

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

Newsletter - June 2008

நேசபாலம்

www.bridge-of-love.org

Bridge of Love Trust  
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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ! Over the past six years, we have been financially supporting registered local organisations and churches in Sri Lanka and India who work among the broken & abandoned, poor & needy, widows, orphans, semi orphans, child labour victims, children of lepers, street children, the underprivileged, young offenders, and persecuted Christians. We function regardless of race or religion.

UK Reg. Charity No: 1096302

Our Lord has graciously blessed Bridge of Love ministry and now we are providing regular monthly financial support to many children and widows. We feel that a regular gift to organisations is the most valuable aid. Regular gifts mean that the organisations we support can plan ahead for their short term and long-term development needs. In addition to our regular financial support, whenever there is a specific need, we assess it and approach individuals & organisations for aid and financial help. We then channel these funds to different organisations to meet their needs. We do our best to ensure that the organisations we support are genuine.

Over the past six years we sent more than £130,000 for our projects. Last year we sent more than £25,000 for these 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

Over the course of the past two decades, war has devastated the North and East of Sri Lanka. People in this areas have faced extreme violence and been the victims of appalling human rights abuses. Destruction of civilian property has been extensive. The terrorizing sound of the bomber jets causes mental trauma and causes negative psychological impact on pregnant mothers, infants and school children. Vicinity of schools being close to locations targeted for aerial bombing is never taken for consideration and as a result school children are subject to injuries, deaths and severe psychological strain. Aerial bombings have been carried out in the vicinity of schools even during times when public examinations were taking place.



Please visit <http://www.bridge-of-love.org> for more info.



People seek refuge with the Human Rights Commission in Jaffna on a daily basis for fear of military harassment or physical threats by armed groups.

Ad hoc ban on fishing depending on the whims and dictates of the military and the Navy in the area continues to be a serious problem faced by the fishing population. Fishing is the primary livelihood of a majority of people in the coastal villages in the North & East and the arbitrary bans and restrictions imposed by the military and the navy seriously impact the day to day life of this community.

Major parts of fertile farm lands in the Jaffna peninsula are in the Valikamam division and are now inaccessible to the owner peasants due to its classification as a 'High Security Zone'. These peasants are forced to live as refugees in welfare camps or with relatives elsewhere. Depriving these peasants of their farmlands has not only made them refugees, but has largely contributed to the shortage of grains and agricultural produce for the entire population of the peninsula. In areas other than the High Security Zone, farmers face the problem of fertilizer inputs that are restricted due to closure of A-9 and the dependency on sea transport. A curfew that is in force for more than one year now in the Jaffna peninsula is seriously impacting the livelihood pattern of both the farmers and the fishermen. Bridge of Love has sent Rs 197,000 relief money for the A9 Closure victims since December 2006.

As the focus of the conflict shifts from Sri Lanka's east to parts of the Northern region, the UN refugee agency has appealed for \$18.6 million to provide assistance to an estimated half a million internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka in 2008. Following the military operations in the Eastern region of the island, some 170,000 displaced persons have returned to their villages of origin in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, with more returns planned this year. There are still some 187,700 displaced since fighting escalated in April 2006. Following the 2002 ceasefire agreement and the return of tens of thousands of IDPs to their areas of origin, some 312,000 persons have remained in a state of protracted displacement during the last 20 years of conflict.



In May 2007 we provided clothing and other essentials worth more than Rs 625,000 to more than 400 internally displaced families from Padduvankarai area in Batticaloa. Rev Karunanithi, President of Padduvankarai Pastors' Fellowship, Batticaloa, along with Bro Yoganathan from Valaichechnai, successfully coordinated and managed this project in Batticaloa for Bridge of Love.

Following the pattern of 2006 in Vakarai, Kokkatticholai and Karadiyanaru in Batticaloa and Sampur in Trincomalee, many parts of Mannar were targeted during the latter half of 2007 and 5965 families comprising 22,433 persons evicted according to the statistics given by UNHCR and the Government Agent, Mannar. Bridge of Love has sent more than Rs 750,000 worth of help for 30 internally displaced families in Kathankulam, Mannar. Pastor Vasanthan Stephen put in a lot of hard work and coordinated this project for Bridge Of Love.

In total BOL has provided clothing and other essentials worth more than Rs 2,440,000 for the Internally displaced people since September 2006.



