

# Men build too many walls and not enough bridges! - Sir Isaac Newton

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# நேசபாலம்

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# Newsletter - May 2010

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Bridge of Love is a non-profit organisation and a registered UK Charity. It is a community based Christian outreach work of Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship (ETCF). Over the past seven years, we have been financially supporting registered local organisations and churches in Sri Lanka and India that work among the broken & abandoned, poor & needy, widows, orphans, semi orphans, child labour victims, street children, the underprivileged, young offenders, and the persecuted. We help people regardless of race or religion.

Our Lord has graciously blessed Bridge of Love UK Rég. Charity No: 1096302 ministry and now we are providing regular monthly financial support to many children and widows. Over the past seven years we sent more than £200,000 for our projects. We sincerely thank you for your invaluable prayers and financial support which have enabled us to be in this position. May the Lord Almighty abundantly bless you and may He enlarge our territory through your support!

#### WAR IN SRI LANKA

Tens of thousands were killed, became severely disabled and more than 300,000 civilians were displaced in the recent war in Sri Lanka. In addition, thousands of people have become psychiatric patients and are in need of medical and psychiatric care. During Jan-Mar 2009, more than 200,000 came out of the No Fire Zone after the army entered it and were originally held in overcrowded camps without proper basic needs. Even the provision of bedding and clothing, as well as food and milk for infants and children, was

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barely sufficient. Water and toilet facilities were severely limited. The suffering and degradation that this caused to women, children and old folk was obvious. All these people went through much deprivation, fear, sleeplessness, hunger and thirst before crossing into government-held territory. There were children in these camps who were unable to speak or hear due to trauma, malnutrition, lack of proper food and some people had no clothes other than the ones they were wearing. Over 65% of these people have been resettled now but still live in fear and anxiety without regular income and struggling to meet their basic needs. More than 75,000 are still kept in the open camps. Bridge of Love has carried out more than £40,000 worth of war relief since September 2006. We also provided regular financial support for a twoyear period to 30 internally displaced families who were displaced more than 6 times during the recent war.









Rev Vasanthan Stephen is our Vanni Relief Coordinator in Sri Lanka and he coordinated around £30,000 worth relief projects for Bridge of Love.

In February 2009, we provided Rs 24,986 worth of essentials to the displaced people at Mirusuvil welfare camp through Chavakachcheri AGA. 334 packets of Anchor milk powder were distributed to the children of the Welfare Centre at the Chavakachecheri Hindu Ladies College in June 2009. Bridge of Love sent Rs 87,500 (donated by The Tamil Christian

*Church of Canada)* for this project. The Jaffna YMCA, with the assistance of the Government Agent, coordinated these projects. Mr G S Shanthiharan is our local coordinator.

In May 2009, two of our youth workers and Bridge of Love donors, Mr & Mrs Kamalakaran from Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship (ETCF), went to Jaffna and Vavuniya, visiting the IDP camps and carrying out relief work with Rev Vasanthan. They returned to the UK in June 2009 and shared with us about the unspeakable tragedy and sufferings of the IDPs.

We provided lunch parcels worth Rs 137,000 through Anpu Sahotharar IIIam (ASI) for about 1000 IDPs for 3 days in Mannar in May 2009. In addition, we sent Rs100,000 for the relief work carried out by Rev Jothy Hoole of Grace & Truth Church, Mannar in May 2009. In June 2009, we donated Rs 180,000 to provide 20 It bottles of clean drinking water and dispensers to inpatients in Vavuniya hospital which was seriously lacking clean water supply. Rev Reggie Ebenezer coordinated this project.

**Four of Bridge of Love's prayer partners/donors and ETCF workers, Sis Joyce, Sis Christine, Sis** Suseela and Sis Chithra went to Sri Lanka in September 2008, visiting the IDP camps and carrying out relief work in Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Jaffna districts. Bridge of Love sent £5500 (£3000 was donated by Mr Logathas of ETCF) for these relief projects. Furthermore, we sent Rs 60,000 relief to the IDP widows living in Vavuniya district during the Dec 2009 – March 2010 period.

