

Athijeevanam

Stories of Reconstruction



**A joint venture of St. Paul's & Devamatha Provinces
of CMI Congregation**

“ The measure of the greatness of the society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.”

- Pope Francis



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-social wing of CMI Devamatha Province

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Foreword



The monsoon flood disaster of August, 2018 was a terrifying calamity as it struck the state of Kerala, through all its districts, taking away nearly 500 lives, washing away 50000 houses and damaging 130000 others. Over 3.1 lakh people became homeless as per official figures but the actual is much more. 724649 people sought refuge in 5645 rescue camps and even more were displaced. Thrissur district was one of the most affected areas in Kerala, in which more than 50000 people were badly affected due to this disaster. Even then, the number of lives lost was comparatively less, which really was a great blessing. *“Be still and know that I am God”* [Psalms 46:10]. His love and protection during these hard times should help contemplate the lessons this calamity taught us.

Man can only overpower nature as long as nature doesn't retaliate. But once it fights back, there is no stopping it and mankind doesn't even have a chance against it. This is the biggest truth and the greatest lesson of all. All we can say is that nature took back everything that man exploited and grabbed from her. Every land that man leveled, thrashed, exploited and dug up to make fields, lakes and mansions, were taken right back by her. The rubbish and waste that man dumped and threw away were all returned. It is time we learned to honour and respect nature, to treat her as a sibling, as an offspring, as family or as a loved one.

This flood calamity was a time where we learnt the biggest Gospel of sharing and living together as one big family. Mankind camped together in temples, mosques and churches to find solace and relief with a faith and hope, irrespective of caste, creed, status or gender. It was a time where everyone was united, treated as equals, bearing the same pain of the same terror, living in harmony as brothers and sisters. The equality quotient was stunning. Where once fishermen were seen as inferior and lowly, their value rose skyward with this calamity, awaited and hailed as saviors and saints. These saviors were ordinary people, who paddled and rowed in non- motorized boats, travelling great distances to rescue total strangers, who may be richer or qualified than themselves. These fishermen became the biblical *fishers of men*, as they travelled miles and yards to save a bunch of strangers to whom they owed nothing. There was an earnest effort from all ends to re-build Kerala after this frightening episode.

Everybody struggled and tried their very best, sharing every talent and capacity, striving together for the common good. Across group motives, across states, across countries and continents...people came forward to lend a helping hand with a loving heart, which is causing the re-building of a new Kerala!

Network is indeed the best work. An exemplary model of cooperation and network for the flood affected is seen here in the united teamwork efforts of two Provinces of the CMI congregation, the Thrissur Devamatha Province and Bhopal, St. Paul's Province. I appreciate Rev. Fr. Justin Akkara CMI [Provincial, St. Paul's Province] and the team of councilors, as well as Rev. Fr. John Vazhapilly CMI [Superior, Sagar Bhavan, St. Paul's Province] for their collective efforts which really proved a blessing to all these calamity victims.

The social work department of the CMI Devamatha Province, and its social wing- KESS was directly involved in the flood relief mission from the very beginning. We coordinated rescue and relief mission, having a 24/7 IT cell where staff and volunteers from three to four locations, coordinated the tracking of missing people, updated rescue status and mobilized basic necessities in such as food, drinking water, water bottles, clothes etc. 13 camps were arranged in the various ashrams in Thrissur. We arranged a crisis counseling team of experts to take care of those residing in our camps, facilitating psycho therapeutic sessions for the affected individuals, especially children. The next stage was re-entry and rehabilitation of the affected back into their dilapidated and drenched homes. From destruction of the infrastructure to furniture to household equipments and provisions to documents, everything they ever had was lost beyond immediate repair. KESS sourced volunteers who were specially trained and equipped to clean the homes with proper cleaning materials, protective wear against electrical and poisonous harm and anti bacterial guard against possible infection because of septic conditions like carcasses etc. Various corporate and funding agencies were approached for mobilizing funds towards medical and cleaning kits, re-entry kit comprising of basic amenities like bedding, kitchenware, clothes, food provisions, toiletries etc were given. Green kits were also distributed. The next phase included identifying the most needy to generate income so as to improvise their economic conditions, especially those who had lost their livelihood equipments, stocks, even animals reared for income. Income generation solutions such as cattle, goat and poultry rearing, nursery sales outlet etc were provided to the most deserving after careful assessment.

