

Updates



Devamatha Flood Relief Mission 2018

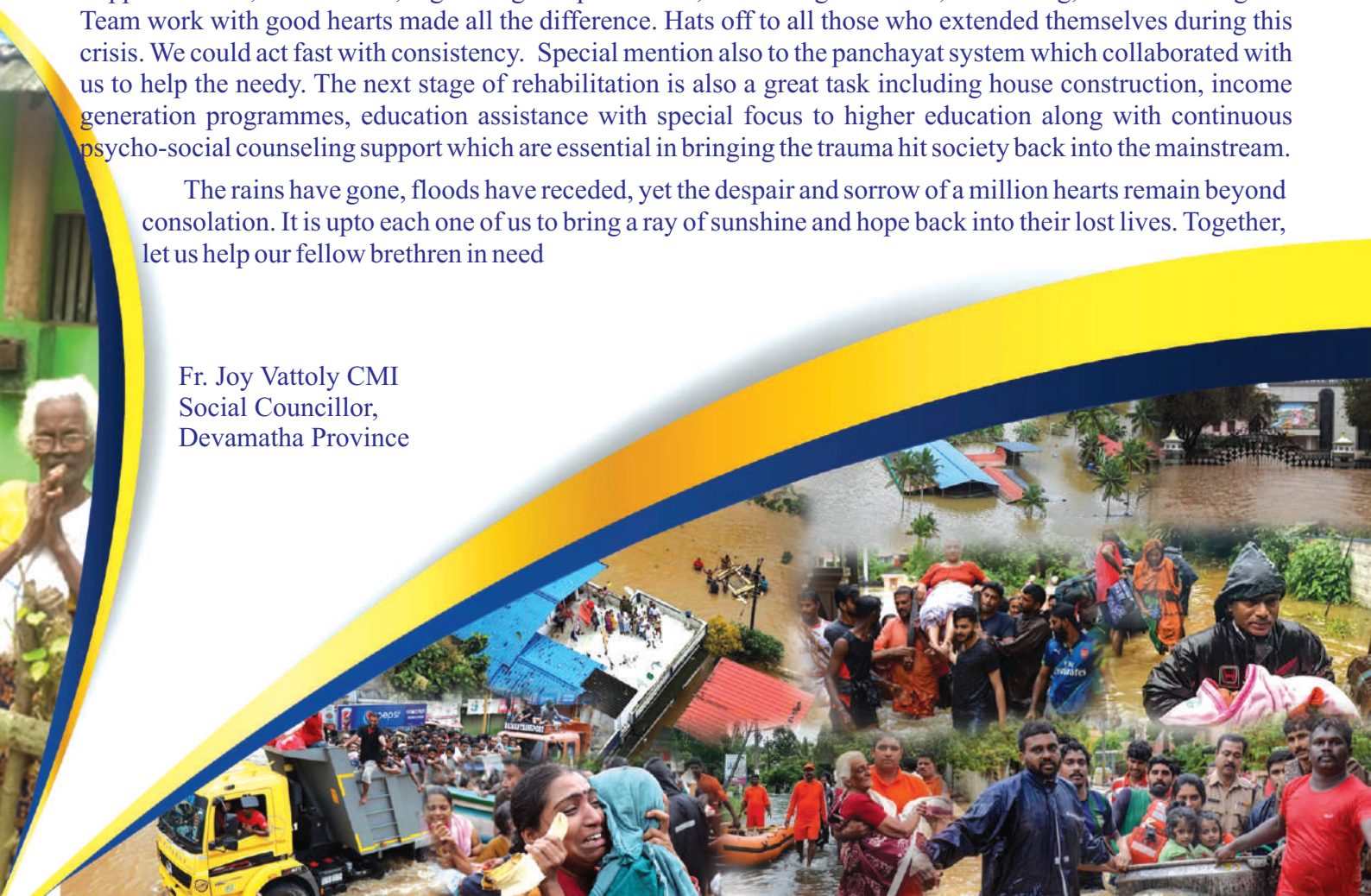
Kerala witnessed one of its most catastrophic floods in this century during the monsoon of 2018, causing irreparable damage to people's lives, livelihood, property and infrastructure. Floods and landslides have taken away 445 lives, washing away 50000 houses and damaging 130000 others. Over 3.1 lakh people became homeless. These are the official figures, but the damage is much larger than the records. 724649 people sought refuge in 5645 rescue camps and even more were displaced elsewhere. Thrissur district itself witnessed more than 2 lakh individuals from 50000 families badly affected due to these floods.

