

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2013/2014

As the years move on so do we at Memorial Church Anglican. With God's grace we have been able to continue functioning with all our commitments and continued to manage our worship services at our church along with our outreach commitments that we had undertaken with the revival of the Anglican Denomination here at Whitefield.

The Cottolengo Convent continues to be our main Outreach project. As we all know, the sisters at this convent take care of children and adults from all walks of life – cast, colour, and creed no bar. They run a special school for mentally and physically challenged destitute children. They have resident and non-resident children - ALL are cared for and loved. The physiotherapy department continues to function, with well-trained staff, for all who need their help.

Our other outreach work continued with our taking care of the educational needs of dependants of staff. Their children's school fees, books, uniforms etc. were all paid for by us. We supported the following priests in Tamilnadu with sustenance

- Rev. Daniel Manoharan of St. Luke's Church, Amma Palyam, Salem Jn.
- Rev. Ramani Kumar Johnson, Emmanuel Church, Athismankottai, Dharmapuri.
- Rev. K. Abraham, World Saviour Church, Nachipudur Village, Namalekar Dist.
- Rev. J. Devasitham, Ratchanya Kanmalai Church, Tholampatty.

As the above support had reduced our capabilities to support the needy, members of the congregation took it upon themselves and supported a few less fortunate individuals who needed medical attention.

This Christmas season too, we held a party for the children at the Cottolengo Convent. This time it was held on the 8th December with all the excitement of the children present. Once more, Mr. Narayana Swamy was there with a section of the Frank Anthony Public School Brass Band who performed and enthralled these children with their music and accompanied the singing of Carols by all who had gathered.

For the Carol Service – Lighting the Way, which was well attended, we had an Ensemble from the William Joseph International Academy of Performing Arts, led by Dr. Ashley William Joseph, playing through the service. This lent much meaning to the entire Carol Service. Midnight Mass on the 24th night was also well attended. This was followed by fellowship with all sipping hot coffee and enjoying good plum cake. Once more we were able to host a lunch for the sisters and children who were still in the Cottolengo Convent, and spent some time with them.

Another evening of bonding was the Family dinner night held in January 2014. We had a great time with 16 members of the congregation present. Each family cooked and brought a meal to share with others. We had a good spread of a variety of sumptuous food, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We played a few games, had a sing along session in which everyone was very sporting. The evening turned out to be very successful, and many expressed views of having more such evenings. As it can be seen, this brought the congregation closer.

As February came along we began preparing for our annual fund raiser. That is our Festival of Spring Souvenir, for which we get advertisements from friends and well-wishers. The funds generated from this venture help us maintain the church and carry out some of our Outreach work during the year. The service for The Festival of Spring fell on 2nd March 2014, where we gave thanks to our heavenly Father for all His Grace and blessings showered on us through the past year.

Through the Lenten season Rev. Fr. Karunakara had planned to conducted Lenten Bible Study for the members of the Parish on Tuesday evening. Unfortunately due to the lack of participation from members of the congregation, this was a non-starter. The season ended with our Easter Vigil.

We continue to share with the C.S.I. congregation, the expenses of salaries of church staff, security agency, electricity and maintenance of the property. We also continue to pay our tithes to the Diocese and taxes to the Government. We have no outstanding towards either....by God's Grace we have been able to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God, God's.

To God Be the Glory

Mrs Sydney Smith
Hony. Secretary