



c/o Winfried Stelle, Hetzboldstr.17, 99631 Weißensee/Thür.

Newsletter March / April 2021

Dear foster-parents, friends and supporters of our foster-parents project,

today the main part of the newsletter will be a longer article written by Ms Mano, the manager of our home in Pandur. Before that, as usual, some important information that should not be lost.

We hope that we will soon be able to send **donation receipts for 2020** on their way.

But at the moment it is not yet possible.

Until 2019, the certificates were issued through the parish in cooperation. For 2020, after a change of leadership in the district church office, this is no longer possible.

Amy e.V., which was founded in 2020 (until then the project was not a registered association) may, according to verbal information from the responsible tax office, only issue donation certificates from November 25, 2020 (date of the official notice of recognition of non-profit status).

We are in negotiations with one of the other cooperation partners for the certificates in the period before that, and a written request has been submitted to the tax office to be allowed to issue the certificates ourselves at least from September 2020 (entry into force of the current statutes). But due to the Corona conditions, everything is dragging on for a very long time.

The first negotiations have been going on since April 2020 - the time when we were informed that the previous cooperation with the parish should no longer be in the form that has been practised for 15 years at that time.

We ask for your understanding. From our side everything is prepared. When we get the start signal, things will move quickly.

More short information:

School re-starts for further grades: After the 10th and 12th grades were able to return to boarding school and school in January, the 9th and 11th graders also started again in the first half of February.

However, contrary to initial announcements, final exams will now only be held for the 12th grades. All other pupils will be transferred to the next class without prior examinations after the start of school following the summer holidays (regularly on 1 June).

Foster-Parentships: One foster-parentship has been newly established. It is a new 11th grade student who has been admitted to the boarding school. A warm welcome - also to the new foster-father! Two pupils have left their sponsorship programmes, some students have now finished their job education and will start their professional life - and some of our girls who had finished their school education last year could now start an apprenticeship. All the foster-parents concerned have been informed. We would also like to thank them for their support - and the foster-parents of the College study starters: Thank you for continuing!

Im Internet:

www.amycarmichel.bplaced.net

E-Mail: amy.carmichel@web.de

Tel.: 036374-21258 (Winfried Stelle)

Konto: Amy Carmichel

IBAN: DE95 1203 0000 1020 3209 56

BIC : BYLADEM 1001

Deutsche Kreditbank AG (DKB)

Zur Beachtung:

Bitte ab sofort nur noch die nebenstehende Bankverbindung verwenden. Vielen Dank!



House construction: Behind Mano Amma was officially entrusted by the bishop with the supervision / accompaniment of the construction work of the house for the grandmother with the two grandchildren and a civil engineer was also commissioned, the start of construction was officially celebrated on 16 February with an on-site inspection and a devotion. The actual start of construction then took place at the beginning of March, as the heavily damaged hut of the 3 had not yet been fully cleared of the family's belongings beforehand.

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Downside: Real start of works



Foster-Parents meeting and Foster-Parents visit: Due to the unchanged bad Corona situation and the fact that there is (still) no end in sight to the restrictions and lockdown regulations in Germany, we can only stick to the "principle of hope" in terms of date (foster-parents meeting) and feasibility (for foster-parents meeting and foster-parents visit).

We will be hope to know more by the time of the next newsletter in May.

More up-to-date information is always available immediately in the WhatsApp group.

So, now I would finally like to hand over to Mano Amma:

"The main topic of the newsletter article is Covid-19.

The pandemic started from December 2019 and for this reason the virus was called Covid- 19-, co=Corona, vi=Virus- d=December 19.

It was in December 2019 when the virus actually started from China and no one was aware of the

horrors of this disease which is still spreading all over the world, taking so many lives and continuing to spread with the "2nd wave" in many places.