### A tribute to our Patron Dr Mrs Sugi Davie

BOL Love is struggling to cope with the loss of our Patron and Indian Tsunami project coordinator Dr Mrs Sugi Davie. She died on the 22nd of December 2007, just before Christmas. Dr Mrs Sugi Davie was a caring and compassionate person. In the midst of her very busy schedule, along with her loving husband Mr Davie, she initiated & organised fund raising events in the local church and raised money for the Tsunami victims, orphans and the poor & needy. The sweet memories of her kind acts will be long remembered by BOL members, project coordinators and the beneficiaries. In spite of the shock and pain of losing his soul mate, Mr Davie courageously organised and donated all the tribute money to two charitable organisations. BOL received £1365 and \$100 as Dr Davie's Memorial Fund, which are being used to support orphans and widows in India.



### Income Generating Projects for Widows

In May 2007, Bridge of Love initiated and provided financial support to open a Sewing centre for widows in Vallaichchenai, Sri Lanka. There are around sixty six (66) poor & needy widows in this area and many of them are young mothers with children. A trainer, with more than 12 years of sewing experience, trained the first batch of ten widows for more than three months. On successful completion of the training, each of these ten widows received a sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love UK, in June 2007.



The next batch of ten (10) widows were trained in Nov - Jan period. On successful completion of the training, each of these ten widows received a sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love UK, in March 2008. Rev Isaiah provided the training space while Bro Yoganathan Coordinated this project.



In October 2007, Bridge of Love initiated and provided financial support to open a Sewing centre for widows in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. A first batch of five (5) widows were trained. On successful completion of the training, each of these five widows received a sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love UK, in March 2008. Rev Karunanithi coordinated this project for Bridge of Love.



In total, Bridge of love has trained 37 poor widows and donated sewing machines worth more than Rs 585,000 since December 2005. Bridge of Love is opening two more Sewing centres for widows in Urani and Eravur in Batticaloa and another one in Thalaimannar, Sri Lanka.

London Tamil Christian Congregation (LTCC) has come forward to sponsor another Sewing centre for a batch of ten (10) widows who were affected by the Asian tsunami in Batticaloa. LTCC also donated £250 through their former pastor Dr John Smithra in August 2007.

Bridge of Love also provided Rs 40,000 set up cost for a Banana Garden started by Rev Isaiah from which around 30 poor people were benefited. Bridge of Love is providing financial assistance to buy 20 Chairs for Chair Rental business for poor widows in Valaichechenai, Sri Lanka.





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

Bridge of Love (BOL) has been financially supporting this home for more than four and a half years. There are around fifty (50) children, and among them are street children, orphans, semi orphans and young offenders. Children are lovingly cared for by Miss Praba Thanjaratnam who has devoted her life to support these children. The standard of discipline and the love and affection among the children are so high that even the government sends young offenders here. BOL is financially supporting ten (10) children in this orphanage. Mr Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer is the project coordinator and main sponsor of this project.



### Ruth Girls Home, Killinochi, Sri Lanka

Ruth Girls Home is situated in a very remote area in Killinochi, Sri Lanka. There are 19 - 24 orphan girls at this home. Bridge of Love is providing regular monthly financial support for ten (10) children.

Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy, BOL Trustee and Accountant, is the project coordinator of this project.



### Mankulam and Killinochi - Northern Sri Lanka

In July 2007 Bridge of Love sent £300 for the children at St Andrews Boy's Home Centre in Mankulam. In March 2008, we sent £600 gift towards the building project for 45 children in Vavuniya. These projects were locally coordinated by Rev Anukoolan and the home is run by Rev Antony Suthakar of St Andrews Church, Mankulam. Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love, is the BOL project coordinator and the sponsor of these projects.

### Living Water Children's Home, Tamil Nadu, South 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 poor background. Three more children will be joining this home soon. Mr Ramachandran and Mrs Selvi Ramachandran are the project coordinators and sponsors of this project.



### Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love (BOL) provides regular monthly financial support for fifteen (15) poor Widows, twelve (12) of their children and two (1) 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, London E12, met these widows during his visit to Sri Lanka in March 2007.



### Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka

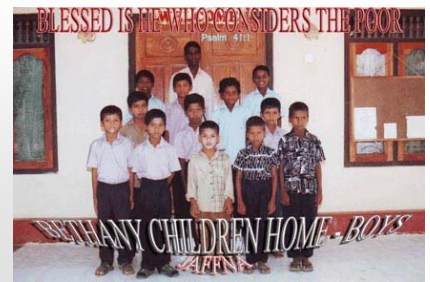
Anpusahotharar Illam, a UK registered charity, runs an orphanage in Mannar and there are around 25 children who are being cared for and educated. Bridge of Love provides monthly financial support for five (5) of these children.