CMI Devamatha Province had begun flood relief initiatives to severely affected districts in Kerala when the monsoon floods started in July. When the calamity struck all the districts in August, especially Thrissur; our Province actively took a lead role in coordinating the rescue and relief interventions here. Under the leadership of the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Walter Thelappilly and the counselors; all the priests and the associates collaborated to help the flood victims. Coordinated by the Province's Social Wing- KESS, 12 monasteries in various locations in the district were transformed into rescue and relief camps. The support from the Government and Non Government organizations in the respective localities helped to provide interventions in the best possible manner. In this way, we were able to provide refuge to 15,000 people.

It was a blessing to have volunteers who came forth for rescue and relief activities such as transporting the trapped victims, 24x7 IT cell, organizing camp activities, mobilizing resources, counseling, house cleaning etc. Team work with good hearts made all the difference. Hats off to all those who extended themselves during this crisis. We could act fast with consistency. Special mention also to the panchayat system which collaborated with us to help the needy. The next stage of rehabilitation is also a great task including house construction, income generation programmes, education assistance with special focus to higher education along with continuous psycho-social counseling support which are essential in bringing the trauma hit society back into the mainstream.

The rains have gone, floods have receded, yet the despair and sorrow of a million hearts remain beyond consolation. It is upto each one of us to bring a ray of sunshine and hope back into their lost lives. Together, let us help our fellow brethren in need

Fr. Joy Vattoly CMI
Social Councillor,
Devamatha Province



Relief Camps

The Province had 12 camps in various regions in Thrissur other than those mentioned below including Chiyaram, Potta, Kormala and Azhikode, providing shelter to 15,000 people

Devamatha Public School, Patturaickal

The relief camp in the school accommodated nearly 472 people for 5 days



Infant Jesus Monastery, Thalore

Accommodating 1500 people in its 3 institutions - Little Flower L.P. School, St. Teresa's U.P. School and Deepthi High School, the camp continued for 13 days



Christ Monastery, Irinjalakuda

1300 people were given refuge in its 2 institutions- Christ College and Christ Vidyanikethan School, for 11 days.



St. Joseph's Monastery, Pavaratty, 120 flood affected victims sought refuge here for 9 days





Immaculate Heart Monastery, Varandharapilly , For 11 days, this relief camp accommodated 600 flood affected.



Snehagiri Bhavan, Snehagiri, 2400 people were provided relief from their flooded homes for a week



St. Xavier's Monastery, Pullur,
753 people were accommodated for 15 days



Kuriakose Elias Chavara U.P.School, Potta

For 12 days [15th to 26th August], the relief camp gave refuge to 125 people including 50 families.



