

There are many people and many projects that I could speak of, but I am going to mention just 5.

Everyone here has the opportunity of getting involved. It might be in raising awareness through conversation with others, it might be by offering skills or offering money or perhaps you would like to visit Trichy yourself. Perhaps you could be a host and welcome someone into your home. But all of us can remember the people of the Trichy Diocese in our prayers.

- 1) The first thing I would like to mention is the Christian Aid sponsored campaign to help the landless poor in India to get land reform from their own government. Many of the poor are day labourers but they have no security, no knowledge if they will have any work tomorrow. A few of the poor have some land but without legal papers, they could lose the land tomorrow.

Starting just last month, a group started touring many of the Indian states. They listened to people's different stories, and built up people's confidence with the idea that change was possible. The year long campaign will culminate with a month long march to Delhi in October 2012. It is hoped over 100,000 people will be involved. Please remember all this in your prayers. Perhaps put a bowl of rice on the altar in your church to draw attention to the campaign. Perhaps organise a walk here in Melton. Ask your friends from all denominations to join you to show solidarity with people in India. For many, the security of a scoop of rice each day is still just a dream.

- 2) The second concern. In the hills, in the tea estates of the Trichy Diocese people live in real fear of wild animals. Every year at least one person, normally a child is killed by either a tiger or elephant. On his mobile phone one of our Indian friends showed me a photo of an 8 year old girl who had been killed 2 months previously. Walking 10 miles to school each day may seem bad enough but, parents fear for their children's safety. Yet schooling is vital if people are to move out of poverty. The Trichy Diocese manage over 50 schools and to

encourage girls to attend school in Valparai, up in the tea estates, the Trichy Diocese provides hostel provision in the town. The building is sound but needs renovation. Fresh water, sanitation, safe electrical supply, by their bed an individual locker for each girl. Please pray that volunteers from Leicestershire will form a team of plumbers, electricians and decorators to go out to help in Valparai.

- 3) On 30th November, in a few days time, in Leicester there is a day conference about the Dalits, the untouchables. Earlier this year 19 curates went to Trichy for 2 weeks as part of their training. This conference with speakers from the Selly Oak colleges is a follow up to that visit, but it is open to everyone. Please pray that the event is well attended, and depth of knowledge and understanding is increased.
- 4) In September 2012 we are going to have a visit from 12 people from Trichy. They will be staying in Leicestershire for 2 weeks and some may even come to Melton. If you invite them! The visit will end with a 10th birthday celebration hosted by the Salvation Army in Leicester city. Everyone will be invited to share in worship, song, dance and food. Please pray that the planning for this visit is full of God's grace.
- 5) My last point concerns communication. Even though the Trichy link is nearly 10 years old, many in Leicestershire still say they have never heard of it. We need to learn how to communicate better. To have more enthusiasm, more passion. If you think communication is a difficult thing within the Methodist church; the Trichy link is ecumenical. We need to communicate between all the different denominations - with their different boundaries, different structures, different use of language and so on. We need to build a good report, we need to build trust, to learn to share and to respect one another. Together we can build Gods kingdom here on earth.