### Bethany Children 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 (15) children. Mrs Joyce Mailvaganam is the BOL coordinator of this project. She herself coordinates and collects money for six (6) of these children.



### Dohnavur, Thirunelveli, 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. Currently BOL is providing monthly financial support of Rs 6,000. BOL prayer partner, Mrs Soundrapandian is the BOL coordinator of this project.



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

Bridge of Love started supporting this home in October 2007. There are around 50 orphans/ semi orphans in this home. BOL is financially supporting five (5) of these children. Mr Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer is the project coordinator and sponsor of this project.

### Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka



There are now eight (8) children in this home who are being sheltered, cared for and educated. Bridge of Love provides regular monthly support of £50 for this project. Mr & Mrs Soundarajan (Ruban & Ruth) visited this home last year. Bridge of Love, donated £1500 last year. Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love is the BOL project coordinator and the main sponsor of this project.



Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM) and Bridge of Love (BOL) have jointly started a residential home in Shivpur and currently there are two Tamil underprivileged children who are being sheltered, cared for and educated. BOL provided Rs 4,000 towards the setup cost and is providing monthly support of Rs 2000 from Dr Davie Memorial Fund. Three more Tamil Semi orphans / underprivileged children will be joining this home soon. Bro Moses is managing this project under the careful supervision of Sis Inthumathy Naidu, founder of KBM and ex Emmanuel Christian Tamil Fellowship worker.

### Shivpur (near Bangalore), South India



### Vavuniya, Mannar - Northern Sri Lanka

Last year BOL provided regular monthly support for five (5) widows and three (3) children in Vavuniya. This year we are providing monthly financial assistance for nine (9) poor & needy families in Mannar district in Sri Lanka. Bro Logathas of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship,



and his wife & BOL prayer partner, Sis Suseela Logathas are the BOL Project Coordinators of this project. Mrs A Sinnamalar and her husband are the local coordinators of this project.





**Pittkodde, Colombo**

Bridge of Love (BOL) provides monthly financial support for nine (9) poor Widows, nine (9) children who live in a slum area. Pastor Kathireson is the local coordinator of this project. In Dec 2007 BOL bought a tent and 50 chairs worth Rs 169,000 which is now used for educational and religious activities. Mr Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer, met these widows and children during his visit to Sri Lanka in June 2007.

### YMCA Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Under the Child Rights Project, the Jaffna YMCA is running 5 preschools for around 93 poor & neglected children in remote areas of Jaffna. In 2007 Bridge Love (BOL) sponsored the Nutrition programme worth Rs 40,000 and provided Rs 18,000 worth of school bags as Christmas presents. In May 2008 BOL sent Rs 26,000 towards the Picnic & Sports meet events for these children. This year we will also be sponsoring the Singing & Elocution competition and the Christmas programme. Mr Shatheeharan Sabaratnam is the BOL local coordinator.



### HIV Victims, Chennai, India

Pastor Solomon is running a home in Chennai for 19 orphaned children and 6 former sex workers who are HIV positive. Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM) and Bridge of Love (BOL) have jointly started financially & spiritually supporting these victims. BOL donated Rs 9,300 worth of medicine in June 2008 from Dr Davie's Memorial Fund and is providing Rs 3500 monthly financial support

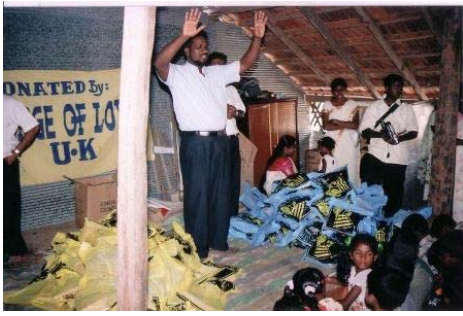
for their spiritual and physical welfare while KBM staff are taking high risks visiting, caring for and spiritually guiding these HIV victims giving eternal hope in their hopeless situation. Sis Inthumathy Naidu, founder of KBM and ex-Emmanuel Tamil Fellowship worker, is our local coordinator. BOL donor, Mr Enoch George met these children and women in May 2008. BOL Trustee, Mrs Evangeline Kamalini Sathyendran also met these children and women in July 2008.