From 23-24 March 2019, the (Indian) government had ordered to close all educational institutions, hospitals, clinics, hotels and restaurants, leading to very difficult situations for all people everywhere. A strict lockdown was ordered everywhere and police posts were stationed everywhere where people usually gather. Only one or 2 people were to be allowed to stay together. All traffic was stopped. All businesses were closed and almost all people lost their jobs and were only at home. The 100-day work schemes were stopped (equivalent to the former ABM in Germany) and the people who depended on this work for at least two weeks a month, through which they get Rs. 125.00 per day for 6 days a week, also had no work anymore. **This affects most of the parents and relatives of our girls.**

According to the rules and regulations of the government, our homes were closed and the home residents were sent home to their parents. This is what happened to all the staff, as they found they had no work at the home without the children. I stayed behind to take care of the facility, water the garden, take care of the maintenance of the buildings and for administrative work with the government and the church, feeling very busy and hopeful that the situation with the Corona virus would soon come to an end. Left with me was Mr Martin, the caretaker and our office assistant. After some time, the government officials from the Child Welfare Department came and said all the staff should come to the hostel at least for a few hours and the wardens too.

As there was no end to the days of corona virus, I had to hire 2 workers for cleaning the compound, collecting cow dung in front of the main entrance gate, etc., for which the wages had to be paid daily. It was the time in November and December 2020 when it rained heavily and water was everywhere, for which drains had to be created. Before that time was autumn where the leaves fall and, when they accumulate, there are hiding places for the snakes coming from the neighbouring fields and that also happened on many days.

Over night I stayed alone, so 2 of our girls who live in Pandur village came to sleep with me and in the morning they went back to their homes. The government was very particular that no child stayed in the home.

During the Corona virus period, many girls came with their parents to see how we were doing in the hostel. Since there was no transport, they came on motorbikes and on two-wheelers. Whenever they came, they were provided with delicious food and snacks and given food, cooking oil, toiletries and enough sanitary materials as needed. As the home and all its buildings were closed, food was always cooked in the manager's house (called the bungalow) by the home cook.

The hospitals where many of our girls study were also closed and our girls were sent home for a few weeks, so their training period had to be extended for at least another 6 months.

For many girls, it was difficult to complete their work online, as compared to classes, it was not easy for them to do the work independently.

The government had ordered (at the end of 2020) that all schools should reopen on 19 January, after the Pongal holidays, and 10th and 12th class students, as their state exams were due, should attend classes again. But they had to bring a negative (covid) test report from the government hospital or a primary health centre. No one is allowed to enter the campus without a Corona negative report. Daily reports should be sent to the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

The next order from the government came on 8 February 2021. Now the 9th and 11th class boarding girls were also to come back to the hostel, only with a negative test. Since the school also needed such a report, we made a copy and gave it to the school.

In the meantime, staff were trained on the pandemic, how to educate children on cleanliness,

hygiene, taking a temperature, the need to wear a mask, washing hands, etc. Before going to school, each student should take their temperature and write it in the log.

A total of 32 girls are back in the home as of today. Any new student who wants to be admitted to the home should first go to the Child Welfare Committee with her parents and through them get permission from the government to be admitted. So far only one girl student has been (newly) admitted in the home - C. Jeevitha (AC 01-21), she is in class 11 (and she has already been placed in a foster-parentship, thanks to the "foster-parent waiting list" that has grown over the last year).

February 24 is the birthday of the late former Chief Minister, Ms Jeyalalitha. A pledge was taken on this day: There should be no distinction of caste, creed and religion among the students and all should be treated as equal citizens. And a photograph was taken and sent to the government. It was a commemorative day, called "**State Girl Child Protection Day**".

The state examinations of the Plus II course (matriculation, class 12) will begin on May 3 and end on May 21. The students of all other classes, from class 9 to class 11, will be declared to have passed the school year, as they were last year. But many are against this arrangement as it would make the students take everything too lightly and not perceive the lessons properly.

The general election to elect a new Chief Minister for Tamil Nadu, which is held every 5 years, will be on April 6. For this reason, the state exams will be delayed by one month. The exact date of commencement is not yet known for all classes.

After the government ordered that the school should reopen on 19 January 2021, we had to buy enough sanitary materials for the children, for cleaning the campus, etc. **The main repair works took place as follows:** Inspection of gas pipes, water purifiers, cleaning of tanks, etc., as they had not been used for 10 months.