St. Teresa's Monastery, Kottackal,
1700 people were given refuge for 7 days



St.Thomas Monastery, Azhikode



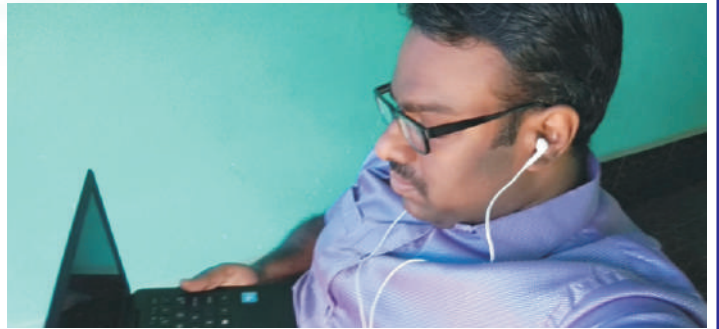
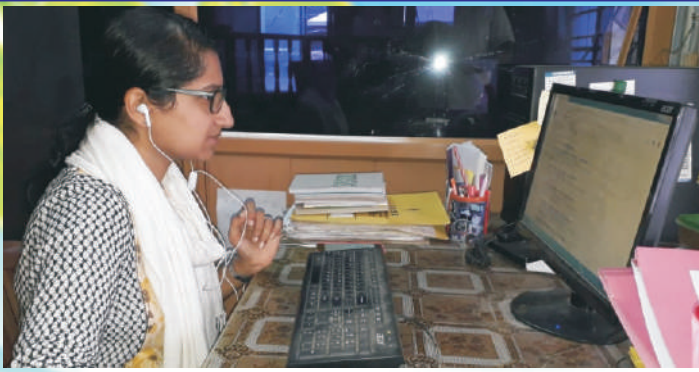
Rescue Work

Rescue teams were mobilized effectively, saving stranded victims from their water filled houses and bringing them to camps and hospitals, despite great personal risk. Appreciating and hailing all volunteers who facilitated transportation, rescue and relief works during this period.



IT Cell

An active IT cell with professional volunteers handling the data of people to be rescued was working 24 x 7, utilizing the various social media and internet based platforms to share the information and coordinate the rescue operations.



Medical Assistance

Medical camps were conducted and medical assistance were provided to the flood affected, collaborating with the government medical machinery. The team consisted of doctors & medical practitioners who provided medical check-ups, and medications for the ill.



Counselling Intervention

A trained team of counsellors helped the affected victims, conducting individual and group sessions. Children were given special care to help them overcome their trauma through games and art.





Resource mobilization

Resources were mobilized including funds, materials and food items from generous well wishers throughout the calamity days. We thank each and every one of them for their kindness and support.



Cleaning Work

We coordinated and send groups of volunteers who readily arrived from all over the country, to clean the drenched and dirt filled homes and chlorinate wells of the affected. We thank the congregations of DMI & MMI and their team of 170 members who cooperated selflessly. The team from our Dharmaram College also contributed wholeheartedly. Hearty praise and applause to your hardwork and timely service.



Preparation of Family Kit

Basic materials required for a household were collected, segregated and packed into kits. The provisions included clothes, bedding, toiletries and cleaning materials.



Help Desk

A team providing guidance on Government services for the flood affected was facilitated.



House Visits

House visits are being conducted to console and comfort the flood affected to help them get back to their normal lives.



Distribution of Food & Materials

The victims who returned back to their washed away houses were provided utensils, food materials and basic household items to re-start their lives again. Distribution was made to the affected in Thrissur, Kozhikode and Alappuzha districts



Case Studies

The affected flood victims were interviewed to assess the gravity of the calamity based on which the next phase intervention is determined and will be provided accordingly.



To Conclude...

All ashrams and institutions of Devamatha Province have run the extra mile to provide maximum support and assistance during this crucial time. We highly appreciate and acknowledge the timely services and relief interventions of all, especially Amala Medical College. The ongoing rehabilitation process is a long termed one, with construction of ruined houses, education support to students, income generation programmes for families with lost breadwinners and ruined goods...these can be achieved only if all of us work together and mobilize the resources with which we have been blest in abundance. Let us strive together in this mission. All contributions can be sent to the following account, details of which are given below.

Account Holder	KESS
Account Type (SB)	SB
Account No.	10256537119
Bank Name	State Bank of India
Branch & Branch code	Thrissur Town Branch-8679
IFSC code	SBIN0008679