

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

Newsletter - March 2007

நேசபாலம்

www.bridge-of-love.org

Bridge of Love Trust

UK Reg. Charity No: 1096302

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

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 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 also organise special programmes to raise money. We then channel these funds to different organisations to meet their needs. We try our best to ensure that the organisations we support are genuine.

In 2005 we received £43,933.43 and sent £40,503.29 for our projects, which includes around £30,000 Tsunami Relief. Last year we sent around £24,000 for these projects. We sincerely thank you for your invaluable prayers and financial support which has enabled us to be in this position. May the Lord Almighty abundantly bless you and may He enlarge our territory through your support !

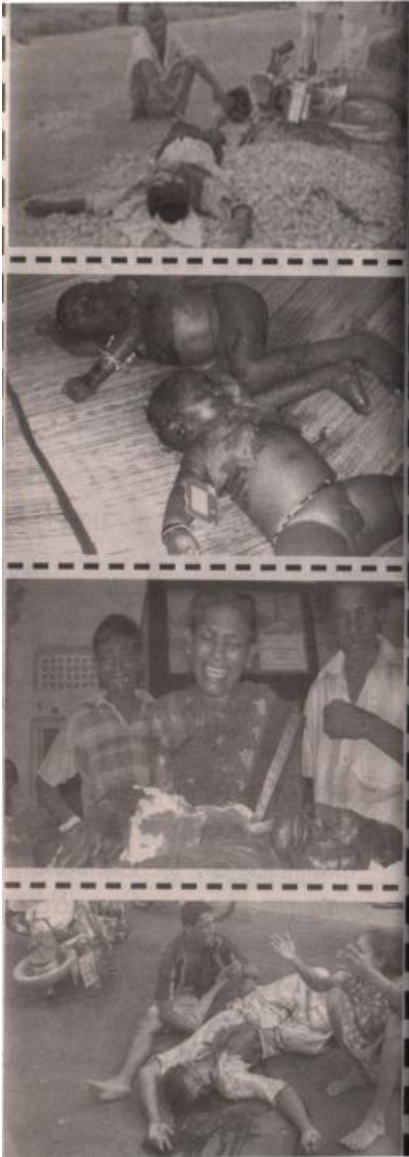
WAR IN SRI LANKA

Due to the heavy fighting between the government forces and the LTTE, around 250,000 persons have been internally displaced thus far, and over 12,000 Tamil persons have fled across the seas to South India as a result of the present conflict. This is in addition to nearly 800,000 people who continue to be displaced both internally and abroad as a result of the earlier phases of the conflict and the Tsunami. BOL supported children's homes and projects, in Jaffna, Killinochchi, Mannar and Batticaloa districts affected by this war. The children live in fear in the mist of the bombing, shelling, abductions, extortions and killings.



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





It all began with the September 12 Brussels Declaration of the Co-chairs of Sri Lanka, which announced the commitment of the government and the LTTE to resume talks. Nevertheless, even as the two sides showered platitudes on the Co-chairs, who represent Sri Lanka's 58 donor countries, and pledged their word for peace, the situation on the ground deteriorated. The military campaigns of the government resulted in deadly attacks by the LTTE and *vice versa*. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) was virtually confined to Colombo and the 2002 ceasefire agreement (CFA) was in shreds. Nearly 3,000 people have died and 2.5 lakh have been displaced in 2006 alone.



There is no room for thousands of new war-displaced people in crammed refugee camps in eastern Sri Lanka, so many are sheltering under trees or in schools and churches," Reuters report, datelined 13 March, said. The reports by Humanitarian Agencies working in the East, including those of UN say the IDPs face countless problems including food, accommodation, sanitation, health, schooling for children. The UN has appealed for vital funds to boost its operations in eastern Sri Lanka.

Because of the new influx of IDPs, 110 schools remain closed in the district. Around 23,000 students from Paduvankarai are not attending schools. Students in 18 other schools face difficulties as they witness the daily trauma of IDPs and fellow students staying in the premises as refugees. Seasonally high temperatures have added to the refugees' woes. Chicken-pox and measles are health

issues plaguing the IDPs, with 49 IDPs in Araiampathi affected with chickenpox.