Children had lost their educational materials like books, bags, stationery etc in the waters. Resources were mobilized to collect such items and distribute to them. They were motivated to continue schooling despite the dire situations. The ruined houses were assessed and assistance provided for house construction, repair and maintenance, refurbishment etc... providing the victims the shelter and safety they had lost with the calamity. The very poor required the most help since their homes would not have any of the safety that a bigger house would have because of their incompetent economic condition.

The huge expenditure was a burden that needed to be shared to succeed and hence we requested help. Our cries were heard by the Bhopal Province which came forward with open arms and support. With the participation and cooperation of locals, identification and assessment of the flood affected was ascertained through data collection & situational analysis. Both the provinces together selected the most deserving families, for whom the essential supports were provided. KESS will continue the follow up, even after the funds are distributed. The monitoring of the Income Generation Programmes, education of the children, construction and maintenance works of the houses etc will be done frequently. Together we have achieved so much and with the grace of God, we will attain much more for the greater good of all.

Thank you and God Bless.

Fr. Dr. Joy Vattoly (jr) CMI
Councillor, Social Apostolate
CMI Devamatha Province

Message



The impact of the flood calamity that shook the state of Kerala during the monsoon of 2018 is still reverberating through the shattered walls and broken hearts of the flood affected. Yet, as much as disaster struck, so much overwhelming was the response of the human race towards lending a helping hand to the fallen. I am proud and thankful of our various institutions for rising up to the crucial moments and for giving their all towards the rebuilding of the flood victims, especially the poorest and the neediest.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate our two Provinces - Devamatha, Thrissur and St. Paul's, Bhopal, for their joined efforts to help the flood affected in Thrissur which was one of the most affected districts in the state. This is the result of synergizing energy, hardwork and time, for one cause- the upliftment of the needy. This synergy also requires sacrifice. Both the Provinces gave their lion's share of resources for the welfare and progress of the disaster struck. They searched, evaluated, mobilized the community and its leaders, pooled in resources in the form of person, money, land and material to build houses, generate income opportunities, even support aspects like education and marriage of the children of those poor flood affected families. I thank and congratulate both the Provincials and their supportive teams for their productive teamwork and the initiative of KESS to bring a smile to these crestfallen souls. Let us continue living and sharing in the Charism of our founding father- St. Chavara, *"Let there be no day in your life where you did no good to others"*.

God bless you all!

Fr. Dr. Paul Achandy CMI
Prior General

Message



Greetings from CMI Devamatha Province

The Devamatha CMI Province is extremely happy and proud to bring this book which is a collection of all the experiences we had during our flood relief mission. During the flood calamity, our Province, its institutions along with its members were right in the forefront from the rescue activities to the rehabilitation efforts. It brings immense joy that St. Paul's Province, Bhopal came forward lending their helping hands to support the rehabilitation process, which was a great boost to the pace and quality of our interventions. The combined efforts have touched the lives of the most needy flood affected families in Thrissur district.

I take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Justin Akkara CMI, the Provincial of St. Paul's Province, Bhopal & his team for their generosity during this hour of need. I also take this opportunity to appreciate Fr. Dr. Joy Vattoly CMI and the Social Apostolate Department of the Devamatha Province, especially KESS, for facilitating the project and bringing the best results for the flood affected victims. I hope this is a humble beginning and there are miles to go to restore the lost glory. Together we can achieve more and I hope the Almighty may continue to shower his abundant blessings to serve the poor.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Walter Thelappilly CMI
Provincial, CMI Devamatha Province
Thrissur

Message



Warm greetings!

