ,songs and skits which enthralled the audiences. All the 42 students took part in the cultural show. Guests and parents were amazed to see the display of the talents in their children. Thanks to the staff and Mrs. Gita Dawson who worked with them to unearth, sharpen and shine their hidden talents.



On the same day 20 single mothers and 35 senior citizens were also invited to participate in the celebrations along with the parents of the students. Gifts were distributed to the senior citizens, single mothers, students and staff. A feast was arranged for them after the program.



Food and Nutrition day was observed on the 28th of February. Students were divided in to 7 groups and each group was assigned a food group and asked to prepare dishes and give the importance of nutrients present in those Foods. Students very creatively prepared the dishes and presented them. Mr & Mrs. Senthilvel, Architects were the judges and distributed the Prizes to the winners.



Republic Day celebrations:

Republic day was celebrated on the 26th of January 2017. Dr and Mrs. PrakasaRao and their son Mr Dinesh Raowas the Guests of Honour. Dr.PrakasaRao hoisted the flag after the March-past by the students. He addressed the students and encouraged them to be the source of change in the community they live and work. The program ended with the cultural program performed by the students. Sweets were distributed to the students.



Educational cum recreational tour to Chennai and Mamallapuram:

On 18th of March 2017, Pravaham community college students, staff and their families went on an excursion to Chennai and Mamallapuram. On the first day they visited St.Thomas Mount , Gandhi Mandapam and park, Light house, Marina beach, Anna, MGR and Jayalatha's tomb and Crocodile park. In the evening they had good time playing in the beach at Mamallapuram. After an overnight stay at Scripture union camp site ,they visited many historical places like Five Rathas, Pandava's caves, Sun temple etc at Mamallapuram. Students thoroughly enjoyed this outing. For many of them this is the first of the sorts.



Moral and Spiritual training:

Pravaham believes that spirituality and spiritual practices have the ability to transform individual lives and help eliminate the evils we find in the communities, institutions and world in which we live. Pravaham encourages the students to develop a strong relationship with God through prayer and meditation which helps to form strong foundation to build their lives.



Two day retreat was conducted for Pravaham Community College students on 20th



of October 2016 on the theme - Challenges faced by youth and ways to overcome. Mr. Ravi Kumar and Mrs. Deepa Ravi were the resource persons. Students said that it was very useful for them and made them think not to give up but persevere in spite of obstacles, always drawing strength from divine power and through positive thinking. Every Tuesday and

Thursday they have one hour of value education classes taken by Mr. Viswanath and Rev. Devadoss. Students have greatly benefitted through these sessions.

Workshops and seminars:

Mr. Rajendran, Health Inspector and Mr. Balaji, Health officers gave a health talk about causes of Diarrhoea and prevention of dehydration. Students were taught to prepare oral rehydration solution and they were asked to share the message in their villages and community to help reduce the mortality rate due to dehydration especially in infants and children. On Oct 25th Mr. Palani, District health officer visited Pravaham and gave talk on Dengue fever protection, prevention and treatment.



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Pravaham continues to transform lives

Successful completion of 'Community education program' empowers the students to lead fruitful lives and helps to promote an all-round and integrated development of the entire village community. We have many examples where these young women have become important pillars in their families' development economically, educationally, socially and spiritually. They have provided support to re-build families, guide younger children in their studies and career, and facilitate their families survive crises. These girls who were once considered a burden to the family and community have now become burden bearers of their families.

Here are the stories of determination and perseverance of the students to make their lives better.....

Minnala



My mother had big dreams for us...her five children... three girls and two boys. She used to call my Elder sister Doctor Nirmala as she wanted her to be a doctor. My second sister Collector Vennela and me ... Nurse Minnala, my brothers Engineer Shekar and Inspector Shakakthivel. My father digs wells, canals etc. for a living and whatever he earned he used to drink and bring very little money home. My mother grazes goats. In spite of many difficulties they sent all of us to school. My elder sister passed std.12 with good marks but my parents couldn't send her to college. They got her married and she was harassed by her mother in law for dowry and she committed suicide when she was full term pregnant with her second child. The burden of raising her first child fell on my

family. This incident has shaken my family very badly and my mother lost all her hopes. My second sister passed Std.12 with good marks but now she is working in a leather factory... When I passed std.12 I too thought that I will also go and work as a labourer but I was lucky. My friend told me of a girl from our village who went to Pravaham community college and got a diploma in Health assistant and is earning well. I convinced my father to let me go and study because it was offered almost free.