Mr Luke Mahendra, Bridge of Love Trustee & Treasurer, on behalf of Bridge of Love, donated 3 new sewing machines to IDP women (breadwinners) during his visit to Jaffna in April 2010. Mr G S Shanthiharan, along with the Jaffna YMCA, coordinated this project.



In April 2010. from the Mohanarajan Memorial Fund (MMF), raised by Apna Sangeeth Music group, Bridge of Love donated Rs 450,000 for the War orphans at Canaan IDP Children's Home in Jaffna. These children had gone through unspeakable trials and hardship. We are monthly financial providing



support of £200. Mr Luke Mahendra is the sponsor of this project.

In April 2010, from the MMF, Bridge of Love donated 25 bicycles worth more than Rs 265,000 for the resettled IDPs in Kilinochchi who were seriously lacking transportation facilities for their day to day needs. Rev Navendranugoolan and his wife put in a lot of hard work and coordinated this project for Bridge of Love. Our special thanks to Peter Harris, **Mohan's ex**-colleague for his cycle ride of 254 miles in 4 days. He said "...as I journeyed from North to



South I was able to reflect on the beauty that is on our doorstep and how much we take things for granted ... and of the many affected by the troubles in Sri Lanka." Peter raised £805 for BOL.

Our sincere thanks to the ETCF members, eNeRGgy, Transform Newham, LTCC, Methodist Church - Orpington, Methodist Church - Quex Road, Oasis Church, Tamil Christian Churches in Sydney and our donors from Cubic, Marconi, Telent, Business Dispatch, Installation Services, Application Solutions and Baldwin & Boxall Comms Ltd for their generous donations.

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Bridge of Love A tribute to our Advisor Mr Mohanarajan i s

struggling to cope with the loss of our Advisor and Trustee Mr Thirugnanam Mohanarajan (Mohan). He died on the 20th of May 2009 of cancer at the age of only 49, after courageously fighting a long battle for more than 2 years.

With his wisdom, talents, sincerity, honesty and hard work, he could have built his own kingdom. Instead he built God's kingdom. He was an extremely caring and compassionate person. In the midst of his very busy schedule, he initiated & organised fund raising events and raised money for the War/ Tsunami victims, orphans, and the poor & needy. Despite his serious health condition he raised around £20,000 for Bridge of Love during his last two and a half years. He himself



A Trophy of the Grace of God!

donated thousands of pounds for the charity. The sweet memories of his kind acts will be long remembered by Bridge of Love members, project coordinators, and the beneficiaries.

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Mohan worked for Cubic, Marconi and Telent organisations. Bridge of Love was so close to his heart that he inspired his colleagues, friends, and his family members to make regular contributions. Bridge of Love was able to carry out tens of thousands of pounds worth War & Tsunami relief work and, hundreds of poor & needy are still being blessed from these regular donations. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all Mohan's friends, family members and excolleagues for their continuous regular financial support. Our sincere thanks to Business Dispatch, Installation Services, Application Solutions, Baldwin & Boxall Comms Ltd and Bridge of Love donors of Cubic, Marconi and Telent for their continuous support over the years. Our special thanks to Sabina Sollaman, Mohan's ex-colleague, & her husband, who, on behalf of Apna Sangeeth music group, put in a lot of hard work, organised an exceptional musical event for Bridge of Love in Birmingham in May 2009 and raised more than £10,000 for Bridge of Love. Our sincere thanks to Appa Sangeeth musicians for their excellent performance and the generous donation. The money raised was added to Mohan Memorial Fund (MMF) and has been used to meet the desperate needs of the war victims and AIDS victims.

Income Generating Projects for Widows

London Tamil Christian Congregation (LTCC) donated £1050 in August 2008 and with this

money ten widows were trained in the Aug-Dec period in Kalkudah, Sri Lanka. On successful completion of the training, each of these ten widows received a new sewing machine. Rev Isaiah provided the training space while Bro. Yoganathan coordinated this project.