In March 2008, Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy on behalf of BOL donated £130 towards the night study programme for the underprivileged children in Urumpirai, Northern Sri Lanka. BOL has been providing monthly financial support to a cancer patient and her three children in Urumpirai for more than an year. Mr Shantheeharan Sabaratnam is the local coordinator for this project. BOL has been financially supporting three handicapped children and their poor mother for more than two 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.

### Other Projects

BOL has been providing monthly financial support to 30 poor pastors of Padduvankarai Pastoral fellowship in Batticaloa for more than two years. Mr Peter Watherstone and Mrs Hannah Watherstone of Transform Newham are the sponsors of these project. Since October 2007, BOL has been financially supporting a poor evangelist in Bangalore whose two children are struggling with depression. Since January, BOL has been financially assisting a missionary in Tamil Nadu. Since September 2007, BOL has been providing monthly financial support for Sis Rani, an evangelist and a prayer warrior, who lives in Negambo, Sri Lanka. Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love, is the sponsor of this project. Bridge of Love has donated Rs 100,000 to the injured widow and children of the murdered Pastor Neil Samson Ethirisinghe in Sri Lanka. BOL donated Rs 100,000 towards the building fund for a poor sister who runs a Church in Vavuniya. Her husband Rev Victor Emanuel Yogarajan and their two sons have been reported missing since March 2007. Sis Suseela Logathas's brother who works for Agape ministries is the coordinator.





## Christmas Gifts

In December 2007, Bridge of Love sent around Rs 433,000 worth Christmas gifts to more than 804 deprived children in Sri Lanka. Ilford Kids Club of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship donated £100 and Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy, Accountant and Trustee of Bridge of love organised and collected £375 from his friends and family members for this project.



Area	Children	Amount	BOL Coordinator
Valichennai	426	Rs 2,20,340	Bro Yoganathan & Rev Isaiah
Batticaloa	200	Rs 1,00,000	Rev Karunanithi
Pittakodde & Themadakoda	58	Rs 32,000	Rev Kathireson & Bro Henry
YMCA Nursery children, Jaffna	95	Rs 18050	Bro Shantheeharan Sabaratnam
Negambo	20	Rs 10,000	Sis Rani
Vavuniya	5	Rs 2,500	Rev Sritharan
Colombo - Kala Publications		Rs 40,000	Bro Rajkumar



Bro Jonathan Eden and Sis Soma Ebenezer, Leaders of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, along with Bro Chenturan, a Sunday school teacher, planned and organised Christmas cards making workshop for Challengers of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship. Children utilised their creativity and made more than 100 fabulous cards which were sold for £200. Energy Youth Church of Emmanuel

Christian Fellowship donated another £100. With this money we were able to buy a second hand electricity generator, some furniture and started an Evening Study Programme for the Pitakodde children who live in a slum area where there was neither electricity nor educational care available. Mrs Jenifer Shriromi Amirtharaja is the main sponsor of this project.



## New CDs

An extremely talented musician and BOL donor, Prashan Jeyatheepam, composed, recorded and produced, a brilliant CD called, "WHY", for Bridge Love in May 2007 and it was probably the best Tamil Christian CD of the year. Many highly talented artists are full of praise for this great piece of work. One of the songs won the 2007 Best Melody Award in Sri Lanka. Money collected from the sale of this CD has been used to provide monthly financial support to widows and children in Bethagama, Pittakodde, Sri Lanka. Our special thanks to Divine Christian Church, Wembley for their donation of £300 in September 2007.

Dushan Ponniah released another wonderful Album called, "A New Beginning", in 2007. Packed with modern beautiful Tamil and English songs (including RAP and Baila), surely this CD is a real treat for the youth. Touching lyrics ... the unique voice of Dushan along with his sister Doreen ..... children listen to his songs even when they go to bed. Money collected from the sale of this CD has been used to provide monthly financial support to widows and children in Mannar.

## Old CDs

**Naayagan** CD was produced in 2006 to promote Bridge of Love's objectives and to raise funds for our relief projects. It's a breathtaking musical journey with variety and quality songs. Please visit [www.naayagan.org](http://www.naayagan.org) to learn more. Money collected by the sale of this CD and the money has been used for Sewing Centre projects in Batticaloa and Mannar districts in Sri Lanka.

Jacinth & Jay contributed £300 from the sale of their CD, **Kanneer Pookkal** made in the loving memory of a caring mum. Part of this amount was sent to Rev Suresh Ramachandran to help with legal costs to a pastor who was facing persecution.

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.



♦ £17 - £20 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.

♦ £15 - £17 would support a widow with two children for a month. £90 - £100 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

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