I am very happy after coming to Pravaham .this beautiful place gave me happiness and peace. I was so unhappy most of my childhood, now I thank God that I found meaning to my life. I am very soon going to fulfil my mother's dream. I am now going to be Nurse Minnala My mother now is so proud of me. I want to work and educate my brothers.

Vijayalakshmi

I am Vijayalakshmi. I am 20 years old. My father is a farmer and my mother takes care of the cattle. I have two elder sisters and both of them are born blind. In our village they look down upon us because we are all girls and have deformities. I completed std.12 and I had big dreams of going to college and wanting to become a Nurse. My father told me that he cannot afford to send me to college. For two years I was grazing cattle shedding tears every day thinking that



there is no use studying up to 12th class because my mother who is an illiterate and i are doing the same work. I had lost all hopes of studying further. My father wanted to get me married. My father takes care of the farm of a lady who works in CMC Hospital, Vellore. She was sympathetic to my plight and one day she came and told me about Pravaham community college. She took me there personally and helped to get admission. I am so thankful for her for guiding me to Pravaham.



Pravaham gave me a new life not just a diploma but happiness, fulfilment and courage. I now have the confidence that I can take care of the family.

I am swapna, I am 16 years old. Both my parents died of AIDS before I was five years old . I have a sister who is three years older than me. My grand mother who is very old couldn't take care of us. So we were brought up in an orphanage till class 10. I got very low marks and I did not have interest to study regular studies though I passed Std 10.

I am so happy that Pravaham gave me an opportunity to study the vocational course Health Assistant. In the beginning I found it difficult to cope with my subjects. But my teachers were very patient with me and helped me to understand. Now I am going to complete the course successfully. I have become confident to face the life challenges. My elder sister has fallen in Std.10 and is now working in a leather factory. My grand mother wants to get her married . But I will not let that happen because she is very young and she also wants to study in Pravaham. After completing the course I will go for work and support my family.



Pravaham helps to make the dreams of a student a reality

Four students of Pravaham community college , who were keen on studying further were selected and given special coaching to write entrance tests and attend interviews for 4 year Diploma in General Nursing course in reputed Nursing colleges in Vellore and Chennai. We are very happy that one student , Saraswathi , secured admission in Schieffelin Institute of Health Research and Leprosy centre, Karigiri, Vellore.



Saraswathi is the fourth child in a family of five children. Father is an auto rickshaw driver, he studied upto 5th and mother is an illiterate. .Father sometimes drinks and does not give money home. They struggle to meet the ends meet with his earnings. Two sisters were married very young and elder brother is a school dropout. In spite of many struggles saraswathi completed her 12th with good marks . Her father couldn't afford to send her to college and with utter disappointment saraswathi used to graze the goats to supplement family income. One day her father heard of Pravaham community college through the father of an old student Malini. R who studied at Pravaham and now working in Chennai. When Saraswathi's father told her that she can study in Pravaham she jumped with joy. She was happy that she could study the Health assistant course at Pravaham and support her family. Never she thought that she can study higher than this....Pravaham enabled her dreams of becoming a full-fledged Nurse come true.

When Pravaham approached Mr. Victor Jayakan ,the Director of Amazing Love home for helping her with the fee. He spontaneously came forth and sponsored the entire cost of the course. We place on record our deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Mr and Mrs. Victor Jayakaran for being a great blessing to Pravaham.



Health, Environment and Social Awareness Building

Program highlights:

Outreach programs conducted in schools:

- *At Govt Primary school at Krishnapuram and at Palamathy Govt. highschool July 12th 2016*

The school outreach program addressing both primary and middle school students on Nutrition and Hygiene awareness was conducted by Pravaham. Pravaham community college students and staff talked about the benefits of eating nutritious foods that are locally available such as green vegetables, millets and pulses. They encouraged the students to cultivate good personal hygiene habits at an early age to live a health life.