The second batch of five widows were trained in Aug-Dec 2008 and the third batch of five widows were trained in Oct-Dec 2009 in Urani, Batticaloa. On successful completion of the training, each of these widows received a new sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love. Rev. Karunanithi coordinated these projects.

The first batch of five widows were trained in Aug-Dec 2008 and the second batch of five widows were trained in Oct – Dec 2009 in Eravur, Batticaloa. On successful completion of the training, each of these widows received a new sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love. Rev. Karunanithi coordinated this project.

In Jul 2009, Bridge of Love trained the second batch of ten widows who were affected by the Asian tsunami in Thiraimadu, Batticaloa. On successful completion of the training, each of these widows received a new sewing machine. LTCC donated £1300 for this project.

In total, Bridge of love has trained 77 poor widows and donated new sewing machines worth more than Rs 1,600,000 since December 2005. Make a monthly donation »



# Canaan Children's Home, Vaddukoddai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka



Bridge of Love (BOL) has been financially supporting this home for more than five and a half years. There are around fifty children, and among them are street children, orphans, semi orphans and young offenders



orphans and young offenders. Children are lovingly cared for by Miss Praba Thanjaratnam who has devoted her life to supporting

these children. Bridge of Love donors/prayer partners, Sis Christine, Sis Joyce and Sis Chitra met these children during their Sri Lanka visit in October 2009. Mr Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer is the project coordinator and main sponsor of this project. Luke met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in April 2010.

Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love provides monthly financial support for fifteen poor Widows, twelve of their children and one young adult. Mr & Mrs Edwin Amirtharaja are the local coordinators of this project. Rev G I Ebenezer, Chairman of BOL and senior pastor of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship and his wife, Sis Soma, met these widows during their visit to Sri Lanka in December 2009.



#### Mankulam and Killinochchi - Northern Sri Lanka

During the recent war, six children were killed when a bomb shell exploded and four

children died of snakebite when they were fleeing the war zone and took refuge in jungles. Mr Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love, was the UK project coordinator and the sponsor of these projects. Rev Navendranugoolan is the local coordinator.



#### Living Water Children's Home, Tamil Nadu, India

There are 4 girls and 5 boys who are being sheltered, cared for and educated. These children are in the age group of 5-10 years and are orphans/semi orphans from a poor background. Mr Ramachardran and Mrs Selvi Ramachandran are the project coordinators and sponsors of this project.

Ruth Girls' Home, Killinochi, Sri Lanka

Ruth Girls' Home is situated in a very remote area

in Kilinochchi which was highly affected by the recent war. Miss Gladys Jeyaratnam the carer, and some of the children escaped the war and had been living in Poonthoddam IDP camp when four of the ETCF workers met them during their relief visit in Oct 2009.

Gladys has gone back to Kilinochchi now, and is trying to rebuild the shattered lives of the children. There are now 18 children in the Ruth home. Bridge of Love has sent Rs 205,000 for their rehabilitation. This includes a donation of Rs 102,500 from the Tamil Christian Church of Canada. Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy, BOL Trustee and Accountant, is the coordinator of this project.



#### Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka

Anpusahotharar IIIam, a UK registered charity, runs an orphanage in Mannar and there are around twenty boys who are being cared for and educated. Bridge of Love provides monthly financial support for five of these children.

# Bethany Children's Home, Anaicoddai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka



There are thirteen boys and thirteen girls in this orphanage. Bridge of Love provides regular monthly financial support for fifteen children. Mrs Joyce Mailvaganam is the BOL coordinator of this project. She herself coordinates and collects money for six of these children.



#### Dohnavur, Thirunelvelli, Tamil Nadu, South India

Five (5) semi orphans are being educated and cared for under the supervision of Mr. J. Peter Rajamani, who is the founder of this project. These children were in desperate need of a proper residential home and Bridge of Love donated Rs 20,000 towards the building fund in 2008. Currently, Bridge of Love (BOL) is providing **monthly financial support for this children's home. BOL prayer partner,** Mrs Soundrapandian is the BOL coordinator of this project.