St. Paul's CMI Province has a long tradition of reaching out to the suffering people, and the floods in Kerala was such an occasion to raise our resources to serve the poor. I am thankful to Devamatha CMI Province, Thrissur for giving us an opportunity to reach out to the flood affected families of Thrissur District. This was indeed a satisfying experience in sharing our support for people who were in distress and were otherwise clueless to move forward from the disaster. The initiatives taken by Devamatha Province deserve sincere appreciation and without their support, we would not be able to make this a reality. We are glad to see the smiling and relieved faces of the families who have benefitted from the services extended by our Province.

The idea of publishing this book documenting the flood relief interventions is a novel one and will be a record for people involved in this entire process. This will not only be added to the history of good work but also will be a lesson to be disseminated and further serve as a model to be practiced. I wish success to the Provincial of Devamatha Province, Rev. Fr. Walter Thelappilly CMI; Social Councillor, Dr. Fr. Joy Vattoly CMI and their entire team in all their endeavours. I also take this opportunity to thank them wholeheartedly for this wonderful opportunity for working together. As Pope Paul VI rightly said- *“The world calls for, and expects from us, the simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detachment, and self-sacrifice”*.

Best wishes.

Fr. Justin Akkara CMI
Provincial, St. Paul's Province
Bhopal

Message



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

- Bishop Desmond Tutu

The state of Kerala witnessed the most devastating floods in the year 2018 taking away the lives of hundreds and making thousands homeless. The calamities brought by the floods are much more than the picture depicted in the media and experiencing the hardships of affected families was heartbreaking. St. Paul's CMI Province was not able to shut its ears to the cries of people in Kerala and found it our obligation to rush for the rescue and relief of our fellow-beings. Under the pro-active leadership of our Provincial, Rev. Fr. Justin Akkara CMI, St. Paul's CMI Province collected funds and mobilized resources to support the flood affected families and we found ourselves in a very satisfying state of mind of doing meaningful service to the needy in the most efficient manner.

It was gratifying to partner with Devamatha Province in implementing the flood relief project in the finest manner. I believe this publication will bring forth all such remarkable achievements and there will be replications of such fruitful interventions in the future.

Best regards & Prayerful wishes,

Fr. Anil Pazhoopallil CMI
Councillor, Social Apostolate
St. Paul's Province
Bhopal

Message



It was disheartening and overwhelming to know and hear about the deadly flood disaster that suddenly threw Kerala into misery, gloom and chaos. Yet, it is a relief to know that the state fought back with resilience, re-building itself back into a better state of being, joining hands with those who reached out and fought along. It is indeed marvelous to note that the CMI congregation, with its roots in Kerala, has been doing outstanding relief and rehabilitation work throughout the state. Its Devamatha Province, situated right in the middle of one of the most affected districts, Thrissur, took the spirit of our charism and plunged head deep to rekindle the drowning lives, affected by the floods and landslides. Right from the rescue of the stranded to coordinating camps to re-housing with essential kits, to sustainable measures for the most needy; the Province stands out in its timely social work interventions. It was a pleasure and a privilege to extend our support and assistance to their flood relief mission, when they reached out for help. No man is an island. We cannot work alone to make wonders. I am happy that the Bhopal Province shared in the bliss of re-kindling lost dreams of the flood affected poor families, giving them support for housing, economic development, marriage support etc. I proudly appreciate both the Provinces for their teamwork and timely collaboration to help the poorest and the neediest amongst us. I am glad to be a part of this team and knowing that our resource mobilization has borne good fruit, touching the lives of the most deserving. May Almighty God continue to bless us to help the poor, knowing that God lives among them just as He lives among us!

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. John Vazhappilly CMI
Superior, Sagar Bhavan
CMI St Paul's Province,
Bhopal

Stories of Reconstruction



A ray of hope for a drowning family

With the meager income earned as a daily wage cleaner in a private institute for the disabled, Girija Karthikeyan knew it was not enough anymore, especially after the monsoon flood calamity wrecked her little house and washed away her household appliances, drenching the limited furniture and accessories. Her existing situation was already a miserable tale. Her husband suffered from physical frailty, having suffered falls as a coconut tree climber and substance abuse. They had two daughters-the elder in college, at a marriageable age and the younger- a high school student cruelly destined to be a kidney patient, from a tender age.