Bridge of Love provided clothing and other essentials worth **Rs 3,00,000** to around **175** families sheltered at Sinhala Mahavithiyalayam in Batticaloa, in September 2006. In Feb 2007 we provided clothing and other essentials worth **Rs 7,50,000** to around **475** families sheltered at Savukadi nalanpuri centre in Batticaloa. Mr & Mrs Amirtharaja and Sis Shanthi Ponnu organised and collected more than £2,25,000 worth of clothing from friends and local church members in Dehiwela for this project.

Rev Karunanithi, President of Padduvankarai Pastor Fellowship, Batticaloa, put in a lot of hard work and along with Bro Yogannathan from Valaichechai, successfully coordinated and managed the two mentioned projects in Batticaloa for Bridge of Love. We are currently organising relief to another



A9 Road Closure

The closure of the A9, which links Jaffna peninsula to the rest of the country in August 2006, has resulted in open prison for more than six hundred thousand people in the Jaffna peninsula. The Jaffna situation is still volatile. Food and other essential commodities are sold at almost ten (10) times the prices in Colombo.

Scarcity of text books, writing implements, exercise books, and shortage of school uniform materials marked the dismal predicament of Jaffna students on the first school day as schools gates opened after New Year 2007, according to the civil society sources in Jaffna. Unlike their counterparts in the rest of Sri Lanka, students in Jaffna have been deprived of educational supplies due to closure of, the A9 highway.

Bro Vethanayagam Silva, through Christa Seva Ashram , Chunnakam coordinated and distributed Bridge of Love's donation of Rs 47,500 for 19 families. Mrs O S Dharmanandan , mother of Bridge of Love's treasurer Luke Mahendran is currently coordinating Rs 75,000 worth of relief to the A9 victims in Kopay area. (Mrs O S Dharmanandan is also the mother of Bro Narendra who oversees our Sri Lankan bank account and organise all bank transfers to children's homes and other organisations which we support)

On 14th of March 2007, British Prime Minister Tony Blair called for the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) to be implemented as a first step towards ending Sri Lanka's conflict. "The only realistic way to get a solution is to come back to the 2002 agreement and make sure that it is implemented," Mr. Blair said.



Bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas Savundaranayagam in his Easter Message delivered Thursday said: "In the perilous climate where abductions, disappearances and killings have become normal occurrences, people in Jaffna are leading a life filled with fear and mental trauma. Many are seeking danger-filled ways to escape from this open prison. The Government of Sri Lanka and Liberation Tigers must work with sincerity to arrive at a honourable, sustainable settlement to the conflict."

In the northern corner of Sri Lanka, we are living in unspeakable human conditions amid shocking imposition of draconian laws, threats of incarceration, and escalating preparations for a renewed battles.

In the east more than 150,000 of the most vulnerable people are undergoing immense sufferings uprooted from their ancestral lands and living in camps with shortage of rations, worsening health conditions and with minimum basic facilities.



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

Bridge of Love (BOL) has been financially supporting this home for more than three and a half years. Now 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 these children.

A new home for the boys was started in Jan 2006 and Bridge of Love donated £600 towards the setup of this home.

The standard of discipline and the love and affection among the children are so high that even the government sends young offenders here. There are about a hundred children still on the waiting list. BOL is financially supporting **ten (10)** children in this orphanage.



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. BOL also donated £215 for underprivileged children in Urumpirai.

Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love provides regular monthly financial support for **twelve (12)** poor and **ten (10)** of their children. Three (3) widows have been added to the list recently. Mr & Mrs 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 June 2004 and again in March 2007.

BOL is currently evaluating a request to help 16 poor widows & 10 children in the same area and another 66 widows in Valaichchenai.



Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka

Anpusahotharar Illam, a UK registered charity, was started about 3 years ago by some brothers from Mannar who now live in the UK. This 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.