Through interesting Skits and songs and Villu Patu ,students and villagers were made aware of the consequences of smoking, pan chewing, drugs and alcohol.

They also made the school children aware of the problems caused to the health of the public by open defecating.

- *At Govt. High School Kavanoor, Primary school Punganoor and Vendikal - October 6th 2016.*

Students of Pravaham community college and students from the department of social work ,Auxiliam college, Vellore, conducted awareness program on environmental hygiene and personal hygiene in 3 schools. Many youth in the village pledged to keep their village clean and adults were convinced to build toilets in their houses.



- ✍ **Pravaham students checked BP and blood sugar for all the staff of the school.**
- ✍ **Reaching out to meet the infrastructure need of the school ,Pravaham donated 6 chairs and one desk.**
- ✍ **Through this program 126 school children were reached.**



- ✍ **No of students reached : 178**
- ✍ **No. villagers reached: 46**
- ✍ **Free BP and Blood sugar tests were done for all the staff of the school.**

- **At Venkatapuram Government middle school and Krishnapuram Primary school - Nov 19th & 21st 2016.** Students of School of Architecture, Anna University and Pravaham Community College Students joined together and conducted an outreach programme at Venkatapuram middle School and in Krishnapuram Village. School students were motivated to do well both in curricular and extracurricular activities.



- ✍ **This program has impacted 106 students.**
- ✍ **Students said that they were motivated by the tips given by the Anna university students to excel in their studies.**
- ✍ **Pravaham donated table and chairs to the school.**



Medical camps organized by Pravaham:

In Villages around Pravaham the number of Primary health care centres (PHCs) are limited and some of them do not have doctors , medical staff or lab technicians. Therefore conducting these medical camps is very useful for the villagers.

- **Medical camp at Venkatapuram village :** on July 21 , 2016 Pravaham conducted a medical camp with the help of a team of Doctors and nurses from CMC hospital. Pravaham students assisted the team in registration and taking height and weight. Medicines were distributed free of cost to the patients. Individual counselling was also given to the patients by the doctors.



111 patients were benefitted through this camp. Many elderly patients were thankful for brining medical assistance to their door steps as they would have to travel 30 km to the Govt. Hospital to treat their ailments. They wanted Pravaham to conduct the camp every month.

Eye Camp at Pravaham:

On the 24th of January, Mr. Revanth Kumar and Mr. Parthasarathy optometrists from India vision Institute, Chennai conducted the eye camp for all the students and staff and the villagers at Pravaham. They also took classes on eye care and first aid to the eye in any case of hurt or injury.



27 Students, staff and workers whose eye sight has been affected received free pair of Spectacles from India vision institute.

Health camps conducted in villages :

- **At Sozhamoor Village** in Vellore - 9th of December 2016.

Pravaham Community College Students put up street plays and songs on open defecation and Personal Hygiene, drug addiction and Smoking.

A film was shown about Diabetes and foot care.



Blood sugar and B.P were checked for 81 patents.

6 villagers who were detected to be having high blood sugar levels were referred to community health department of CMC. The villagers appreciated the effort taken to make them aware of various health related problems which were of great benefit to them.

123 people were benefitted through this program.

- **Health camp was conducted in Erumaram, kancheepuram distirct** on the 4th of March.

This is the village from which 8 students were enrolled in Pravaham community education program. Health awareness was given on nutrition, hygiene techniques in Hand wash, alcoholism, smoking and tobacco chewing. Diabetic awareness film was show to them and patients with abnormal readings were referred to nearby government hospital.



The major impact of the program, apart from health benefits and awareness on health, is that the villagers were very happy to see their village school dropout girls come back as Nursing Aids and counselling them on health and checking their BP and blood sugar. They were inspired to send their daughters to study at Pravaham.



Rural children's Summer camp: Summer camp for children from the neighbouring villages was conducted from 17th of May to 22nd of May. Mr. Ravi Kumar , Mrs. Deepa Ravi kumar and their team from Chennai were the resource persons. With 20 pravaham students as volunteers, the program was conducted in a very systematic way. It was a full day program with motivational talks and character building exercises and group plays in the morning session. Afternoon session consisted of craft classes, dramatics, spoken English and Computer classes. 102 children from ages 5 to 15 participated with full enthusiasm and keen interest.