The condition of her daughters have gifted many sleepless nights to their poor parents, with the additional burden of the now flood affected home and housing needs. The continuous treatment expenses of the younger daughter especially leeches every resource they have, without an end. The current need of marrying off the older one seemed impossible with no penny spared for it.

In complete despair and almost losing all hope, Girija submitted an application through her employers to KESS who forwarded it to the helping hands at the Bhopal Province of the CMI congregation.



After a detailed assessment of this household and the miseries they face, the flood relief mission team approved considering this case as a result of which the benevolent Province has sanctioned financial assistance as marriage support for the older one. The timely attention and care can go a long way in pulling up a helpless family, drowning in the misery of poverty, illness and hopelessness.

A tale of resilience and determination

When her husband fell completely into the weak world of Tuberculosis, Rini Dominic accepted it as part of God's plan for her. When her only son left home to pursue his vocation as God's holy priest, she thanked God for his graces. When the floods came gushing into her home and took off every tangible good she owned, she acknowledged God's loving care in protecting their lives during the disaster. The Dominics were people of good faith and belief, who clung onto the hope that the God who gives is the God who has all rights to take back. Rini had even lost their only means of income in the floods- she had lovingly taken care of cattle and goats, whose milk yielded just enough for the two of them to get by. Now that they had no means of livelihood, all she could do was to pray and knock doors for help.

Learning about the Devamatha flood relief mission, Rini approached KESS, which forwarded this case to the Bhopal Province, who were keen on helping the flood affected families. The family's case was evaluated as one requiring immediate support. The discussion with the Dominics concluded that if they were assisted financially to resurrect her cattle and goat rearing ventures, Rini could take care of other things with the income generated. The project positively sanctioned funds to this needy family to buy cattle, with the hope that Rini will bring up her family with her resilience and hardwork and prove that God still loves and protects them, whatever hardships they endure.



A ray of hope for a family without a roof

Manosh and his family were living a moderately satisfied life, with his grass-cutting machine and the average income it was helping him make, even though it was a bare minimum. His wife was working as a sales girl at a textile shop and together they were able to make ends meet for their recently constructed home, with their two school going children. That's when the floods came barging in uninvited. Nothing in their lives prepared them for such a huge havoc. The water didn't show any mercy as it went berserk around their home, drenching and ruining everything it touched. The roof was mutilated, the windows gone, bare essentials missing or useless. Clothes, food, furniture, appliances...everything was lost. What shattered Manosh and his family was the total collapse of the home within the next 3 weeks. Moreover, his beloved grass cutter, his source of income was completely destroyed too. With no proper shelter, no household materials and a major income source lost; the family was in total despair. Their cries and prayers did not go unheard as their application received by KESS got approved through the CMI Bhopal Province, which was keen on supporting the flood affected in Kerala.



Seeing their immediate need of a shelter, financial assistance was provided by the team from the Province, before the year ended. Manosh and his family have gratefully and hopefully re started their lives again, thanks to this timely intervention.



A continuing struggle with destiny- through and through

The poor family had little reason for happiness in life. The Devassykuttys had limited assets nor a consistent income, especially when most of their funds were spent in nurturing their only son who was differently abled.

Yet, they survived, built a small house and lived on with what they got selling eggs from their domestic fowls. As their son, Shiju grew up, his disability turned into a blessing, since he got priority to sell lottery tickets. Though it was not a major income source, it did help the family, especially after his father died, to have some economic stability.



It also helped Shiju to raise a family of his own. Life was going ahead in some way, when the floods attacked their small home and crushed their lives. The house was crumbled to smithereens and the poultry raised in its backyard were dead. The poor family was devastated. Shiju, his mother, his wife and their 2 small children had nowhere to live. Everything they ever had under the roof were destroyed too. Luckily, his lottery union contributed some money with which they created a small make-shift shed. The family knew they had to get help fast. The shed was only a temporary structure, threatening to collapse soon. The children's educational needs had to be satisfied along with basic essentials like food, water and clothing which itself were in a bare minimum state. Seeing that the poultry coop was miraculously still intact, they began to find sources to acquire new hens to help improve their economic status. Hearing about the Devamatha flood relief mission, they applied for support. The mission, together with the Bhopal Province's help, analyzed that the family indeed deserved assistance and sanctioned funds to support them to raise poultry and buy household equipments. Realising their interest to develop their yard as a kitchen garden, green kits with vegetable grow bags were also distributed. The family is reviving itself hopefully, just as it always did, whenever life presented hardships throughout.