Bro Tharman founder of Anpusahotharar Illam resigned his job and went with his family from the UK to Mannar. He is now living with these children, looking after them in the same campus. The Shinning stars, one of the Sunday School classes in Emanuel Christian Fellowship, Manaor Park held a fund raising event in support of this orphanage in July 2006 and raised £60 for this home.

Bethany Children Home, Anaicoddai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka



Bridge of Love provides regular monthly support for **eighteen (18)** children. Mrs Joyce Mailvaganam is the BOL coordinator of this project. She herself coordinates and collects money for ten (10) of these children



In 2003, Bridge of Love donated the setup cost of Bridge of Love home in Watrap started and run by Serve the Women and Poor organisation. We also provided regular monthly support for **thirteen (13)** of these children and another **five (5)** children of lepers at Bethany Children Home, Erode, for more than 2 1/2 years. Bro Johnson Gnanapath was the project coordinator for these projects.

In 2006 we sent £200 to Mankind Advancement Charitable Trust for their work amongst the slum children in Coimbatore.

Now we have teamed up with Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM) to carryout educational projects for the underprivileged children in Tamil Nadu South India. KBM was started and is managed by Sis Inthumathy Naidu, who was the women's worker at Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, Manor Park, London E12. Through KBM we will soon be starting an education project for around ten (10) underprivileged children/ child labour victims in Coimbatore, South India.

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, South India



Living Water Children Home, Tamil Nadu, South India

The Living water children home was started by Mr & Mrs Ramachardran on 3 June 2006 in Thondanandal village, Kallakurichi, Tamilnadu, India with the blessing of Sr. Rani Sigamani, Paster Joy Abraham and Br.P.T.Christopher. There are 3 girls and 6 boys children 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. Mr & Mrs

Ramachardran are the project coordinators and sponsors of this project.

Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka

Pas Alagendran and Sis Jeeva Alagendran of Voice of Peace Missionary Church in Germany, along with Mr & Mrs Soundarajan and their family in London, have put a lot of hard work over the past two years to set up this home in Kotagala, Sri Lanka.

Bridge of Love, donated £1500 towards the setup of this home in 2005 and £1000 in 2006. There now eight (8) children in this home who are being sheltered, cared for and educated. Bridge of love has started providing regular monthly support of £50 for this project. Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love is the BOL project coordinator and the main sponsor of this project.



BOL has started providing regular monthly support for five (5) widows and three (3) in Vavuniya, one of the war affected districts in Sri Lanka. One of these widow's daughter and son in law was killed two years ago.

Vavuniya - Northern 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. Pas A Sritharan of Kebar Church Ministries, Vavuniya and the cousin of Bro Logathas is the local project coordinator.



Handicapped Children, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love started helping three handicapped children and their poor mother last year. This family has started receiving regular financial support from us since December 2006.

According to the local coordinator Rev Karunathi, there has been a significant improvement in the health condition of these children over the past six months. Please continue to pray for this family.

Mankulam and Killinochchi - Northern Sri Lanka

In December 2006, BOL sent £600 gift to St Andrews Boy's Home Centre in Mankulam which was used to buy new beds for 19 boys and to build a temporary study hall for the children. This project was locally coordinated by Pas Anukoolan and the home is run by Rev Antony Suthakar of St Andrews Church, Mankulam.

We also donated £150 money for the project of giving one noon meal a day for poor school children in Killinochchi area which is run by Revd P R Anukoolan.

Mr T Mohanarajan, the Advisor and Trustee of Bridge of Love, is the BOL project coordinator and the sponsor of these projects.

In January 2006, BOL donated £190 towards the night study programme for the underprivileged children in Urumpirai, Northern Sri Lanka.



Other Projects

In December 2006, BOL donated Rs 30,000 /=- for the Christmas programme for the poor children in Colombo, organised by Kala Publications, let by a blind man.

BOL Love India

BOL Love India fund was setup soon after the Tsunami in December 2004. This fund has been managed by Mr Ebenezer Davie and Dr Mrs Davie, who are the main fund raisers and project coordinators.

