



# 40

Years of  
Committed Service

Wonderful Memories - Powerful Vision 1968 - 2008



## Giving their livelihood a new meaning



Chandra with her clay pots

After I received the SIYB( Start and Improve Your Business ) training, I learnt how to save, calculate profit and loss, reinvest and add value addition," said Chandra who exhibited her clay pots at the exhibition and sale from August 7- 8, 2008, organized by Caritas Batticaloa - EHED. This event was organized to commemorate the **40th Anniversary of Caritas Sri Lanka(CSL) SEDEC.**

Chandra is a small business entrepreneur and belongs to a Caritas Animation group named Annai Theresha. Including Chandra's group 115 self help groups (SHG) comprising of 1,200 beneficiaries exhibited their products. "This was an opportunity for the livelihood and animation groups to come together to display products," said a livelihood officer from the National Centre.

The trade fair displayed products

such as home garden and agricultural products, clay pots, food items, ethnic jewellery and home décor. According to the livelihood officer about 90% of the products were produced by the beneficiaries themselves and about 1000-1200 different varieties of products were on display that day. He further added that, these trade fairs are an opportunity for SHG's to exhibit their products and thereby venture into new business avenues and link with potential buyers.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Swampillai, Bishop of Trincomalee and Batticaloa and Ms. Rubavathy Keetheewaran, Government agent of Batticaloa was the chief guest at the trade fair. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Ponniah Joseph, Auxiliary Bishop of Trincomalee and Batticaloa, Hon. Ms. S Pirapaharan, Mayor of the Municipal Council, Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director of CSL, National Centre staff and many other government agents were the special guests invited for that day.



The distinguished guests at a stall

## Sethsarana Celebrates



Caritas Sethsarana-Colombo National Animation and Livelihood programme organized many talent shows for poor and marginalised children in the Diocese in lieu of the **40th Anniversary Celebration of Caritas Sri Lanka.** The main aim of these talent shows was to give an opportunity for talented children to show off their flair in singing and dancing at parish level in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara.

## Towards a new humanity



Chief guest Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston J. Fernando, Bishop of Badulla, Rev. Fr. Dilex Shantha, Diocesan Director of USCOD Badulla, Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director(CSL)-SEDEC, Very Rev. Fr. M. Raanayagam, Vicar General and other guests at the **commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of CSL and Parents' Day,** St. Anthony's Technical Institute. It was held on August 19, 2008. A cultural programme was organized to mark the event. Keys to 3 new houses which CSL supported to build were also handed over at the event.

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## Building their future brick by brick....



The 3000 bricks produced each day

A mass production of brick making takes place in Jaffna in spite of the ravaging war in the North.

These bricks are manufactured using a locally identified metal, sand and cement. Caritas Jaffna-HUDEC provides the cement bags for this production site. The rest of the raw materials are provided locally.

In each of the 6 centres 3000 bricks are produced a day. According to the contractor at the site, he said that 1 bag of cement produces 62 bricks a day. Around 1850 bricks are needed to build a house. 9 contractors are employed by Caritas Jaffna - HUDEC to work in these factories. Identified beneficiaries from Caritas Jaffna - HUDEC who have been displaced due to the conflict situation are engaged in the supervision of their houses also to provide labour at the brick making factory.

"What's special about this is the usage of local resources on modern technology. The new approach of community participation in making cement bricks for their own house in collaboration with the locally

identified small scale constructors has shown very high results," says a staff member of the CSL tsunami Shelter Programme.

A total of 200 houses have being targeted to be built by end of December 2008 using these special bricks. At present 82 houses are under construction and they are expected to be completed by August 2008. 30 houses in Suppamadam, 45 in Inpurity, 70 in Katkivalam and 55 in Thikkam will be built using these special bricks.

This new venture has brought a new vigour into the housing construction sector of CSL. This clearly shows the unique owner driven approach which CSL has carved out a name for.

## Caritas Sri Lanka Tsunami Exit Policy

Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL) Tsunami programme will end its project interventions in March 2009. With the support of some of the funding Partners, CSL will design long term viable and innovative alternative to follow up projects in order to continue its interventions.

As part of its exit strategy the Tsunami programme has redesigned its future strategies and directions from its learning's to continue the ongoing integral human development programmes towards achieving CSL's mission of empowerment.

CSL has also implemented an Organisational Development(OD) process in preparation for the phasing out of the Tsunami programme. The main aim of the OD process is to design a strategic plan for the next 8 years and ensure the smooth functioning of programmes. It also aims to capacitate the staff with the withdrawal of the expatriates from the tsunami programmes as per the exit policy.

The tsunami programme will shift from a direct supporting role towards a role of mobilizing and accompanying people and facilitating their processors. This process will include enhancement, empowerment and orientation.

As of July 2008, the CSL tsunami programme has established and enhanced approximately about 945 new self help groups(SHG)s and provided safe and secure homes for 8,159 beneficiary families. These groups will be the future target group/ community for CSL to work on the post tsunami programme strategy. Improving their capacities to be more resilient to face any disasters and providing them an orientation on Environmental protection will reduce their vulnerability in future disasters.

In the phasing out stage of the tsunami programme it will mainly focus on three key priority areas, namely, Capacity building for the network, Community based disaster management and providing long term psychosocial support.

### Caritas deals with Gender Sensitivity and Protection

A workshop on gender sensitivity and protection was organized by CSL-SEDEC in partnership with Trocaire, Caritas Ireland. The workshop took place from June 18-21 in Trincomalee.