“Abinaya, from Venkatapuram village says from the time summer holidays start I look forward to the summer camp at Pravaham. I enjoy all the activities but my favourite is dramatics and learning to speak in English. My mother and father are so surprised that I can tell ten sentences about myself in English. I even acted in an English drama.”



“Dinesh, from Thanakulam village says, i am attending this camp for the past four years and these seven days are the most happy days in whole year for me. I love doing art work with so many colours and paints to work with. I learnt MS Word and MS paint in computers. The best part is the delicious food and snacks served for us every day. Not only me but my cousins who live in Arani also visit us every summer so that they can attend the summer camp at Pravaham.”

Training and Retreat Centre 2016-17

Re visioning work shop for Pravaham Trust was organized on May 5th and 6th 2016. Trustees and friends of Pravaham were engaged in a fruitful revisioning exercise under the leadership of Fr. Aloysius.

The summery of the re vision work shop:

Thrust Interventions

1.Education stream

- A. Community College - ,Health service, computer application, Kindergarden, Beautician, Catering, Teachers for Day care
- B. Camps for children
- C. Work with teachers

2.Trainings & Retreat

a.Spiritual renewal programs, Human Rights training programs, Youth Career counselling & guidance Centre, Development functionaries retreat, couples/family seminars, retreats

3.Public health

- A. Clinic
- B. Health, Hygiene & Nutrition, awareness, camps
- C. Old age Care

4.Old age day care

- A.Old age home
- I B.Outreach program for aged

5.Farming

- A. Self consumption
- B. Organic farming selective marketing

6. Awareness and educative

- A.Environment
- B. School children environment awareness

Type of programmes

- 1.Animating Programmes
- 2.Educational, awareness, outreach, agri/farm productional
- 3.Retreats and reflectional
- 4.Facilitating / collaborative programmes
- 5.Offering Institutions facilities



Single mothers' care and counselling program was initiated in October recognizing the great need to address the challenges that single mothers face in rural areas. A base line survey was conducted on the 8th of October and 19 single young mothers below 45 years were identified.

On 28th of October a meeting for the single mothers was arranged and 16 women from two villages attended. We had an informal introduction and discussed various issues and challenges they are facing as single mothers and assured them that Pravaham will extend them

Youth Red Cross Society from Anna University School of Architecture conducted a 6 day camp from 4th to 11th November in collaboration with Pravaham at Pravaham training centre . The theme of the camp was character building and social awareness. Mr. Yaseva and Rev. Devadoss were the resource persons.

Anna University students gave a blue print for a bus stop for Venkatapuram village and gave it to the village panchayath president. They also designed an arch for Pravaham. Students painted meaningful murals on the wall. A canvas painting was donated to Pravaham.

Rural Teachers' get together and empowerment program was conducted by Pravaham on the 24th of February 2017. 30 teachers from 8 schools in Timiri Panchayath were present. This was an initiative taken to build rapport with the rural teaching community to work together for the betterment of the youth in the community. Rev. Devadoss took a session on the role and responsibility of a good teacher. Indoor games were conducted by the students of Pravaham. Pravaham extended its support to the teaching community to help capacitate the youth in their schools and jurisdiction.

The teachers said that it was a good plarform to meet the teaching faculty from other schools in the panchayath and also know in depth about the vision and the work of Pravaham. They extended their full support for all the educational and awareness programs conduced by Pravaham to benefit the village children.



.Consultations on capacitating youth took place on the 28th of March 2017. Trustees along with friends of Pravaham met at YWCA, Chennai under the leadership of Fr. Aloysius. After the discussion and consultations it was decided to focus on the youth between ages 11 to 20 to guide them in choosing the right course and career and guide them to good colleges and institutions. It was also decided to give Human Rights education to school children either by going to the schools on regular basis or bringing them to Pravaham.



Family Counselling Program was conducted on the 22nd of April at Pravaham. 37 couples attended the program. Most of them were the parents of Pravaham community college students. Mr. Viswanath, Mrs. Mercy and team were the resource persons. Counselling was given to them on how to build a happy and congenial environment at home and tips to create a good atmosphere for children to grow and nurture as good citizens. Games were conducted and everyone participated enthusiastically.