In 2005 we sent £406 to Indian Missions Associations through Dr John Smithra for the Tsunami relief. In 2006 February we sent £800 (Rs 61,600) and Rev Christopher of El-Bethel Apostolic ministries, locally coordinated Income Generating, Refurnishing, Educational projects and relief work. Please visit our website for more information about these projects.

Teamed with Kingdom Business Ministries (KBM), Coimbatore, we are carrying out Educational and Income Generating projects in Tamil Nadu, South India.

In Dec 2006 Bridge of Love donated Rs 5,000 worth of school uniforms and small presents as Christmas gifts to 16 poor / underprivileged children in Manamathurai. Another 15 -20 children will receive shoes, uniforms and books in June 2007



Income generating projects for widows in Manamathurai and Trichy areas in South India, are currently underway. Two widows have already started Dhothal / Halwa, Masala powder making business with the ingredients and equipment donated by Bridge of Love.

We also provide regular support towards medical & food expenses of a mentally affected person whose sisters are missionaries in Manamathurai.





Three years of BOL's campaign of giving at Christmas time got a new boost, when Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy, Account and Trustee of Bridge of love started approaching his friends and family members. He was able to organise and raise £1200 from just five (5) families. Mrs Rebecca Brainerd donated £95 and Felix Stephen added £100 to this fund which he collected from his colleagues and friends.

Christmas Gift for 1000 Children

The amount collected contributed to more than half of the ~~***Rs 4 millions~~ Rs 4 lakhs' worth of Christmas gifts to one thousand deprived children in Padduvankrai - a neglected and backward district of Sri Lanka.

(This area is now heavily affected by the war and more than 150,000 have already fled their homes. We are currently organising relief to 400 families) .



With the assistance of Mr Yoganathan from Valachchenai, this project was initiated, organised and locally coordinated by Pas Karunanithi, president of Padduvankarai Pastor Fellowship which consists of 30 Churches.

More than ~~*** Rs 4,00,0000~~ Rs 400,000 worth of School bags, drink bottles, note books, pencils and other items were donated through 30 Church pastors of Padduvankarai Fellowship. Ten of these poor pastors receive our monthly financial support which is kindly donated by Peter and Hannah Waterston, who met them during their Tsunami Relief visit to Sri Lanka, in 2005.

**** As you can read from Page 1 of this newsletter, in 2006 we sent around £24,000 for **all** of our projects. 'Christmas Presents for 1000 children' is one of these projects for which we donated around £2000. The Rupee value of this project was incorrectly written in the printed version of this Newsletter. As corrected above, the actual Rupee value is Rs 400,000.*



Income Generating Projects for Widows



In Jan 2006, Bridge of Love initiated and provided financial support to open a Sewing centre for widows in Tsunami Village, Thiraimadu, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. There are around forty poor and needy widows in this village and many of them are young with children. Two trainers, with more than 12 years of sewing experience, trained the first batch of ten widows for more than four months. On successful completion of the training, each of these ten widows received a sewing machine donated by Bridge of Love

UK, in June 2006. The next batch of ten widows is expected to start their training in August 2006. Unfortunately due to the recent war, this project is on hold and we are unable to continue with the training.

Opening of another Sewing Centre in Eravur, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka has been delayed since September 2006. A similar project in Valaichchennai, Sri Lanka is also on hold due to the current situation. We hope and pray this war will end soon so that we can continue with these valuable projects.

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.naayagn.org to learn more. Please contact us if you can help us in marketing this CD.

Jacinth & Jay contributed £300 from the sale of their CD, Kanneer Pookkal.

An extremely talented musician and BOL donor, Prashan Jeyatheepam, is producing another fantastic CD for Bridge Love.



You can make a difference !

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 - £20** would provide care & education for an orphan for a month. Your contribution will change a child's future & have an impact on society. You could contribute the whole or part of this amount. **£850** would support a child for **five (5) years** and **£510** would support a child for **three (3) years**.
- ♦ **£10 - £15** would support a widow with two children for a month. **£65 - £75** would provide a Singer Sewing Machine for a widow.
- ♦ **£45 - £50** would provide urgently required essentials for **five (5)** internally displaced families.

If you personally know any individual / organisation who/ which 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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