The main objective of the workshop was to identify the ground situation of the women and children in the IDP camps who are affected by war and to find ways and means to ensure their protection. 25 staff members from the Diocesan Centres of Jaffna, Mannar, Batticaloa and Trincomalee; working in the field of Relief and Rehabilitation, participated in the event along with the Women's desk and R&R staff from the National Centre.



Gender Sensitivity and Protection workshop

## About the OD Process.....



A strategic planning workshop - Organisational Development Process(ODP)was held in Negombo from July 26 - 29. The workshop involved all major stakeholders from the Diocesan Centres and the National Centre in making strategic decisions on policy matters regarding the Caritas Network and how to guide its functioning for the next few years. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats linked to Caritas Sri Lanka were all discussed by the participants.

The OD process is an ongoing matter beyond the strategic planning exercise since the decisions taken will be implemented and these will eventually lead to the future development of the organisation.As part of the stakeholder analysis, the following persons were interviewed by The Communication Unit.Here are some of their most positive and interesting comments on Caritas

### Rev. Fr. Reid Shelton

“One of the key elements which is preventing reaching goals in an optimal and efficient manner is that the Catholic Social Teachings are not spread in the correct manner and Caritas should be the front runner on Catholic Teachings for Development Work, the Populorum Progressio is the key. We need to create a resource pool of Catholics willing to serve the Church”



### Bishop Anradi

"One does not immediately get that impression that we are networking and as the question says considering the stature of Caritas Sri Lanka, I guess this means considering the capacity and potential that is there. Maybe it can do more locally and nationally. We have to adapt to different attitudes and surmount the doubts or dismiss them."



### Dr. Gamini Wijesinghe

“The impression I get is that they(Caritas) are doing their best and also there are certain factors that limitate against Caritas pursuing its goals, which are sometimes misunderstood. The misconstrued Evangelisation. To convince people that it is objective and has nothing to do with a particular religion is of course a difficult task."



### Ms. Wimala Ranatunga

“Yes they network with the government but their service is silent.Their work should be publicized more."



### Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah

“We must not push Caritas beyond a point because it will lose its uniqueness. Caritas is unique simply because they believe in what they do; they are driven by the religion. "

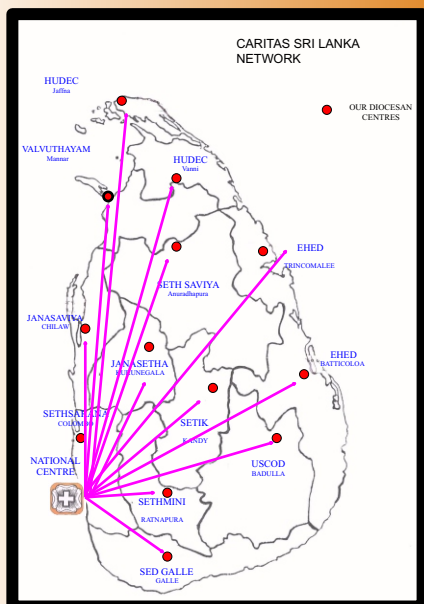


### Dr. Jehan Perera

“They are doing work that many other organizations are not doing. They are able to link with the political parties including the JHU and JVP, who are reluctant to meet with other NGOs but because Caritas is supported by the Bishops' Task Force there has been great success in linking with these political parties”



## A move towards ensuring sustainability



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Fr. Ajith at a income generation programme

The agricultural sector plays a significant role in the livelihoods of the rural farming communities of Sri Lanka. Although in recent years it has declined in importance to GDP.

Kurunegala District is one of the many agricultural districts in the Island and spans part of the dry and the intermediate zones of Sri Lanka. Janasetha, a Caritas Diocesan Centre, in Kurunegala is involved in contributing towards uplifting the agricultural sector through sustainable agricultural practices.

The 34 animation groups in Kurunegala currently functioning under the National Animation Programme of CSL-SEDEC are mainly involved in sustainable organic farming, livestock and poultry rearing, vegetable and grass cultivation and other types of agricultural practices.

### The Sri Lanka Working Group Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Sri Lanka Working Group (SLWG) of CSL will be held from September 24th - 26th, 2008 under the theme of "Journeying together for a just society". Prior to the commencement of the meeting; from the 20th - 23rd, the participants will be taken on exposure visits to Batticaloa, Trincomalee; Chilaw, Mannar, Kurunegala and Kandy Dioceses.

The SLWG is composed of a number of Caritas Federation members who come together to support various initiatives taken by CSL. The meeting

A model farm, which is the only one of its kind yet to be set up in the CSL Network lends a helping hand to these groups displaying some of the model varieties of livestock and agricultural produce in the farm. The 'model farm centre' also provides training on new techniques and best practices.

Fr. Ajith Rohan, The Diocesan Director of Kurunegala, believes that, "sustainability in all activities is the way forward for the future." The Diocesan Centre maintains a permanent stall at the office premises to display and sell agricultural and poultry products, traditional rice varieties and other local handicrafts and products, produced by the Animation groups.

'Janasetha' is also engaged in a variety of activities to respond, reduce and mitigate the risk of disasters by embarking on a rain water harvesting project as Kurunegala District is known to be a drought prone area. The newest attempt in this regard is the renovation of small tanks in the district. Caritas Kurunegala - Janasetha activities are supported by CSL-SEDEC and other implementing partners.

will discuss both the Tsunami and other development programmes implemented by CSL. The main targets of the SLWG are therefore to: provide the partners with the opportunity to visit the field and survey how CSL is responding to the country's situation; to share knowledge on strategies linked to the Tsunami and Development programmes in order to overcome challenges and find solutions; and, finally to use the guidance and advise of the partners for the proposed 8 year strategic direction of Caritas Sri Lanka.

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