

# CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - DIOCESE OF MADRAS

226, Cathedral Road, Post Box. No. 4914, Chennai - 600 086, South India.

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devasahayam**  
Bishop in Madras



Off. : 91-44-2811 3929  
Phone : 2811 3933  
2811 7629  
Res. : 91-44-2811 5804  
Fax : 2811 0608  
E-mail : bishopdeva@hotmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

## *Bishop's Appeal*

*(To be read in all Churches on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2013)*

*Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,*

*May the grace and peace of our God and of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

*In the month of November, children are the focus of our concern reflection and celebration. In spite of the economic growth recorded in our country still millions of children go hungry and are victims of mal nutrition. Many are orphaned due to HIV Aids. A large number of children have not been immunized against any disease; still a large number have no access to toilet facilities or safe water. Several millions do not have access to school and end up as street children who are abused in several ways.*

*The Diocese of Madras through the Department of Christian Education is committed to help all our children to grow in the love and knowledge of Christ, with a view to accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and growing in direct relationship with Him all through their life. The Board of Hostels has been responding to the needs of children in rural areas where there are no high or higher secondary school classes to continue their education beyond 5<sup>th</sup> Std. Poverty of the parent's forces children to become child labourers and prevent them from acquiring education. More importantly they are deprived of the life of faith and prayer which are the bedrock of our mission to children. Through the 23 hostels, 10 Day care Centres and 44 Pre-Schools the Diocese is able to help 3102 children to have education, health, spirituality and wholesome growth. Almost all the children in Higher Secondary Schools are provided English medium education to ensure employability and hope for the family. We are thankful to God that the students in three fourths of hostels have secured centum results in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std. public examinations. In a quarter of the hostels, children however scored above 85%-90%. We sincerely appreciate the work of the Board of Hostels, the Directors, the Managers, Wardens, Cooks and helpers who take serious efforts to show Christ's concern and love to the children.*

*For long the work of the hostels has been supported by several overseas children's organizations. Due to several reasons including economic depression the help is not forthcoming from outside and as come to a grinding halt. Apart from the children we also provide scholarship to students undergoing higher education at Ewart College and professional education at Bishop Newbiggin College of Education, Kalyani College of Nursing, Schools of Nursing at Rainy, Kalyani & Ikkadu, Gramodhaya Teachers Training Institute and Rural Community College. We offer only a very meagre sum for those undergoing higher education.*

*It has been our experience that every crisis is an opportunity for the diocesan family to respond. The concern to raise support for children's education with the diocese has been taken up with the Diocesan Finance Committee and Diocesan Executive Committee.*

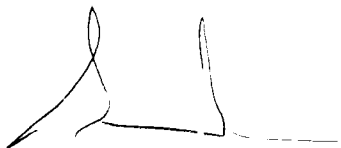
*Con... 2*

The following decisions were made:-

1. To create a **Hostel Endowment Fund** to the tune of Rs.5 crores by appealing to all the members in all the Churches of the Diocese to contribute one day income. (Some of you may be aware that all the Diocesan workers such as Presbyters, employees of Diocesan Institutions, Missionaries, Bible Women and others have already contributed one day income towards this endowment.)
2. To appeal to individuals and families to sponsor a child by paying Rs.500 - per month towards the support of a child from January 2014 or to make a lump sum contribution to the endowment.
3. To appeal to create Prize Endowment in the name of their loved ones to encourage meritorious children in Hostels.
4. To appeal to Churches to include the Hostel Diocesan Programme in the monthly subscription cover from January 2014

Jesus valued children as of inestimable worth. He passionately loved them and was angry at those who did not help children to receiving His full blessings. Jesus said, that in loving and welcoming children we love and welcome Jesus Himself. Jesus promises to slip in with them in them and through them. I am appealing to all of you who have been very generous and understanding all these years to make generous and enthusiastic contribution for the sake of our deprived children by offering your One Day Income to this worthy cause on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. May the good Lord continue to bless us to be channels of blessing.

Yours sincerely,



**V.DEVASAHAYAM**  
**Bishop in Madras**

PS: Presbyters are requested to kindly take copies of this circular for each of the congregations in your Pastorate and also see that they are read in Church Services on the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> of November. I have also enclosed a model of the envelope which you can kindly arrange to print and distribute to all the members of the congregations on or before 10<sup>th</sup> November.

To All the Presbyters and Heads of Institutions:  
The PC Secretaries and Treasures of Pastorates