

## **Charity Projects in North East India**

In the month of January 2019, a group of six members of the charity organization Light in Life of Switzerland, visited the North Eastern Part of India to evaluate directly all of the finished charity projects which started four years back. The members who represented Light in Life are Shaji and Laly Adathala, Mathew and Lilly Thekkottill as well as Sunny and Leelamma Chittazhathu. During their stay of more than a week, they visited and assessed the various projects financed by Light in Life. They are fully satisfied with the sincere works done by FAsCE. The organization FAsCE, which is a part of MSFS congregation, is looking after the construction and administration of the schools along with the welfare of the children. They also visited various tribal villages in Assam and Meghalaya to study their living conditions. In spite of the deplorable living conditions of the tribal communities, the love, affection and hospitality given by them are beyond explanation.

On 18th January 2019, the first phase of the school building constructed in Panbari, Assam was blessed by the Provincial Rev.Fr.Dr.George Panthanmackel and was inaugurated by the President of Light in Life Mr.Shaji Adathala. Approximately 170 children are studying in this school from Class I to X. Light in Life spent INR5.2 million for this school project.

The school building in Somonpara, Meghalaya is another significant achievement of Light in Life. The inauguration of the first floor of this school was done in December 2016. On 22nd January 2019, the second floor of this school building was blessed by the Tura Bishop Rt.Rev.Dr.Andrew Marak and inaugurated by the President of Light in Life Mr.Shaji Adathala. There are 550 students studying in this school from Class I to Class X. Higher secondary classes of 11 and 12 will be started from 2020 onwards. Apart from this, a primary health centre, attached to this school, was also blessed and inaugurated. Light in Life invested INR One million for this health centre which will cater to the needs of the tribal people of around 40 villages. It was an absolute necessity since the next available clinic is 35 km away.

In continuation to our project to foster primary education among poor children, in 2018, Light in Life launched a project by the name 'Light 4 Child', to support very poor children in the North Eastern States of India. The children have to walk tens of miles through dense forest to reach school. As such Light in Life started two schemes by which they can start and continue their education. By spending CHF300.00 per child per year, they are provided with uniform, school materials, fees, food and accommodation; without accommodation the amount for one child for one year is CHF150.00. On 23rd January 2019, president of Light in Life Mr.Shaji Adathala inaugurated this project by handing over a cheque of INR1.5 million to Provincial Rev.Fr.Dr.George Panthanmackel in the presence of Rev.Fr.Dr.Saji George, director FAsCE. 100 children will be getting these facilities for five years with immediate effect.

## **Flood Rehabilitation Projects - Punarjani**

The great flood of the century in 2018 devastated hundreds of thousands of people of Kerala with a death toll of more than 400 people. A lot of people lost land, houses and all their belongings. One of the most affected areas is Idukki district which is a high range area where heavy rain and landslides worsened the situation. Light in Life rose to the situation and extended helping hand to those people who lost houses and belongings. Light in Life released INR1.5 million for immediate relief and decided to rehabilitate 15 families by supporting them to build their own houses by spending INR4.5 million. As such Light in Life started a project 'Punarjani' to rehabilitate 7 families of Idukki district by providing them land and houses. Former Kerala Chief Minister Mr.Oommen Chandy inaugurated the project 'Punarjani' on 27th January 2019. In his message, he praised Light in Life a lot and said Light in Life is a model for all Pravasi organizations. The project 'Punarjani', which is also supported by various other Pravasi organizations and individuals, may be completed by the end of July 2019.

Light in Life is also supporting the rehabilitation of 4 more families in the district of Idukki, Kerala. The construction of these houses will also be completed by July/August 2019.

Light in Life, in cooperation with the Indo-Swiss Sports club, also decided to help Mrs.Santha of Vaithiri, Kerala who lost her house in flood. On 10th Feb 2019, a cheque of INR300,000.00 was handed over to Mr.Varghese Edattakaran who represented Indo-Swiss Sports club.