

FLOOD REPORT 2015

Dear friends and benefactors,

Prayerful greetings from Fr. John Suresh and Nandhini Krishnan.

Hope you all are fine and believe your routine works are going well.

Here, the situations are quite opposite and we have never experienced such a situation in our lives so far. We don't know how to explain the condition because our tragedy was not one day rather it is of one month cry which has not yet stopped and we do not know, for how many days it will continue? With great pain we bring to your kind knowledge a brief report of our people who have undergone a great tragedy or so to say just like a war with flood.

STARTING OF RAIN:

The rain started slowly in the month of October, to say exactly on 27th of October, the rain slowly started and continued, and before diwali the rain became heavy as a result 4th and 5th of November the government declared holiday. Again on 6th the schools and colleges were reopened and again from 7th onwards the schools and colleges were closed till 18th of November due to heavy cyclonic rain.

HEAVY RAIN FALL AND THE DAMAGE:

Again the schools and colleges were reopened on 19th and continued for two days. After two days of gap again the rain started its play in the lives of people without any mercy till 7th of Dec 2015. This rain (second spell) affected Chennai severely, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Chengalpattu and Chidambaram. The other parts of Tamil Nadu are also affected, but these places were the most affected areas. Whole part of Chennai, The outer city of Chennai like Tambaram, Pallikaranai, Velacherry, Mudichur and Kancheepuram district especially Chengalpattu (in Chengalpattu JCK Nagar, Mahalaksmi Nagar were drowned in water) the eastern part villages of Madurantagam and Thiruvallur District.

About Chennai:

Most of Chennai looks like an island (nearly 60 million people are living in the city and every day 40 million people are visiting for various purposes especially for job, education, business, transit during the travel to various southern parts from North and for tourism). When the rain comes the water has to go to sea through three canals namely River Adyar, Backingam canal and River Coovam. But due to heavy rain continuously the important lakes of Chennai namely Sembrampakkam (Chennai out skirt near Poonamallee), Poondi, Porur(Chennai) and Puzhal were filled with full of water. These lakes are connected to those above said rivers and canal. These rivers and canals are connected to the sea. Whenever the lakes are filled the water is released to these rivers. But this time releasing water level is more than 10 times higher than the usual release 40000 (cubic meter) from Sembrampakkam lake and from Puzhal lake 29000 (cubic meter). On the other hand the sea

was also rough with roaring waves because of the cyclone. As a result of this, the water could not get into the sea with its full speed and therefore it started entering throughout the city along with the heavy down pouring. So Chennai city was fully flooded and also rain level is more than 50 cm which was highest ever in the history after 107 years.

The Effects of the Flood

In this situation all the roads were blocked, some of the bridges were broken down, all the road transportation was closed all the trains, metro trains was cancelled, no electricity and communication failed from all the mobile network companies. People were house arrested for some days due to continuous rain. But when the water level was raised in the houses, all the people had to evacuate and take shelter in schools, colleges, theatres and public and private halls, and also wherever it was possible. Since many parts of Tamil Nadu became an island we could see no shops. People started to starve for food and as the day passed people started to beg for food. Some even dies with starvation of food (especially children). In all the places people were longing for help. People lost most of their house hold things and poor people lost their huts in the flood.

In Chennai one of the famous hospitals namely Miot alone 18 patients were died lack of oxygen due to electricity failure and non availability of petrol and diesel. Also the water was fully occupied in many hospitals. In and around Chennai nearly 347 (its government but actual data is not available many people are missing) people are said to be died because of the flood. As water is surrounded in many hospitals the patients were shifted from those hospitals through boats and made them to stay in the government general hospitals in Chennai. Since there are too many patients, the number of doctors was insufficient to treat them all. We do not know what will happen for those patients.

It is very painful to see people irrespective of poor and rich are running here and there looking for shelter, food and basic necessity through which they can survive. It is also heart breaking to hear that in some parts of Chennai people die of hunger and lack of shelter. Since everywhere flood and all the roads including important highways to Chennai like National high ways NH 45, Bangaluru High Road, East Coast Road and Old Mahabalipuram Road were severely damaged and those roads were blocked. Therefore no people could go outside and no people can come inside the city. Even the airport both international and the domestic terminals were closed for about a weak and all the flights got cancelled. People could not able to get help from outside even if someone wants to help. Now all the roads are opened except East coast road where Palavakkam Parish is located.

RELIEF WORK:

Apart from this many good hearted people irrespective of caste, creed and religion are helping the affected people in whatever way they can help the people. Even many people made their homes as relief centre and helping the people of their neighbourhood.

We too have started with rescue on Wednesday 2nd December and shifted to relief works across the Buckingham canal places like Palavakkam, Kottivakkam, Thiruvanmiyur,

Semmancherry, Pudupakkam, Paramenkenni. At present we are doing food relief and Providing basic necessities in these areas.

Here in Palavakkam too, the people were affected especially the slum area where our German friends visited during their visit here. Their houses were completely washed out by the flood. The huts in which poor people stayed were thrown out by the flood. So Fr. John Suresh brought all the people to the shrine where he is in charge of now and gave them shelter in the down church, provided food and basic things. They had been staying here for more than a week and Fr. John Suresh and I go here and there, get some help from the known people and feed them. I am also not able to go home as my presence is inevitable with our father in the relief work. On the other hand i could not even enter into my area Adyar and Kotoor were the flood was worse than any other places in Chennai. We were really shocked to see an incident in one of our relief centres.