An exemplary homemaker – a flood survivor's story of hope!

Liji Jacob had all the hardships in the book. Her husband had recently died of cancer-the dreaded terminal illness- after a long struggle, draining all resources in the family.



They had three daughters who were academically good, but had a difficult time fulfilling the educational expenses and related needs. Liji had taken every effort to make ends meet after her husband's demise by investing in a small scale poultry as a means to generate income.

Just as they were getting back to their feet, the menacing floods rushed in and took off with not just the birds she had so laboriously brought up, but every single thing she ever owned in her home! The terrifying waters stood at 7 feet, at a height more than an average man. Liji and her girls helplessly left their flood drenched home during the floods to the camp only to return a few days later to a desert premise, with no sign of their 85 indigenous fowls[raised for eggs], 60 fleshy fowls [raised for meat] and 60 ducks. There were no clues on their limited household appliances or anything for that matter. The house itself showed cracks and leakages, the result of being continuously drenched in water. The world they had known and lived, had turned upside down, with no hopes for the future. With no means of income, continuing the girls' education, was a question that haunted the miserable mother. Liji knew only a miracle could save them. Her undying faith in hope made her earnestly look out for all options to sustain herself and her family.

In her search for a silver lining, she approached KESS amongst others. The Sagar Province of the CMI congregation, based in Bhopal, came forward to support this family through KESS, noticing the meticulous drive and earnest efforts of this mother's hard work. Her persistence to face life's challenges time and again helped her family get some financial assistance from the team, to restart a poultry farm as well as a kitchen garden, both right at their home premises. Liji is sure these will help her raise her family and continue the girls' education in time.

Daisy's fight against all odds -an inspiring story of a survivor

Daisy Timothy is a cancer survivor. Her husband didn't have a permanent job and all funds in the family had completely been used for her treatment. She has a daughter who studies in the higher secondary.



Knowing she had to somehow stabilize her family's economic condition, Daisy began door to door sales of garments initially and then moved to starting a tailoring unit in a corner of her small house. Just days into starting this new venture, the flood menace overwhelmed her house and her new unit, completely destroying her tailoring machine and related materials stored there.

It was like one of those days during her cancer infection, where she thought it was better to give up her life than go on. Everything she had slowly and painstakingly build, literally from scratch, within just a period of one year, was destroyed and damaged beyond repair, beyond usage, beyond any hope. The house itself was not inhabitable for days. Along with her income generation unit, all household appliances were also damaged. The higher studies of her little girl was also hanging by the thread. Its times like these that reflect the inner resilience of people.

Daisy and her family did not lose all hope and approached the Devamatha Mission with full appeal. Their prayers did not go unheard as the Devamatha and Bhopal Province did a thorough assessment of her situation and sanctioned financial support so that Daisy could re-start her tailoring unit once again. Daisy is rejuvenated physically and emotionally and is striving her best to take her family ahead, one day at a time. She has made it through cancer and made it through the floods- an example of an exemplary survivor- one who makes a house from the bricks thrown at her!

A tale of hardships and a ray of hope

Mr. Surendran's family has been through many of life's turmoil. Surendran himself has 55% physical handicap and cannot fend for his loved one's welfare. His wife is the sole breadwinner, who makes ends meet with her small scale tailoring.

The couple has 2 children- a daughter who is in the 10th grade and a son in the 6th grade. Moreover the family does not have a home of their own and live in a rented home with over Rs.5000 paid as rent every month. With the monsoon floods, the waters created so much havoc within their small home, that everything they ever owned, within the walls were gone.



