



Silas Rameshkumar

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Head Office India, Bangalore

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 1 Tim. 6:11

13th PACE VISIT INDIA

April 4th to April 19th, 2012

Team: Peter Mueller Graf, Silas Rameshkumar, Solomon and Lilly Aruldas
Area: Bangalore, Coimbatore, Valparai

The PACE trip was organized by FAMIN in order to achieve the following objectives.

General

To evaluate the FAMIN projects within the set timeframe.

- To verify the field operations whether they are in accordance with the principles in the statutes, regulations and guidance documents and to know whether it includes the specifications for the purpose and objectives laid down and given duties and tasks.
- To study the field operations using practical opportunities to understand people with their lifestyle, culture and their alignment and orientation to the churches and their faith life and economic status.
- To travel willingly, to get adapted to the field situations, to cope up with available facilities and to act and perform in the development process with a special dedication.
- To do the filed work and participate in the activities with earnest prayers.

Spiritual

- To disseminate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nonbelievers and to participate and consult on issues of individuals and people groups by preaching and teaching.
- To examine and follow up the changes and progress of born-again Christians in the due course of time.
- To get along with the individuals, families and community for prayer and fellowship.

Expectations

- To work as a team according to the travel plan and report about issues based on observations.
- To take part in assessment, planning, evaluation and development activities.
- To visit the local offices, regional bodies and training centers to assess their needs and to organize and implement adequate and effective systems.
- To assess and evaluate the correct use of funds and auxiliary supports towards various projects and tasks and to report with necessary suggestions and plans.

The following is a short report on the activities and experiences during the PACE trip and after the trip.

Life Institute Trust – Bangalore Central Church

We visited the Life Institute Trust/ Bangalore Central Church on 6th April 2012 to be part of Good Friday Service. This is a wonderful congregation which is evidently growing in faith and spiritual aspects. We observed that the church is upgraded with UPS(uninterrupted power supply), LCD projector with other necessary PA system and musical equipment and a car for transportation. We are glad that FAMIN was also a part of this growth and development. Though we wanted to bring help through a reunion with parents and further educational support to Beulah and Moses who is living with Pastor Bernad's family, being separated from their parents who live in Hosur, we could not proceed in this direction at this time due to limitations of time, energy, cost and policy. Yes, we have decided that, since this ministry has different visions, policies and could run on its own through local donors and church support, FAMIN would not involve in any kind of support or joint activities with them.



Bethesda ministries, Children Home, Bangalore

Bro. Thomas Moses, the leader of Bethesda Children Home, shared with us about the studies of the children, plans for extending ministry in the areas of slum-work, church planting, appointing chaplains for the homes etc. He also explained about the fees structure in schools and how the parents are burdened to pay the admission fees during May and June of which is the beginning of every academic year. We

have witnessed the happiness and growth of the children staying in this home and had a nice time of singing and praying with them. This ministry has so many projects and still growing in different areas and we have decided to focus only on bringing support to the children home project. Based on the discussion about the earmarked admission fees needed to be paid in May and June, FAMIN has transferred 3 months' contribution in advance to enable them paying fees without any problems.

FAMIN Beneficiary Families Meeting, Bangalore

In order to reduce time and save energy of the PACE team and to give an opportunity to the beneficiary families to know, meet, and understand one another, we have arranged a one-day meeting of FAMIN beneficiary families at Bangalore on 7th April 2012. The Amutha family from Chennai, Subhashini family from Kakangarai, Eswari family from Vellakuttai, Srimathi family from Tiruppattur, Sheela, Janaki and Silas families from Bangalore were the participants of this meeting. There were introduction of families, singing, bible reading, testimonies, special message from Bro. Peter and a game to find out how much everyone know about others. There were moments of tears, moments of joy, moments of understanding moments of prayer and a fine lunch together.



Janaki Sukumar Family, Bangalore



We visited Janaki family to evaluate the studies and growth and future opportunities for the children. We came to know that both Geetha and Sangeetha were not able to study the syllabus of regular stream and therefore joined in open schooling system which does not have any value in terms of getting employment opportunities or higher education. We advised both of them to join in the regular schooling system by moving to Bethesda Children Home, where they can get tuition for their subjects, encouragement, spiritual guidance and Christian care from Bro. Thomas Moses. Geetha is willing to take up this opportunity after knowing the results of her last exam and Sangeetha is not willing to join in the regular stream of study as she has the mindset that she could not study English, Mathematics and Science well and in open school syllabus she doesn't need to study those subjects. Without these core subjects, the education one could get will not be complete and useful for employment. Therefore we decided to stop supporting for Sangeetha's education.

Helanrani Family, Erode

This family failed in managing funds received for their children's education, as they always overspent and most of the time had zero balances in their bank accounts. Bro. Sam is not actively searching for a job and irresponsibly behaving in financial matters like paying rent, withdrawing money from bank account etc. They also could not take up any official and financial responsibilities in future from FAMIN Trust as they failed in running a tailoring school for the poor women in Erode area.

We found out that this family is not showing any growth towards sustainability and self-standing as we purpose them and they remain dependents, debtors and making us to take responsibilities beyond our vision and scope. Considering these situations, we have decided with painful heart, to cease supporting this family and give them into the hands of the Lord, who will give them more wisdom, knowledge, power and responsibility to work hard and care for the family. FAMIN has also provided them with security deposits which they can utilize in case of emergencies.



