



# CAMILLIAN TASK FORCE

## *News From Uttarakhand*



### **FEAR NOT FOR I AM WITH YOU THE SUCCESSESFUL GHAT MISSION**

My team, Teji Thomas MI, Sisters Jincy Mathew CSJB, Maria FHIC, Shanti Jacob, Mr. Andrin Thaliyakuzhi and me, were entrusted with the Ghat mission. As we started our first journey to Ghat through mountains, valleys, crossing many landslides, we were able to witness and personally experience the fury of the natural calamities that were still happening. It was frightening to see the broken roads, the huge cracks on the mountains and continuous landslides. We wondered what our mission is going to be!



### **JOURNEY--- the toughest part of our mission**

During these days of our relief work we had to struggle a lot to reach the villages. We had to walk and climb 20 to 30 kilometers back and forth and that too through valleys, hills and where roads and bridges are completely damaged. We really had to struggle to find a place to lay our feet, and had to walk through carefully holding each other's

hands. At most places, we had to jump over or walk on four legs or seek the help of a stick to reach to the other side. We had many fall-and-rise experiences. We quenched our thirst with water from the springs of the valley and our daily "Manna" on hills was the "Aadu" (peaches), a local mountain fruit.

### **Fear not for I am with you**

"Fear not for I am with you". These words gave us courage to serve the people of those mountains. There were times we escaped from dangers. We believe that angels in heaven are there to protect us. "For He will give his Angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways" (Ps.91:11).







## **There is someone to care for us**

With all these struggles we could visit 28 villages and gave medical care to more than 2000 people. Most of them were with scabies, back pain, chest pain, Stomach pain, fever, ear and eye problem etc.

We also found in some villages people with deeply infected wounds. It took a lot of time for dressing. The people were happy that someone is there to care for them. The CTF team was blessed



to make a visit and meet the health needs of this suffering humanity. Fr. Johnson our local coordinator, Sr. Delphy and Sr. Noothana SD have taken a lot of interest and effort to accompany us to these villages. As it is very difficult for the people to go for treatment to other hospitals, our service was a great help to them.



As we return back after one month of experience on these mountains, we thank the Almighty for His constant presence we experienced throughout our journey from village to village, mountain to valley, fall to rise, weakness to strength, death to life, from sadness to happiness, darkness to light, and fear to courage.

.....FR. TEJI MI



## THANKS TO...

Fr. Teji & Fr. Jofree MI  
Sr. Jincy & Sr. Merline CSJB,  
Sr. Shanti & Sr. Jeena OP  
Sr. Arpitha & Sr. Dona CMC  
Mr. Andrin



CTF sincerely thanks these members some of them were here for two weeks and some for a month. They rendered wonderful service to the people of Uttarakhand. We appreciate your willingness to take risk to climb the mountains and to cross valleys and the motivation to serve the people. Thank you for being part of CTF.



## GUPTAKASHI ( HIDDEN KASHI ) The hidden kashi has lot of its people hidden at Kedarnath

Guptakashi is located in the Northern Himalayan belt within the Mandakini river valley. This is one of the closest towns to Kedarnath, the worst affected area. We, the CTF team took a lot of risk and a roundabout way to reach to the place. We visited some villages to conduct medical camps. More than the medical needs, I was shocked by the damage that the calamity has done to these villages.

These villages depend mainly on business at Kedarnath; some work as temple priests, some run shops, some have ghodas (mules) to carry people, others carry people. These people make a living out of the visiting Kedarnath pilgrims. But this time, when the calamity descended, most of the people who went to Kedarnath to make a living never returned.

*...we met a lady who is still waiting for her husband and two sons*

*....a man was struck in the mudslide for two days, survived but still is in utter shock*

*....an old man who lost both of his sons*

*.....we came across a village where the calamity has turned 40 women into widows.*

The list goes on and on and as you hear your heart becomes too heavy and your eyes struggle hard to hold tears. You look around and you see lot of posters of missing people. A lost feeling everywhere .... "Hidden kasha" has lot of its people hidden at Kedarnath who would perhaps never be revealed. Sadly there is no end to these waiting eyes...





**HEARTY WELCOME TO THE NEW CTF MEMBERS..**

**SR. ANCILLA CMC**

**SR. LITTLE THERESE CMC**

**SR. MARY JULIET CMC**

**JESUS the light reaches these homes through Solar Lanterns.**

While visiting villages one of the emergency need that we found was light. The electricity system in many villages has been destroyed very badly in some villages and in other villages there is no electricity at all. So CTF decided to give solar lanterns in some needy villages. The solar lantern is a multipurpose lantern that gives light as well as charges the mobile phones. The smile on the faces of those who received was something to cherish. We pasted the emblem of CTF on the lanterns, and thus the Red Cross is carried to the 400 homes. May be for the first time a cross is entering these homes, of course bringing light and smiles on their faces.





## CTF REACHES AUGUSTYAMUNI— one of the worst effected place

**Agastyamuni** is famous for the temple of **Maharshi priya ranjan** and by the name of religious guru **Agastya**, it is called agastyamuni. It is situated on the river bank of **Mandakini**. Interestingly, we the CTF together with Fr. Babu reached Augustyamuni the next day after the feast of St. Augustine. It was a coincidence that happened with the term and the time.

If you want to understand the force and strength of water, this is a place to be. The destruction it has caused to the land and people living on the banks of the river is huge and it has made a lot of people flee from this place. Now people are scared to build homes on the river bank.

It was difficult for us to find a place to stay as the people who were living on the bank have occupied the other side and the hotels filled with NGOS. It was difficult to get out with the uniform of CTF as people would come around you showing you the details that they have lost house, lost field, etc. and ask for help. Sometimes it is hard to believe, as people say, that there used to be a college in that place, as you don't even see anything to suggest there was a college. Such is the destruction the river has done.



**“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.”**

**– St. Augustine**

Yes friends it has been more than a month for me, Sr. Edline and Sr. Maria. I have been traveling from place to place...I still remember the last journey when I took the Solar lamps in a truck travelling all through the night. The driver did not know the way. But even at midnight, when we did not know to go right or left in the middle of forest, someone appeared to guide us. Yes, the presence of God is very much felt. This travel has taught us many things in life. Though we travel more and more facing risks and dangers, I have a feeling of joy and contentment. Undoubtedly, these are some of the most meaningful days of my life, as a human being, as a religious. I suppose this must be the feelings of others too.

Looking ahead to travel more and to read more pages.

.....Madhu Brother MI



