



Friends of TREAD

Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development

In partnership with TREAD India Trust
...giving hope and a new future to needy Indian children

Summer News 2014

Thank You Ranji and Welcome Vasanth!

In March, David and Tricia Owen were the FOT trustees who attended TREAD India's ceremony to mark the retirement of Ranji, Director of TREAD and the appointment of her successor, younger son Vasanth. The difficult political situation in Orissa and surrounding area made journeying to this region impossible for the UK visitors so the ceremony was held in Bhadrachalam at TREAD's HQ and family home. The Owens reported:



"An atmosphere of excitement built up on Tuesday as autos arrived bearing stacks of plastic chairs, poles and boarding for marquees and staging - simple constructions of awning covered in colourful cloths to provide much needed shade for all the guests. Giant cauldrons arrived with the caterer. Sumanth, Jayraj and Hepsi had jointly organised the event with a caterer to make biriani whilst family and staff members would serve and clear up the food. Later in the day, Vasanth and Annie arrived with around 30 children from David, Sarah and Grace centres. Hannah children were all in the middle of exams so couldn't attend, but were represented the next day by members of their staff. Next morning we wandered about soaking up the atmosphere of excitement. Somehow over 40 youngsters had washed, dressed and breakfasted in quite a small area and now rehearsals were in full swing on the roof, dancers in one corner and singers in another.

After guests had arrived, proceedings began with speeches and testimonies from representatives of all the centres, TREAD trustees and dignitaries from Podia. All these folk go back a long way with Sounder and Ranji so it was a very emotional time. The local doctor acknowledged the huge love and respect they all have for Ranji and reminded us that whilst they all want her to take some rest, she doesn't know the meaning of the word. Raju, one of the first on the orphaned assistance programme, gave a moving and emotional speech saying that without Mummy and Daddy he didn't know where he would have ended up. Family members expressed unequivocal support for Vasanth and looked forward to the exciting time that lay ahead with his fresh input.

The children from the centres performed songs and dances for the guests and finally Ranji expressed her absolute support for Vasanth and Annie whilst Vasanth promised to do the best he could to continue the work of TREAD. Guests then presented them both with the customary garlands as a gesture of love and thanks.

We were struck by the devotion of Compassion staff and children from the three centres to Ranji, Vasanth and Annie.

FOT Visit TDCC

"We arrived in time for morning assembly before breakfast. It was a delight as always to meet the children - when asked how many of them remembered us from previous visits there was a flurry of hands at the back from the older children. After breakfast the children lined up with their huge named satchels and tramped off to school. The government have recently introduced a pre school provision compulsory for all children aged 3 and upwards so some of the little ones went next door to one of these schools. We then toured the newly decorated and refurbished building. The roof (which always leaked) has been successfully repaired with paving slab finish and can now be used by the children for certain events. All the rooms are brightly painted and the building has been rewired. The children and staff are very proud of their building and conditions are much more pleasant for everyone. Drachma the splendid cook and her assistant who have worked there for years greeted us in their small outside cooking area. The garden is neat and well maintained with herbs and flowers, the coconut palms that we planted many years ago provide much needed shade and the play equipment has been repaired and repainted." David and Tricia Owen March 2014



TDCC in Kudunuru is starting an outreach project to a nearby needy village just half a kilometre away from Kudunuru and this year has allocated 15 places at TDCC to these children.

Nearly 25 families live in this community where the occupation of the villagers is agriculture, fishing and hunting. They cultivate rice, cotton and chillies. The families here belong to the Koya tribe and 95% of them are illiterate. They are suspicious of outsiders and if they go outside their village, always travel as a group. Jayraj has been visiting each week to build up a relationship with them to encourage them to send their children to TDCC as the children already attend the Government school in Kudunuru. At the moment the parents find it difficult to accept this new idea but their children are very enthusiastic and keen to attend so Jayraj is confident that their parents will give their assent.