Their home became literally a desert with furniture, bedding, home appliances etc damaged and ruined beyond repair or usage. The family was absolutely in despair. The meager income earned through making clothes could not rescue this sinking desperate family. Apart from the huge rent, the question of the children's present and further education, especially of the older one who was in her final school year, hung like the Damocles' sword. Everything in the house had to be brought from scratch and there was not a penny to be spared for these sudden necessities. The Surendrans' had no one to beg and nowhere to go. The frailty of the father only made matters worse.

With a flicker of hope, they approached KESS, hearing about the Devamatha Flood Relief Mission, among other sources. The mission studied their case and forwarded it to the Bhopal Province who evaluated that the Surendrans deserved a chance to get back to their faltered life. They sanctioned funds to assist the family to purchase basic home appliances and utilities so they can go ahead with their daily lives, at least a ray of hope among the grey days.

Timely kindness for a shattered family

Smitha lived with her mother in law, her husband and their 2 children, the older in higher secondary and the younger in high school. Her husband's income was infrequent, being a seasonal job as a mason.



She was literally the sole full time breadwinner earning her way through her tailoring machine. They had a small home to call their own, in which the family lived their lives, each day at a time, counting every minor blessing as God's grace. Smitha knew it was not enough.

Her husband, Santhosh's mother was aged and ailing. Her son was on the verge of finishing his primary education and stepping out into the world of professional competency. Any higher education prospect meant more financial investment. Until he stood on his own feet to support his family, it was upto Smitha to support them all. Somehow they were managing the daily life when the greatest disaster they had ever experienced, swept through their land, their home and their lives. Their little home, which they had so lovingly and diligently built was drenched. The limited assets they had and used within the house were completely ruined. Right from the few tables and chairs that the family used as furniture for dining and children's study, to the clothes, study materials, school books to the beds, cooking ware and appliances- everything was gone. The children were devastated with the loss of their educational aids, even the cycle they used to reach school was damaged in the flood disaster. But what shattered Smitha, above everything was the loss of her precious tailoring machine which was the family's main source of income. This meant that they had nothing to lean back on, or look forward to. It was back to square one for the devastated family.

Their application was analyzed with scrutiny by the Devamatha Mission, and the Bhopal Province consented to provide financial assistance as requested by the family to purchase essentials such as tailoring machine, bicycle, and household appliances. Smitha and her family now realized that dreams need not be given up when hope is within.

One good deed deserves another - a good sister's hardship gets due reward

Life had given Sarojini a lot of hardships one after the other. Her husband died only a year ago. She lived with her daughter and son's family, comprising of his wife and 5 children. Their extreme poverty could not be alleviated by the meager daily wages earned by her son, Pradeep.

In addition, his 2nd child, a daughter is intellectually different and the 4th child who is just 3 years of age is paralyzed in both legs. Pradeep's wife needs to attend to the children at home. Sarojini is aged and cannot do much to help. These critical conditions at home has compelled her daughter Praseeda to stop education after her higher secondary.



She found work as an assistant at a textile shop and tries her part to help, though its not enough. The Milk society in the community, knowing the dire need of this family has shown a token of generosity by gifting a cow. This barely helps them meet their ends, but it is not easy with 9 mouths to feed, along with treatment, education and basic requirements of the family members. Praseeda was also getting older and the thought of not being able to marry off her daughter clawed Sarojini's conscience. Still, the family slogged on, atleast thankful they had a place to call home and lived in peace. That's when the disastrous floods barged in and ruined the essential parts of their house such as the doors, frames and windows along with furniture and household appliances. They were devastated, distraught and totally shattered. The feeling that they were cursed just got stronger with this calamity. What with the medical, nutritional and educational requirements of the little children, along with the condition of their dear home, to the bankrupted condition they would have to endure trying to marry off the aging young woman in the home, the family tearfully knocked many doors requesting a merciful approach.

Their application that reached Devamatha Flood Relief Mission did not go unnoticed. They, together with the Bhopal mission, considered the miserable status of this poor family. Though every situation in the family overflowed with pity, they came to a consensus that the assistance they require from this team was support towards marriage savings for Sarojini's daughter, Praseeda.

