

The Link of Baduraliya

Special bulletin 1

March 2017

SITE INTERNET : <http://amc0.webnode.fr>

TRIP TO SRI LANKA

From march 2nd to

march 5th 2017

MEETING WITH THE CARDINAL, ARCHBISHOP OF COLOMBO

The group travelling to Sri Lanka consists of 5 persons: Anne-Marie et Gérard LUSSEAU, secretary and treasurer of the Martial Caillaud Association, Odile DEMURGER, sponsor and interpreter for our various meetings, Therese and Michel DAVID, sponsors of the orphanage.

On March 2nd we met the Cardinal, Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith. Present at the meeting: Wilhelm and Amila from Authenticities, Father Lester, director of the orphanage of Baduraliya and of two other orphanages, and the 5 members of the Martial Caillaud Association.

The Cardinal speaks French. The first question is about the will of the church to maintain the orphanage.

The cardinal precises that the big structures welcoming orphans are difficult to rule, and that the smallest ones like Baduraliya are easier to follow. Some problems of sexual abuse occurred between the teenagers. They had to close about 30 centres. The Archbishop just wants us to go on with helping as we have done for 15 years.

He clearly understood our problem: the 12000 Euros that we give every year should be entirely covered by the sponsoring without the help of the Hérige group.

He finds the charter we have written very relevant. He will translate it himself for Father Lester.

A photo of those present at the meeting.



A MOMENT OF MEDITATION BESIDE MISS RITA'S GRAVE.

As Pascal wished us to do we went and meditated beside Miss Rita's grave. Miss Rita, Founder of Marcsri Home, worked for our orphanage in Baduraliya during its construction and for its operation for a few years. Her grave is in the cemetery of the village where she lived, near St Antoine's Church. It is very well looked after so it must be visited regularly.



VISIT OF THE ORPHANAGE OF BADURALIYA.

Extremely warm welcome: band, dances, songs.....



After a few words from Father Lester to whom Gérard answered as the representative of the Martial Caillaud association...

...the girls organized some funny games in which we took part with great pleasure. These games allowed the girls to become well at ease with us, they laughed with us as if we were family.

On the right the « lime and spoon » game.



Other game: « finding the coin » Imagine the result!



And after the games, lunch in the dining-room.



In the afternoon visit of the buildings.

The sanitary installations that we paid for in 2013 are very clean, they look new.

Some cupboards have been bought recently with the help of the Montaigu Lions Club. Each girl has her own cupboard. Each girl has a key, another one is kept by Duthika, the matron.

The study room is neat. The desks which have replaced the old table still have the protecting plastic papers to protect them from the rust caused by the great humidity in Sri Lanka. The



cupboards in the study room are not locked any more as they were when Marie Lourdes was there. Some of the girls show their English copybook to Odile who, while looking at their work, speaks English with the oldest ones. They also have a 3 hours a week English lesson at the orphanage. Their practice of English will help them to get a job when they leave the orphanage at the age of 18 or 20.

The girls seem more free than with the previous matrons, but at the same time they are more responsible. We find all of them very beaming, very smiling.

They are all very happy to see us. They take our hands, don't leave us. We can feel their need for love.

In the afternoon we attend the mass in the chapel of the orphanage, mass celebrated by Father Lester.



The gospel is read in Sinhalese and in French. Some people from the village have also come. The chapel is being enlarged; it will become the village church as the work is financed by the village priest. All the girls

attend the mass with great fervor: songs, lectures.... They are a credit to the orphanage!

After mass, they show us the mangosteen in the garden; some of them climb up the tree to pick some fruit for us, fruit that we eat with pleasure. Excellent!



We give them the small presents we have brought on behalf of all the sponsors of the orphanage: make up kits... we also give them all the sanitary products that the customers from the VM

trip to India have left for them.

The lollipops are a great success for the youngest as well as the oldest girls, even for the grown-ups, included Father Lester.



And, of course we didn't forget the photo of the group.

We leave the orphanage at 6 p.m. after a very moving day!

And tomorrow, a trip to the seaside...