Boazi! FOT first met Boaz as a shy 13 year old in 2002 when Sounder put Boaz on the orphaned assistance project and engaged his widowed mother Martha as cook for the Grace girls and then for the Sarah centre. Now this strapping young man has qualified as an accountant and is employed by Compassion at the Sarah site. Three years ago his mother legally adopted an orphaned girl from the Sarah centre as they wanted to help someone else. It was a delight to meet him again and see how TREAD has helped and influenced him and his mother over the years.



Other news

It has been a busy summer at all the TREAD centres with summer schools offering quizzes, music study, bible classes, dental and medical checkups, IT training, educational tours, parents' classes, baptisms and agricultural projects!

Last newsletter we reported on the medical condition of Mounika, a student from TDCC who lived with the TREAD family in Shiloh with her mother after her operation. She is now in good health, has returned home with her mother and even managed to pass her Year 10 exams. She has started helping in TDCC as a tutor to the primary school children whilst being able to attend college during the day.



Grace Tailoring students have been assessed for their work so far, have been learning how to garden and participated in community cleaning around the village to teach local people how to avoid disease.

Compassion have offered support in three TREAD centres to the families of nine highly vulnerable children as part of a new 3-year programme.

Swapna leaves the Orphaned Assistance programme to get married this summer—we send her congratulations.

10th Class exams are the equivalent of our GCSEs and very important—TREAD children from all the projects have done well in these exams with many securing high passes.

The A'level students have also been successful so we pass on congratulations to them all and to the TREAD centre staff who have encouraged them. Hepsi also reports that overall the youngsters on the Orphaned Assistance programme are happy with their exam results.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

People often ask us how they can help support the work in India. This month we are focusing on using the internet.

If you copy the link below and make it your homepage, each time you use a search engine you raise money for Friends of TREAD.

It doesn't cost you a thing but donations to us add up!

<http://tread.easysearch.org.uk>

If you do any shopping on the internet—anything from your weekly groceries to buying flights, try

easyfundraising.org.uk

who provide a FREE fundraising service. Every time you shop online using all your favourite retail outlets you raise funds for Friends of TREAD and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Who's Who in TREAD INDIA Trust

Each year two of FOT trustees visit the projects in India to see the projects, children and staff and meet with the trustees and family to forward plan. These visits are invaluable to see at firsthand how the money raised by Friends of TREAD is used and we never fail to be inspired and encouraged by what TREAD India trust has achieved. The team we work with in India are:

TREAD India trustees

- **Ranji**, widow of founder of TREAD Dr Sounder Raj, who along with her husband spent a lifetime in children's work. After his death in 2007, she took on his role as Director of TREAD India until her recent retirement (see overleaf)
- **Mr Ramesh Jain**, one of Sounder's oldest and most loyal friends, a successful business man and philanthropist. His business acumen has been invaluable to TREAD India
- **Mr Appa Rao**, also a longterm friend of Sounder who brings sound business expertise to TREAD. He, Sounder and Mr Jain were involved in charitable works with the Lions' Club of Dornakal.
- **Achsah**, eldest daughter of Sounder and Ranji, as a teacher has positive contributions to make to TREAD.

Ranji's younger son **Vasanth** has worked for TREAD since leaving college, spending the last few years based in Orissa at TREAD's Compassion aided sites. He has just taken over from his mother as Director of TREAD India Trust (see overleaf) We congratulate him too on his recent graduation with a degree in Theology, seen here with Ranji and wife Annie.



TREAD's Management team:

- **Sumanth**, eldest son of Sounder and Ranji, persuaded by his father some years ago to abandon his IT career to help TREAD in its early development he now co-ordinates the work of all the TREAD projects
- **Hepsi** started working as administrator for her father Sounder after graduating – she now deals with everyday bookwork and communications with Friends of TREAD.
- **Jayraj**, Hepsi's husband, gave up his career as teacher to join TREAD when Sounder died and currently manages Trinity Day Care Centre
- **Annie**, Vasanth's wife, was employed by Compassion International as manager of Sarah Child Development Centre until her marriage and now helps her husband oversee the TREAD Compassion sites and also manages Grace Tailoring centre.

For up to date news throughout the year, take a look at our Friends of TREAD Facebook page



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