

The East Sheen Chengannur Trust

Registered Charity No 293567



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NEWSLETTER 96 - SPECIAL – KERALA FLOODS

September 2018

Welcome to our latest special newsletter which will also be available to view on our website.

CHENGANNUR FLOODS UPDATE

Thank you to all our supporters who have expressed concern or sent good wishes and donations in the wake of the terrible flooding in Kerala State, Southern India.

Despite the devastation and temporary cutting of transportation, power and communications Jacob, our Project Manager, was up and running with some help within 48 hours of the disastrous floods in and around Chengannur. All the families we arrange sponsorship for are safe but it's not yet known what they've lost in terms of personal possessions or their homes.

Jacob states that government aid reached the main camps but people who couldn't get there or were in the backwaters also needed immediate assistance. People returned to their homes from schools and temporary camps to find what was left, some have lost everything.



Once Jacobs' Mum and son were away to safety he, his wife Deepa and close friend Ehjaz set about the relief work. Ehjaz sent in three truck loads of fresh clothes, provisions, stationery, mats, bed sheets, toiletries, plates, cleaning materials and other essentials. They then had to pack these items into individual kits to be handed out. This was a tiring and time consuming job! Then with the help of well wishers and friends they started distributing them to our sponsored families and others in desperate need around the area.

Jacob says:

'As of now the cleaning process is on where the water has entered and there is hardened silt, tough to clean, on floors. In some places the water would have gone up as high as 11 metres

and so you can imagine the damage done. It is a herculean task to do everything but we are just doing our part. Repair of houses needs hefty amounts that may be out of our capacity.

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When these sad ones return home, they have practically nothing. Some are lucky that the house is there but in a few cases both of rich and the very poor, even the house foundation is gone. So they need to start from scratch. I used some trust money to buy 5 kg rice, bits of sugar, provisions, coffee powder, salt etc so that they can start to cook and eat something. That cost about £ each. I asked a shop keeper to give that to me these in kits which could go to each family which also I am distributing along with the relief kits of clothing etc`.



Drinking and cooking water were in urgent need as all the wells and water sources were contaminated so Jacob contacted a friend in Bangalore to get 3 water purifier units sent. They are a Swiss design but have to be manned and operated so that's another issue needing to be resolved and we don't have an update on this yet.



Over the coming weeks and months we'll be helping as many people as we can. We admire the work of Jacob and Deepa who are not paid for our work and despite having to clear up their own property, have pushed themselves to aid others less fortunate than themselves.

Above: Deepa (in yellow) handing over supplies to sponsored family No 109

Right: Jacob (in red top) distributing the emergency packs

DONATIONS

We already have an emergency fund so please don't feel obliged, but, if you feel you would like to help with a donation please send any amount to us however big or small; (details on next page).....



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- Cheques can be sent to the address above.
- You can send by bank transfer direct to our Lloyds Bank account number 61385660 Sort Code 77-91-48
- or you can pay by Paypal and debit or credit card by clicking on the Donations tab on our website.

If you can please put reference `FLOOD` in the payment. We won't be able to acknowledge every donation like we normally do but please be assured it will be greatly appreciated and 100% will go to Chengannur.

The founders of our charity, Mr TJ John (Jacobs father) and Mrs Kay Mattin established the Trust in the belief that helping in small individual ways was just as valuable as leaving things for governments or large charitable organisations. We may not be able to donate millions of pounds or send in hundreds of volunteers but we can truly see from these pictures that small kindnesses can make a big difference to peoples lives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
The Trustees
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