



# India Mission Newsletter

May 2013

## Updates from Vellore

### News from the English Congregation



**Members of the English Congregation**

The English speaking congregation of Vellore has changed their name from Reformed Christian Church—English to the simpler Vellore Christian Church. They continue to meet near the Christian Medical College, and

many of their members work and study at that large facility. Besides their Sabbath service, they meet on Thursdays for Bible study and fellowship. They are studying the Reformed Confessions of Faith. Having finished the Belgic Confession, they are now learning God's word as found in the Heidelberg Catechism. They ask for our prayers as they study the Three Forms of Unity and seek to draw from them the doctrinal standards for the institution of their Church.

### News from the Tamil Congregation

Pastor Paulraj in his April update to Georgetown PRC had this news to report: *"We, as Church, seek to elect our new Office Bearers - Elders (Mr.Arockiam and Mr.Saravanan are proposed) for our Tamil Church and we hope to have be done in next two weeks time. Last Sunday, we officially announced to the congregation, the process of electing the elders for our church. These men are proposed for the office of the Elder of our church, which also includes 5 of our house churches in the nearby villages too. The members of our church are asked to pray for the election and express their opinion and acceptance."*



**Elders Saravanan and Arockiam with Deacon, Prem**

This was done, and both men were chosen to stand in the office. How thankful we are that God gives His church elders who are willing and capable to serve as overseers of Christ's flock. We pray for God's blessing and spirit to rest on Arockiam and Saravanan as they take up their important work!

### Work With the Youth

For those of you who do not know, the Tamil Congregation sponsors a **Free Tutor Program** in the villages around Vellore. Young women from the congregation come to the villages and help children with their studies. More importantly, they teach Bible stories and catechism to the youth as part of the program. This is an important part of the village outreach—to pave the way for a formal gathering of adults and children alike to learn songs, memorize scripture, and hear the gospel. Paulraj writes, *"The Free Tutor programs are going on well. Recently I heard from one of the Tutors that the children those who study at the Tutor program make difference in their local school and so the teachers working in the local school had met our tutor to congratulate and encourage her. In fact,*

*we were experiencing little bit of opposition from the local people for our tutor program, which includes the study of children catechism. Now the situation is bit different and we are thankful to God that we can continue to tutor the children with both the secular study and Scripture."* This summer the church hopes to hold Vacation Bible Studies at the church and in the village outreaches. VBS has been an important tool ministering to children for five years now.



**Tamil Church Service**

We are glad to receive updates from Pastor Paulraj about the exciting work and new outreaches that God puts in the path of the Reformed Church of Vellore! Let's continue to pray for Paulraj and all those who assist him in the spread of the gospel. Also, let's earnestly pray for the church that it may grow—doctrinally, spiritually, and numerically.

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*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

*Matthew 24:14*

## Introducing the staff of Grace Foster Home...



*Mrs. Sheela, Pinky, Kasthuri, Suresh Kumar Paulraj, and Prem*

Over the past months, we have introduced several children of Grace Foster Home. As you have read in the past, these children are well cared for, having their physical, emotional and spiritual needs met. So... who are these men and women who choose to care for 35-50 children in less than optimal conditions? Meet Mrs. Sheela, Premila, Pinky, Suresh Kumar, Karthik, Mrs. Mary, Prem Kumar, and Devi.

### **Mrs Sheela, supervisor:**

Mrs Sheela is a long standing member of the RCCV and a member of the Board of Trustees of Grace Foster Home. She helps in the overall administration of the home. Her house is close to GFH so she is able to be at the home frequently and is especially helpful to the children in their evening studies. For the past few months, Mrs. Sheela has struggled with medical issues, but plans to resume some of her work in the next few weeks.

### **Premila, lead female warden:**

Premila has the duties of lead female warden, their term for the home manager. Although new to Grace Foster Home, she has shown herself to be a good choice to provide leadership and coordination for this home. She lives at Grace Foster Home and is key in handling the day to day activities of the home. She has attended college and also assists Kasthuri in managing the accounts.



*Primila and Pinky*

### **Ms Pinky, assistant warden:**

Ms Pinky (Shalini), assists Premila in the day to day running of Grace Foster Home. She is one of two daughters of Mrs. Sheela and has been at Grace Foster Home for

almost two years. She makes sure the home is clean and that the children and their clothing are kept clean also. She recently got married in Bangalore, a city a few hours away from Vellore. Congratulations, Pinky!

### **Mr. Suresh Kumar, lead male warden:**

This 29 year old man has been working at Grace Foster Home for about a year and a half. He is a member of the RCCV and when not busy with Grace Foster Home duties, he assists in administrative duties at the church. He has the ability to set good limits with the children, something that is appreciated in this setting. Interestingly, his two nephews, Giridhar and Kishore, are residents in Grace Foster Home.

### **Mr. Karthik, kitchen assistant:**

Karthik is well known to those who have visited Vellore. He was a resident at Grace Foster Home and known for his extremely helpful attitude and ready smile. He had shown interest in the culinary arts and was given specific training in this area. He now assists in the cooking at Grace Foster Home and may eventually be their full time cook.



*Karthik*

### **Mrs. Mary, cook:**

This Christian woman has the challenging task of cooking for 35 children plus staff. She does not live at the home, but does live close by and comes to Grace Foster Home daily. Reports from each delegation indicate that the children are well fed and appreciative of Mrs. Mary's efforts.



*Prem and Devi*

### **Mr. Prem Kumar, administration:**

Prem is also well known to those who have visited Vellore. He currently serves as a deacon of RCCV and 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, teaches them songs and Bible stories. She also facilitates their nightly devotions.

We thank all the staff for their loving service to the children at Grace Foster Home. Please hold them close in prayer, praying for wisdom and patience as they seek to raise these children to be men and women of faith.

### **Did You Know...?**

The official language of Tamil Nadu, the Indian state where Vellore is located, is Tamil. What appears to us to be squiggles and curls actually represent numbers, letters and words. Here are just a few examples of the Tamil language!

Apart from numbers 0-9, Tamil also has numerals for 10, 100 and 1000. Symbols for day, month, year, debit, credit, as above, rupee, and numeral are present as well.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 100 1000

ஓ க உ ன ச று கூ எ அ கூ க ய ன று

day month year debit credit <sup>as</sup> above rupee numeral

உ மீ ஶு யு ஶு ரெ று று

For more information on this ministry, click the link to our website:

<http://georgetownprc.org/outreach/india-mission/>

## ***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.

*\*To make a secure donation through Paypal or with a credit card, click on the Make a Donation button below.*

**Make A Donation**

or mail your financial gift to:

Georgetown PRC/India Mission Outreach  
PO Box 253  
Hudsonville, MI 49426

*\*Please specify in the comments if you would like your gift to be used in the General Ministry or for the needs of Grace Foster Home.*

***Please contact us for comments/suggestions.***

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