



## News from Vellore!

### The New Elders

The Reformed Christian Church of Vellore (Tamil Congregation) recently ordained two men, Arockiam and Prem Kumar, to serve as elders in the church and Saravanan has been ordained as deacon.



*Elder Prem Kumar, Pastor Paulraj, Deacon Saravanan, Elder Arockiam, and Rev. G. Paulraj (of the Bangalore Presbyterian Church) at the ordination service*

Bro. Arockiam was converted from Catholicism and has been an active member of the church for over 6 years. Paulraj writes, "He has a heart for the poor and needy and regularly visits the children in our orphanage. He is also good in giving counseling to the people in need. He is certainly a gifted man and we do thank God for him."

Bro. Prem Kumar works at the Vellore Institute of Technology as an Administrative Assistant. For many years, he worked with the accounts at Grace Foster Home and continues to assist in the administration of the home. He recently married Devi, a teacher who also now works at Grace Foster Home. She tutors the children after school, teaching them songs and Bible stories. She also facilitates their nightly devotions.

Bro. Saravanan comes from a devoutly Hindu family. Saravanan's father had a Christian friend, a British man, who lived near his farm many years ago. Because of his family's acquaintance with Christians, his conversion to Christianity was not much opposed. Presently, he is very active with the village outreaches and plays the leadership role. He has a heart for missions and is a man of action.

How thankful we are that God raises up qualified men in the church of Vellore to serve His flock!

### Theological Training for Men

Paulraj, in his newsletter to Georgetown PRC, writes: "First, we wish to thank you for your support in the years past of our Sola Gratia Bible Study Program, designed to introduce the Reformed Faith to any Christian. Now we have slightly modified this Bible Study Program, in such way to train those men who desire to take leadership positions in village outreaches. As of now, there are about 8 people who regularly join in the classes that we organize for one day in a month... Now we are in the process of making it two days in a month. Presently there are four men who have expressed desire to be trained by us in a systematic way so they may be better equipped for the works of mission. We wish to train them in such a way that they might work in partnership and fellowship with our churches.

*Please pray for this effort. We seek further instruction to train them in the faith and practice of the Reformed Heritage in the days to come."*

Some of the men from the congregation, Praveen, Jeremiah, Daniel and Karunas, have expressed desire to become full time mission workers. The work in the village outreach and Vellore area is great. The opportunities for mission outreach have been growing. Training men to lead the village outreaches would (Lord willing) help the groups to increase in faith under the teaching of scripture. The goal would be for a group to become a church under the Lord's blessing. The RCCV has been praying for the right men to take the leadership in the villages and receive these men as an answer to their prayers.

### Village Outreaches

From Paulraj's newsletter: "We are very thankful to God for giving us the needed grace and protection as we minister to the people in our village outreaches. As of now, we stopped going to [two] villages, as there we experienced opposition continuously. We still have the opening to reach out the people in [a] village wherein we still have some opposition, yet we have opportunity to serve. The groups in Ramalai, Anju Nagar, Anna Nagar, and Tholloor villages are becoming stronger in their faith. We also have an opening in a village called Kattupudi. [Five] brethren help in reaching out these villages under the leadership of Saravanan and Prem Kumar. Once a while I too visit the villages."

*I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.*

*Psalm 57: 9, 10*

### Vacation Bible School Program

Paulraj thanks us for our support of the VBS held in years past. He reports that it was a great blessing to the children in the Vellore congregation and in surrounding areas. Many church members and volunteers assisted with this program during summer vacation. The leaders of the English congregation also participated in the VBS Program this year. The Vacation Bible School took place in four different places and about 400 children



were reached and were taught various Bible Stories and Scripture.

*Children participating in the VBS program*

## From Grace Foster Home...

### KIDS HELPING KIDS

Over the years several “kids” groups have assisted the children at Grace Foster Home. We often think that supporting a ministry of this size and complexity is an adult matter. Not so! Children have taught us so many things over the years – and they continue to teach us now. They are showing us zeal, enthusiasm, self-sacrifice, and an unabashed way of communicating with children in another land. A huge **thank you** to the children and young adults of the following groups:

**S.A.L.T. “Serving And Learning Together”, Georgetown PRC, Hudsonville MI:** This is a group of girls in grades 7-9. Their focus is studying the Bible, reflecting on topics important to young women, as well as being creative with crafts. Since 2008, they have prepared individual gift bags for the children at GFH. These were sent with various delegations from Georgetown PRC that visited India. The GFH children love these bags!



*Karthik, a GFH employee, with the 3 wheel vehicle*

**Heritage Christian School, Hudsonville MI:** Students at this school chose to use their annual Christmas donations to assist GFH. With the money collected, Paulraj was able to purchase a “3 wheeler”, a common vehicle in India. Prior to this, they used only public transportation, even to transport sick children to the doctor. They are grateful!

**Byron Center PRC Sunday School, Byron Center MI:** Collections taken during the current Sunday school session will be

donated to GFH. The money will be used to buy clothing for the 50 children. As one can imagine, clothing is very much needed there with

50 growing boys and girls....and no second hand stores! An added bit of information – the children do their own laundry – washing the clothing by hand and spreading it on the ground to dry in the sun. The children



*Byron Center PRC Sunday school*

are eagerly awaiting this donation!

**Children in sponsor families:** Although adults sign up to sponsor, the children in these families are key to making sponsorship successful. Part of sponsorship involves writing to the child monthly.

Children in sponsor families send all sorts of neat things to their sponsored child including artwork and lovely simple words of faith and love. We hear that the children literally “squeal with delight” when they receive a letter!

**F.I.S.H “First In Serving Him”:** This is a group of K-8 children from the three PRC churches in northern Indiana. They do service activities in their area such as visiting residents at nursing homes as well as getting together for fun activities such as sledding, archery, and wood working projects. After the India Mission Committee presented to these congregations, the FISH group asked if they could write the children at GFH. They knew how the children love getting letters – and chose to “give” in this very personal way. More “squeals of delight” were heard!



*Children of F.I.S.H, from the northern Indiana PRC churches*

**Covenant Christian High School, Walker MI:** Students at Covenant collect soda cans throughout the school year, and then donate the money collected from deposit

returns to a worthy cause. They chose GFH and the money collected was used for a reverse osmosis water purification system on Eden, GFH land. This purifies the “raw” water, making it drinkable. The picture shows boys from GFH swimming in the water tank, prior to purification. This system is a huge boost to the ongoing project of providing permanent housing for GFH on Eden.



**Georgetown Catechism Classes:**

Several catechism classes have written the GFH children over the years. Sometimes these are mailed from the USA; this last packet was brought by the delegation that visited in January and the letters were read by Deane Wassink, with Kasthuri interpreting. Not only were the squeals heard, but Deane got to see the joy on the kids’ faces when they received the letters.

### Opportunities for Giving

The needs of Paulraj and Kasthuri are endless, however their greatest desire is for your prayers. Please pray for them in their mission to deliver the message of Christ to all who will listen, in a nation where Christianity is despised. Please pray for their safety in sharing this message while surrounded by those who hate them. Please pray for the growth of the Reformed Christian Church of Vellore and for all those who are members. Please pray for the children of Grace Foster Home, that they may continue to grow in the knowledge of their Savior who loves them.

If you have been moved by this ministry, please also consider a financial gift to assist in the day to day needs of Paulraj and Kasthuri, as well as the children of Grace Foster Home.

Please mail your financial gift to:  
**Georgetown PRC/India Mission Outreach**  
**PO Box 253**  
**Hudsonville, MI 49426**

***Thank You for your support!***