The place is called Semmencherry, after giving bread pockets to the people by Fr. John Suresh, the plastics covers were thrown in the dust bin. When we were about to go we saw a young boy, collecting bread particles in the dust bin that are left in the covers. The incident melted our hearts and we were not able to stop the tears flowing from our eyes. We are not relieved from this tragedy yet, due to Global warming (El Nino) we may get few more cyclones. So we are still in danger not knowing what is going to be our future. The price of the things has gone to rocket speed and many people find difficult to get at least one time meal.

Our flood Activities

As the people were surrounded by flood, we started our rescue and relief work on 2nd of December. Nagaraj, Simon, myself and a few youths of Palavakkam parish went along with Fr. John Suresh to rescue the people in the flood. We rescued the people who were in danger especially the people who were residing near the Buckingham canal. We brought 200 people and made them to stay in the down part of the church. We provided lunch for all the 200 people. When people came to know that Fr. John Suresh is doing relief work in his parish the number increased to 500 on the same night itself. So from night onwards we cooked food for five hundred people.

The next day (Thursday) also we cooked food for five hundred people and provided them. Mean while when we heard that our help needs to some other places also, we cooked food extra and provided out of our areas. We provided bedsheets and mattress for all the people to sleep in the night. The next day (Friday) too continued our relief work in the same way by providing them food and basic things. We cooked food for five hundred people and there was a request to our Fr. John Suresh from the people of Semmencherry to extend his helping hand to them also for they were straving without food for three days and no relief has reached to them. We prepared food for those people also and provided them. The following day (Saturday) also the same relief continued through our centre.

From Sunday onwards the number somewhat reduced to three hundred in the centre as the people returned to their shelters. Our relief work continued for those three hundred people for the following days too till 10th of December Thursday in the same way.

Food Packet Distribution Table :

Date	Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total
02-12-2015	Wednesday		200	500	700
03-12-2015	Thursday	500	1000	1000	2500
04-12-2015	Friday	1000	1000	1000	3000
05-12-2015	Saturday	1000	1000	1000	3000
06-12-2015	Sunday	1000	1000	1000	3000
07-12-2015	Monday	1000	1000	1000	3000
08-12-2015	Tuesday	300	300	300	900
09-12-2015	Wednesday	300	300	300	900
10-12-2015	Thursday	150	150		300
Total					17300

FLOOD RELIEF PACKAGE:

Fr. John Suresh decided to give relief packages for the people in and around of his parish and also to the outer place where people are really affected. The flood relief package contains :

S. No	Particulars		Nos	INR	Total
1	Rice	1 Kg x Rs.34	5	34.00 INR	170.00 INR
2	Toor Dal (lentils)		1	182.00 INR	182.00 INR
3	Cooking Oil		1	95.00 INR	95.00 INR
4	Bread		1	20.00 INR	20.00 INR
5	Vermicil		1	50.00 INR	50.00 INR
6	Mattress		1	150.00 INR	150.00 INR
7	Bed sheet		1	170.00 INR	170.00 INR
8	Saree		1	250.00 INR	250.00 INR
9	Dhothi		1	180.00 INR	180.00 INR
10	Biscuits		2	15.00 INR	30.00 INR
11	Plate		2	50.00 INR	100.00 INR
12	Tumbler		1	20.00 INR	20.00 INR
13	Bag (big shopper)		1	30.00 INR	30.00 INR
14	Sugar		1	45.00 INR	45.00 INR
15	Salt		1	18.00 INR	18.00 INR
16	Towel		1	40.00 INR	40.00 INR
Total					1,550.00 INR

On Wednesday we distributed 700 packages to Semmancherry and Pudupakkam Tribal Street 84 Bags. In this place 6 huts are totally collapsed.

Also on Sunday 13th December, to Palavakkam, Kottivakam Canal side place 94 packages were distributed to the people with same things in packages. We are aiming to give the same packages to Paramankeni village as it is also affected by flood very severely but no others have reached them still. We did in several other places but we linked the other NGOs and good hearted people to those places where ever it is possible.

Sl. No	Place	Nos.
1	Palavakkam	110
2	Semmencherry	700
3	Pudupakkam	84
4	Paramenkenni	74
Total		968

HELP TO BISHOP HOUSE:

Fr. John Suresh has also sent some relief materials bread, biscuits, water bottle, bed sheets Sarees, Dhothi to Bishop's house so that they can also help some affected parishes. 20 Number of Tarbolins to cover huts to Palnellore parish. In this way our flood relief work went and we sincerely thank all the donors for helping us to do this timely noble service.

MEDICAL CAMP:

On 10th November, Thursday we arranged for a medical camp as the epidemics was spreading here and there due to flood. The medical camp was open to all the people. Many people attended the medical camp and benefitted. Medicines were provided freely for the people. The doctors also instructed the people how to keep them safe and the precautions that has to be taken when they are affected by some sickness and what are the first aids to be taken at this moment.

CONCLUSION:

We can go on say our tragedy for hours and hours but time will not permit right now. As I said earlier at present we are worried about giving food and temporary shelter because that is the basic need. After a detailed survey and need base analysis we thought of starting rehabilitation according to our limitation. Greet our sweet regards to everyone there and kindly pray for us.