Shakuntala Vigneshwaran Family, Valparai



We could not meet this family of Vigneshwaran because they were in Coimbatore to make arrangements for shifting their family to Coimbatore. We were very much disappointed to know that they were not sending their children to school regularly and they don't grow towards sustainability and becoming more dependent on FAMIN contribution alone. Vigneshwaran stopped his daily laborer job in Valparai market. Since Raman and Shakuntala are uneducated, they don't understand the value of education and its importance for the future of their children. As they come from a poor background, they perceive that spending thousands of rupees as school fees is waste of money. After several attempts to meet them with an intention to teach them, we could not make it and further decided to stop the sponsorships and supports for this family with immediate effect.

Angel Kiruba, Valparai

Bro. Reini was instrumental to identify the need and potential of this girl Angel Kiruba who was not able to go to college after schooling due to financial difficulties in the family. FAMIN has supported Angel and Josephine for their college education. Angel has successfully completed her B.Sc., and M.Sc., degrees in Computer Science. She got married recently and now she is pregnant and happily living with her husband Bose. She is confident that she would also go for a job after her delivery. We had a nice time of sharing and praying with this family and brought a message on how naming a child is a great opportunity to testify and bring gospel to others. The biblical names raise questions in the minds of non-Christians and also it is an opportunity to explain the gospel when someone wants to know the meaning of the name. Also we make others to pronounce the Name of the Lord and the Names of His servants in New Testament.



Amuthababy Family, Stanmore Tea Estates, Valparai

Amuthababy and her two children are nicely growing in spiritual life. They have regular prayer time for their church and for FAMIN ministry. The girls are studying well and helping mom at home. By verifying the bank details, we found out that Amuthababy has spent some money for helping her sister who was in need. We taught her that the importance of carefully handling the money designated for her daughters' education. We helped her to see that the money is not her own but she only has the great responsibility to ensure that her daughters are cared well for their life, educational and health needs. She realized that she has gone beyond her limit out of sympathy and confessed that she would keep up with the instructions. We were also able to see that Suganyababy was not wearing any necklace like other college students and we helped her to have a chain that she could wear while going to college.



Solomon and Lilly Aruldhass Family, Coimbatore

Bro. Aruldhass and Sis. Lilly were living in Coimbatore during the last one year and started a new tailoring business for their family income. As we have observed the need of a "FAMIN Child Care Centre" at Valparai, we have taken them as full-time FAMIN field coordinators for the Hill and Rural areas. Therefore they will move their family to Valparai again and start to establish a new tailoring school, tuition center and tailoring business. We have also seen a prospective land for FAMIN Centre in Valparai and the owner of the land has assured that he will give it free for this mission purpose after discussing with his family members. So we are prayerfully waiting on the Lord to open the doors to get

this land and establish a mission center that would provide a home for children, tuition center, tailoring center, computer training center and office for the trust.

New souls for the Lord's Kingdom

Sis. Muthumani is one of our tailoring graduates who is successfully running a tailoring business at Valparai in the



same place where the tailoring school was running. When we visited this place we found that the place was full of pictures of Hindu gods. The Lord strengthened us to take off these materials and recover the place for the Lord by replacing Bible verses. Though we had to suffer the side effect of this action the Lord was mighty enough to protect us. On the same day 5 women (Murugalakshmi, Muthumani, Chithra, Sujitha and Lakshmi) were saved by inviting Jesus into their hearts. Sujitha is a young girl who is the elder girl in her mother-less family and responsible for younger brothers and sisters. To help her to start her own business, FAMIN has provided her with a new tailoring machine with electric motor attachment.

Joyce Jansirani Family, Coimbatore

The tailoring center at Coimbatore established by Bro. Aruldas will be handed over to Joyce Jansirani who is a relative and present staff of Bro. Aruldas to run a tailoring training center and tailoring business as well. Her children Benita and Esther will be supported for education. This is a very good opportunity for the women living in this area to learn tailoring training and get employment opportunities in the garments factories in Coimbatore.



Vasuki Rajangam Family, Coimbatore

Rajangam is now settled well in Coimbatore and he is able to see the future for his children by providing them good education. He and his wife work hard and manage the family well. We also had to advise and teach them to care enough for the needs of the children and to make reserves and margins for some unexpected situations. We had a nice time of praying and sharing with this family also and the father Gunaseelan who is a very good singer sang a good song for all the families gathered over there.



Silas and Shobha Rameshkumar Family, Bangalore

I have successfully completed my MA in Management at SAIACS and I will continue for one more year to obtain the degree called M.Div. (Master of Divinity) which is approved by Mysore University.



I see that God has given me a vision through James 1:27 to care for orphan and widows. I will build up this FAMIN India ministry to bring light into families by giving them education, encouragement and the Gospel. Next year I purpose to move to Valparai-Coimbatore area to give more care for the families and to enlarge the ministry. With my and my wives education and teaching capabilities we could get jobs and care for our own family but also conduct the ministry as it was purposed in my job description in 2005.

I confessed to Bro. Peter about one of my mistake in which I acted humanly. Along with some of the SAIACS faculties I bought a piece of land, (1200 square feet) cost of which was around six lakh rupees. I used my EPF security deposits and borrowed loans from my relatives to buy this, hoping that I would repay them in future by working in a software company. I was not praying enough to the Lord to show the right direction in this aspect. Later I realized that it is beyond my scope and capacity. The sale proceeds also did not record the real value of the land in order to skip paying heavy tax to the government.

I realize this as a mess I made to my life and I am praying that the Lord is gracious enough to forgive me. I informed the realtor of this land that I want to sell it back as soon as possible. I will quickly settle my debts and reallocate my EPF security deposits.

I ask for forgiveness from the FAMIN Board members, for not acting wisely and not reporting and getting proper counsel from elders. I assure and pray that by the grace and power of the Lord, in future, I will act responsibly in finances and in making major decisions, so that I will be the faithful servant of the Lord and a leader with integrity and ethical values.

Silas Rameshkumar, Secretary