37 couples were benefitted through this program. They said that it was the first time for them to receive marriage counselling and an opportunity to share their problems.

Student counselling and career Guidance program was conducted on the 22nd of April for the students of 10th and 12th. Mr. K. Suresh, a motivational speaker, investment & Income Tax consultant, was the resource person. Mr. Suresh, a paraplegic gave his life story of how he overcame the challenges of being wheel chair bound and completed B.com and now pursuing a successful career. He motivated the students to face challenges and not to treat them as burdens but use them as their wings to reach higher levels in life. His life story and many other stories of overcomers which Mr. Suresh shared greatly inspired the students.



Mr. C. Ravi gave information on various vocational courses available for the students who have passed or failed 10th. He gave information on the various privileges given by the Government for the SC and ST students. Pravaham extended its support to the students in helping them with applying and finding admission in suitable courses. Students were invited to come to Pravaham on any week day between 2pm to 5pm to receive help in admissions / career counselling / guidance or other related issues. 19 students from the local village participated along with 42 PCC students.

Arun Pandyan from Venkatapuram who failed std.10th said that after attending the program and listening to Mr. Suresh, he was motivated to work hard and overcome all the challenges to study further. He was thankful that Pravaham showed him a way to study further in Ranipet Technical school. Many students of Pravaham said that they will go to their villages and motivate other drop outs to enrol in vocational courses and develop their employable skills.

61 students received counselling through this program

Pravaham used as venue for retreats and programs:

Retreats and Trainings conducted by others at Pravaham:

Pravaham retreat and training facility was used by many institutions, churches and families. 53 groups consisting of 1720 people, conducted seminars, workshops, retreats, trainings at Pravaham from April 2016 to March 2017. 41 one day programs, 12 two or more days programs were conducted. Many institutions and groups like Auxilium College, Vellore, Anna University, School of Architecture, Chennai, many departments of CMC, VIT, Vellore conducted their workshops and seminars.

There is a great demand for increasing the facility to accommodate 100 people for training and retreats.



Infrastructure development:

Renovation of the dormitories and office and common room facilities:

The thatched roof covering the Dormitories was removed and concrete roof was laid. This work was started in May 2016 and completed by the end of December.

On 25th January 2017 the new Administration Block was dedicated in Memory Mrs. Meena Prashantham. Dr. B.J Prashantham unveiled the plaque and Dr. Shameen Prashantham, Professor at China International Business School declared the building open.



Acknowledgments

Another year has sped by and even as we look back, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God Almighty for His unfailing Grace and faithfulness which enabled us to work towards fulfilling the vision of our founder, Bishop Ananda Rao Samuel.

Pravaham's strength lies in the support and encouragement received from its friends both in India and abroad to carry forth its vision. Our grateful thanks to all the friends of Pravaham in India, USA, and Hongkong who work tirelessly for the cause of Pravaham.

Heartfelt thanks to our partners Christian Education fund, Kassel, Germany and Global Ministries, USA for the kind support extended to Pravaham community education Program.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to every donor for the kind support extended without which we couldn't have carried on the work of Pravaham.

Grateful thanks to the chairman Fr. Alyosious Irudayam S.J, and all the trustees of Pravaham for their support, encouragement and wise counsel.

We are thankful to the University of Strathclyde for helping us to have sustainable energy through solar lights for the Learning resource centre.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who devoted their time and knowledge and resources to teach various skills to the students.

We thank all the institutions who give placement to community college students - Amazing love Home for the aged,, Padapai, Radiant home Health services and Alisha Nursing Home, Chennai.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs Senthilvel and Mr.Mathivanan for their willing and committed service to Pravaham in planning and executing the construction of buildings at Pravaham.

We are immensely thankful to the Nursing superintendent and the director of Christaian Medical College hospital for giving Pravaham community college students an opportunity to do internship at CMC rehabilitation centre.

We are deeply indebted to Dr.Prashantham, Director, Christian counseling centre, Mr and Mrs. Arivanandam for giving free training in Life coping skills to our students.

In spite of varying limitations and challenges Pravaham continues to flow forward as an overflowing stream touching,transforming and enriching many young lives.

Thank you.