For the girl who gave up education, youth and energy to help raise her poor family; this was her wise family's payback for her goodwill and hardships. The family will still strive to get through the daily affairs but no one would consider to save for such a requirement, especially when current needs were increasing.

A reward for selfless love and care

Sati lived a selfless life, all for others and none for her own self. She lived with her aged and weak mother and took care of her little nephew and niece. She was the mother to all of them –elderly and young. The brother and wife who should have parented the children took their own lives when the loans they had taken reached a point of no hope for closure.



Sati works as a daily wage coolie, struggling with all her might to make ends meet, get medication for her mother and care for the education and other daily requirements of the children. She still continues to pay off the interest rate of the loan amount due by her brother. Just when things couldn't get any worse, the floods rampaged the tiny home, shattering a major part of it to ruins.

The vulnerable mother and kids were shocked and traumatized. Sati mustered up all her courage to continue to be the 'man' of the house and pleaded for help at every door and corner.

Her application was received and completely acknowledged by the Devamatha Flood Relief Mission, which forwarded the same to the helping hands of the Bhopal Province. Together, they assessed that this family deserved serious assistance and hence sanctioned financial assistance to Sati and her deserving family for house maintainence. Her selfless concern and mother like care to her brother's children was duly noted and was given high regard. Indeed, it's a true story that heartfelt love to the most needy would be rewarded.

From darkness to light - finally a home to call her own

Gracy is an unmarried woman in her 50s, who lives with her brother and brother's wife. The 3 of them work as daily wage earning coolie workers but not on a regular basis. The little home they had was completely ruined in the monsoon floods.

All the household appliances and goods were either washed away or destroyed in the calamity leaving them in a state of utter misery. The family now lives in a temporarily erected shed with basic appliances bought upon loans and help from others. Gracy and her brother's family badly required an external support to help them out. Their pathetic situation was assessed after receiving their application towards the flood relief mission of the province, and approved. It was analyzed that the family urgently needed a safer shelter to protect themselves. The relief mission sanctioned financial aid to this family to reconstruct their home and in turn their lives once again.



A dream come true for the fallen

Antony lives with his wife Lini and his aged parents, Mrs. Gracy and Mr. Varghese. With the limited income Antony earns as a coolie, they were living their lives with the minimum necessities, content with having at least a home to call their own, though small and feeble. But the monsoon floods showed no mercy to this little house or the condition of its residents. It completely washed away the basic framework of the house, demolishing the entire house completely; and household goods such as furniture and electrical items like fan and fridge included were destroyed. The house was uninhabitable and the family was desperate for lodging. The nearby complex building owners were lenient enough to spare them a room for the time being.

Without anything to call their own, the poor family had fallen completely into despair. That was when they came to know about the flood relief mission coordinated by KESS and applied for help. Their pathetic situation was assessed as highly needy since the family had vulnerable members who could not stay longer in such a situation any longer. Their case was taken up and financial assistance has been sanctioned to help them re-build a home of their own. Thanks to the joint effort of both the provinces, this family has once again reached the threshold of hope for their safety.



A drowning couple's tale of hope

The Antonys were completely in despair after the monsoon floods ruined their already miserable lives. Mr. Anthony was diagnosed with Brain Tumour and their limited earnings were not sufficient to cover even the treatment costs. Their only son lived in another district, unheard and least bothered or affected with the conditions of the parents.

The monsoon floods had damaged their small home badly and the old couple was in a totally helpless, hopeless situation. The cancer that had infected the breadwinner was only deteriorating his health condition. They had lost a portion of their home in the waters and had no provision for restoring it. With available funds draining off on a constant basis for the continuous treatment expenses, all hopes were gone for the poor couple.



Their condition was analyzed and evaluated when their application came in through the Devamatha flood relief mission. Based on the discussion with the couple, their immediate need for house repair and maintenance as well as medical support for Mr. Antony were considered and funds were provided towards these purposes. The Antonys were relieved that they would have a safe shelter for themselves once again, and had a shoulder to support the treatment expenses, all thanks to the Provinces' timely intervention.













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