### Canaan Children's Home, Badulla, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love started supporting this home in October 2007. There are around fifty orphans/ semi orphans in this home. Currently we are providing financial support to ten of these children. Bridge of Love donors/prayer partners, Sis Joyce, Sis Christine and Sis Chitra, met these children during their Sri Lanka visit in October 2009. Mr Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer, is the project coordinator and sponsor of this project.

Luke met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in April 2010.

#### Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka

There are now thirteen children in this home who are being sheltered, cared for and educated. Bridge of Love provides regular monthly support of £50 for this project. Bridge of Love donated £200 in August 2009. Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love, was the BOL project coordinator and the main sponsor of this project. Rev Alagendran and his wife Mrs Jeeva Alagendran, the founding members of this orphanage, met these widows during their visit to Sri Lanka in September 2009.





Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM) and Bridge of Love (BOL) have jointly started a residential home in Shivpur and currently there are seven underprivileged children (two of them were child labourers) who are being sheltered. cared for and educated. BOL provided Rs 4,000 towards the setup cost and is providing regular monthly support from Dr Davie Memorial



Fund. Bro Moses is managing this project under the careful supervision of Sis Indhumathy Naidu, founder of KBM and ex Emmanuel Christian Tamil

Fellowship worker.

rker. Sis Indhu met these children last summer, during her visit to Shivpur.

YMCA Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Under the Children's

Rights Project, the Jaffna YMCA is running five preschools for around 90 poor & neglected children in remote areas of Jaffna. In July 2009, Bridge of Love sent Rs 20,000 towards the Sports Meet expenses for these children. We also donated Rs 20,000 for the Medicinal Soup Programme at Vali West Pradeshiya Sabah for the flood victims in Jaffna district organised and coordinated by the Jaffna YMCA. Mr G S Shathiharan is the BOL local coordinator.



Bridge of Love (BOL) provides monthly financial support for nine poor widows and their children who live in a slum. Pastor Kathireson is the local coordinator of this project.

Pitakotte, Colombo

We also run an Evening Study programme for the Pitakotte Slum children. This programme came to a near halt when extremists violently threatened these slum people to stop all their religious and educational activities. Terrified and shaken, these people were unable to continue their activities. By the grace of God, Barnabas Fund came to the rescue. With financial assistance from Barnabas Fund, Bridge of Love has been able to rent a small hall since May 2009. Our sincere thanks to Bro Jonathan, founder of Emmanuel Christian Tamil Fellowship (ETCF), who played a vital role in getting this financial help. These slum dwellers are now able to continue their educational and religious activities with freedom in a far better environment.



Sis Nalayini Sarvananthan and Mrs Jennifer Shiromi Amirtharaja of ETCF are the main sponsors of this project. Rev G I Ebenezer, chairman of Bridge of Love, and his wife Sis Soma Ebenezer met these widows during their visit to Sri Lanka in December 2009. Bridge of Love donor Mrs Rebecca Brainerd also met these widows during her visit to Sri Lanka in December 2009.

Mr Felix Stephens initiated and along with Daniel Duraisamy collected £450 for Haiti relief. We sent this money to Haiti through the Manor Park Christian Centre.

Bridge of Love (BOL) has been financially supporting three handicapped children and their poor mother for more than three years in Batticaloa. BOL also provides monthly support for a poor widow and her children in the same area. Rev Karunanithi is our local coordinator for these projects. BOL has been providing a small monthly financial support to 30 poor pastors in Batticaloa for more than three years. Mr & Mrs Watherstone of Transform Newham are the main sponsors of this project.

Since October 2007, BOL has been financially supporting a poor evangelist in Bangalore whose two children are struggling with depression. Around 500 Gondi (tribal people in Coimbatore) were struggling without any toilet facilities and we sent Rs 30,000 through KBM to build them a toilet.



Christmas Gifts

We annually provide study material as Christmas presents for more than 800 poor children. In December 2008, Bridge of Love sent over Rs 470,000 worth of Christmas presents to more than 800 children. Rev Karunanithi, Bro Yoganathan and Rev Kathireson coordinated this project. We also donated Rs 81,080 to build two new huts as Christmas presents for poor widows in Batticaloa.