We had to renew the following certificates after the inspection by the responsible inspectors:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) Sanitary Certificate | - Rs. 3,100.00 |
| 2) Fire and Rescue Service | - Rs. 3,000.00 |
| 3) Building Structural Stability Certificate | - Rs. 15,000.00 |
| 4) Building License | - Rs. 4,500.00 |
| 5) Bulk Rice and Wheat, Sugar-subsidy | - Rs. 5,000.00 |

Finally I would like to thank our donors and well wishers for their benevolent support through which our girls could receive gifts and money. The girls are extremely thankful to the foster parents and donors and well wishers for their spontaneous support. Due to the pandemic, many could not celebrate Christmas and New Year. Also in our church, the Lent days, Easter day, Confirmation and baptisms Annual Harvest Festival, the Mission Thanksgiving Service, Martin Luther's one week celebration, Sunday Schools, Junior Ministry, Youth groups, Women's Fellowship, nothing took place.

On the 31st of December was a very special day. After 10 months, the regular service took place at 6.30 in the evening with the Holy Communion with 4 Pastors and candidates, at midnight, a special service- an old year is closing and a new year started and on 1st of January 2021, the regular New Year service took place with a big crowd. This day brought smile on everyone's faces, and with a blessings of our god.

On the 26th of January 2021, Republic Day was celebrated and the girls paid homage to the people who laid down their lives in the struggle for India's freedom - like Mr. Mahatma Gandhi. Students observed two minutes silence.

But I, on my part is very grateful to our Savior Jesus Christ that amidst these unprecedented times where we crossed paths of negative news every day. Nevertheless, by the grace of God we could manage the year. The lockdown has given families a chance to grow closer themselves and God. So we cannot regard this year as a bad omen as it has given us a lot of unexpected joy

and happiness without realizing them. These are joyous moments of hope and unity despite the social distancing.

On Sunday, the 7th of this month, there was a song service of each group was announced and our girls sang 2 songs:

- 1) "O welt, sieh hier dein Leben"- in Tamil from the Hymn Book 51
- 2) "Jesu, deine heilige, Wunden"- in Tamil Hymn Book 56.

Next was our church Women's fellowship group.



Regarding the group photo: Was taken on Sunday after the church. As it was with the Holy Communion, it became

late. By this time, hot sun came and, therefore, I think, the group photo will not be perfect. Few girls came late and it was also included as 2nd photo. The group photo is not with all the project children. I phoned but many didn't respond.

About the building of the house: The bishop and the civil engineer have said, okay - start. But the brick factory is having problems delivering the bricks because there has been too much rain in between.

That is the news at the moment. Yours sincerely, Mano" - Thank you Mano Amma!

I wish everyone a happy Easter and a blessed Easter season. Stay healthy!

With many greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Winfried Stelle".

Winfried Stelle, Project-Coordinator „Amy Carmichel“
(18.03.2021)

Here is a preview of the dates (as of 18.03.2021):

Date of Foster-Parents visit 2021: (probably) 25 October to 06 November 2021. Registrations for the trip are still possible. The offer is subject to the Corona regulations and the travel warnings for India.

The Foster-Parents visit is a group travel offer. Participation is possible for up to 20 people. It is planned to spend one week in Pandur (with excursions in the region and opportunities to do something together with the children) and the second week will be a multi-day trip to a more distant destination in the south of India.

India afternoon or evening events are also possible in your town/parish by arrangement, as soon as the Corona regulations allow it again.

Please send enquiries to Winfried Stelle, email amy.carmichel@web.de or phone: 036374-21258.

The newsletter for May / June 2021 is expected to be published in mid-May 2021.

The **next money-transfer** to India will probably be in mid-May 2021 (with all special donations received until then).

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All those who are interested can still receive the current **DVD**, (as usual for a donation of € 10.00 for our office costs, plus € 1.55 postage). Please just contact me.

This time the film contains two travelogues: **Mano Ammas trip to Germany** last year before and the **foster-parents visit** in 2019, and in addition a short review of our jubilee year. Total length is 45 minutes.

Interested in a foster-parentship?

Sponsorship with one of our boarding school children is possible for as little as 17.50 euros per month, and a study sponsorship for about 25.00 euros per month (as of January 2021).

Help with a donation?

**Amy Carmichel / DE95 1203 0000 1020 3209 56 / BYLADEM 1001 /
Deutsche Kreditbank AG (DKB)**

Thank you for your support!

"Amy Carmichel- Hilfe für Kinder in Indien" c/o Winfried Stelle, Hetzboldstr.17, 99631 Weißensee/Thür.
Internet: www.amycarmichel.bplaced.net / e-Mail: amy.carmichel@web.de