



MILESTONE

The News Update of Christopher Educational Trust (C.E.T)

Dear Readers.

Through Milestone, we strive to enlighten you on all the happenings in the ministry of Christopher Educational Trust, with special focus on the two schools through which we serve children. Our Lord Jesus has been gracious in carrying us through all circumstances. The past one and a half years has been a challenge for everyone across the globe. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every country and person directly or indirectly. Given the population and the economic situation of majority of the people in India, it was inevitable that the pandemic would take a drastic toll. In this edition we want to focus more on the ground realities of the grave situation in India.

What started as something that we thought would be contained and would not affect us in rural India took us by surprise when India went into lockdown first on March 24th, 2020. The initial 21-day lockdown was continuously extended. This was a major blow to a vast majority of the population that depended on daily work and wages for their sustenance. People lost jobs and there was no work to be found driving them to poverty and hunger. As a school mission, all that we planned for the academic year that was slated to start in June 2020 was disrupted. However, we found opportunity to help people in other ways. By the grace of God and the support of friends, we were able to support more than 200 people in different ways. Initially we sent money to many pastors, believers and parents who were affected by job loss and helpless because they could not go out. This



Disinfecting a classroom.



The entrance door also had to be disinfected.

Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.
Mathew 5,7



Distributing rice at CMHSS.



A group of people supported with groceries.



Teachers shooting an educational video.

money was sent with the specific purpose to purchase food supplies. Then we began helping people for their medical needs as well. Our Christopher Nursery and Primary School is located in an area that was severely affected by the pandemic. Our school campus was used by Government officials to conduct health camps and to test people for Coronavirus. As the months of July and August rolled in, we purchased and distributed 100 bags of rice, each with 20 kg of rice to many village people and some of our staff. Slowly the situation began to improve, and the Government started to “unlock” the country.

However, the months of January to April 2021 were when elections were due in around 5 states of India. The Government permitted large gatherings and huge election rallies were organised. Added to this the Government had also permitted a Hindu tradition called “kumb mela” where more that 3 million people went to the river Ganges for performing traditional acts of purification. The kumb mela was eventually closed but the damage had already been done. Thousands upon thousands had been infected from different parts of the country and these two events (election rallies and kumb mela) began the more horrific second wave of Covid 19 in the country. Existing governments failed to act and only after the new state governments were inducted that step for lockdown and capacity building of health care facilities began. In the meantime, India’s fragile health care system broke down. There was shortage of oxygen, and all hospitals were overflowing. Even crematoriums were full and there were queues to dispose of bodies. This led to bodies being abandoned in rivers and burnt on roads in some parts of India. The situation cannot be imagined.

Meanwhile, we praise the Lord that the new government that got elected in our state of Tamil Nadu hit the floor running. The chief

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ministry appealed to the public to avoid celebration and instead focus on fighting the pandemic. A complete lockdown was in place for the month of May 2021. Each minister was put in charge of a district and was given the responsibility to build large scale hospitals. Industrial oxygen plants were directed to produce medical oxygen. Slowly, the health care system was stabilised, and vaccination was encouraged. Even now there is shortage of vaccine, but it is supplied quickly. Many people known to us and associated with us have been affected in the second wave and some have lost their lives. Again, we stepped in to support many people financially especially for health care during this second wave.

As a school mission, the loss of education to the children for more than one year is a sad circumstance. However, we are encouraged to continue our ministry. During the year from June 2020 to April 2021, we lost much time and were late to adapted to online classes, hoping that we could start regular school. For this academic year, June 2021 to April 2022, we have promptly begun online classes. We have a team of dedicated teachers who come into school and make recordings or conduct live classes every day. Online groups have been created for each grade and we communicate with the children and parents through these groups. The bulk of our children and their families come from poor background. Many of them cannot afford technology and many of them are in remote areas where internet facilities are not available. A few children respond diligently. However, the parents are still not financially stable to purchase books and pay for education. This does not hinder us from proving our services and we continue to welcome every parent and child to use the lessons that are provided by our teachers.

We encourage you, dear friend, to involve and be blessed by supporting this

ministry of helping people who are in dire circumstances. We pray for financial ability to support our staff team who continue to stand by us. We pray for technological help to enable our children to continue learning. We pray for resources to continue to help the public by providing relief to many people in need of food and medical assistance for hospital bills. We also pray for resources to use this time to repair, renovate and build new infrastructure to support our ministry in the days to come.

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Prayer points

- We are thankful for our new Government in Tamil Nadu.
- We are thankful that we could help some people.

We continue to pray for

- the financial ability to help our staff.
- technological help for our children to learn.
- funds to support many with food or medical expenses.
- the development of our campus.

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter! If you would like to get in touch, we would love to hear from you! Your feedback to us is valuable.

Thank you for taking time to go through “Milestone”. It will be a pleasure for us to take you through many more!

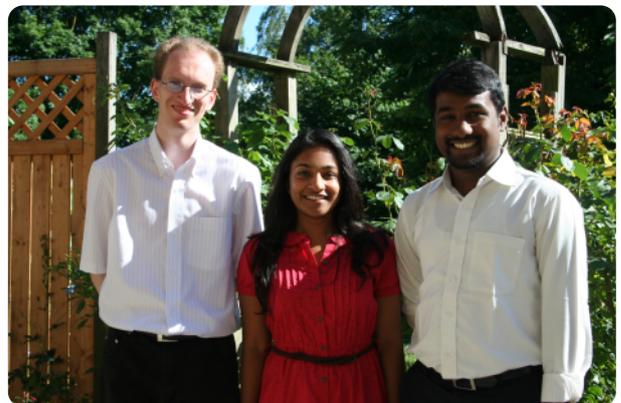
Get in touch to learn more about us and be a part of what we do:

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Christopher Nursery & Primary School, Christopher Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Christopher Children Home are projects of Christopher Educational Trust which is the partner of Christopher Indienhilfe e.V. Christopher Educational Trust was established in 1979 to promote education and uplift underprivileged children in India.