Mrs Evangeline Sathyendra, a Bridge of Love trustee, organized a Christmas card-making workshop at Walthamstow in November 2008. Sis Soma Ebenezer, a leader of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, along with Bro Chenturan, a Sunday school teacher, also planned and organised another Christmas card making workshop in December 2008 at Manor Park. In both of these workshops, children used their creativity to make many beautiful cards which were sold to raise money for the charity. With the blessing of Pastor Vasanthakumar and the help of the English congregation, Dinesh Sathyendran, along with his parents, organised an indoor games fundraising event at Walthamstow in November

2008. After the huge success of this event we are planning to organise similar events this year. Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy, a Bridge of Love Trustee, organised and collected £850 from his friends and family members for this project. A sewing machine and ceiling fan were given to the AIDS victims in Chennai as Christmas presents through Kingdom Business Ministry (KBM) members Sis Indhu, Sis Padma, and Bro Enoch.



In December 2009, Bridge of Love sent over Rs 500,000 worth Christmas presents to more than 800 children. Rev Karunanithi, Bro Yoganathan and Rev Kathireson coordinated this project.

Our sincere thanks to Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship members, Ilford Kids Club, Sheering News and Broad Oak store for their kind donations.





Bridge of Love - Reaching the Unreachable and Touching the Untouchable !

New CDs

<u>Dushan Ponniah</u> released his second wonderful Album called "The Journey" in September, 2009. Packed with modern beautiful Tamil and English songs, surely this CD is a real treat for the youth. BOL Treasurer Luke Mahendra, and BOL Chairman Rev G I Ebenezer, produced another CD full of beautiful evergreen songs. 1000s of pounds were raised through these two CDs to provide practical help for the oppressed in their distress. Following the huge success of "WHY" CD, an extremely talented musician and BOL donor, <u>Prashan Jayatheepam</u>, is currently in the process of producing another CD called "WHO" for Bridge of Love.

HIV Victims, Chennai, India

Pastor Solomon is running a home in Chennai for 16

orphaned children and 5 women who are HIV positive. Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM) and Bridge of Love (BOL) have been jointly supporting these victims since June 2008. Dr Davie Memorial Fund has been used for this project. Sis Indhumathy Naidu, founder of KBM and ex-Emmanuel Tamil Fellowship (ETCF) worker, along with Sis Padma is spiritually guiding these HIV victims giving eternal hope in their



hopeless situation. BOL donor Mr Enoch George met these children and women in May 2009. BOL Trustee Mrs Evangeline Kamalini Sathyendran also met these children and women in July



2009. These Aids Victims have been asked to vacate the property and are in desperate need for a place to live. From the Mohanarajan Memorial Fund, raised by Apna Sangeeth music group, Bridge of Love donated Rs 50,000 for the new building in July 2009 and, Rs 25,000 in May 2010. Bro Jonathan, founder of ETCF donated £500 in May 2010. Sis Severus, a Bridge of Love donor, also paid a visit in April this year. Two children and a woman died due to extremely hot weather conditions in Chennai in April 2010.

You can make a difference !

# Start fundraising

Please pray earnestly for us so that we can continue to support the current BOL projects and, if possible, take up new challenges. Bridge of Love has received applications from reliable contacts for some critical projects which include sheltering, caring, nurturing and educating orphans/semi orphans, Child labour victims and neglected & underprivileged children.



- £15 £22 would provide care & education for an orphan for a **month. Your contribution could change a child's future & have a positive** impact on society. You could contribute the whole or part of this amount. £1000 would support a child for five (5) years and £650 would support a child for three (3) years.
- £18 £22 would support a widow with two children for a month. £110 - £120 would provide a Singer Sewing Machine for a widow.

If you personally know of any individual or organisation that can make grants to any of our projects, kindly let us know.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world – James 1: 27



Make a monthly donation >>

Make a donation

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