

VIJAYAWADA DIOCESE TIDAL WAVE AND CYCLONE RELIEF OPERATIONSPROGRESS REPORT No. 2 UPTO DECEMBER 31, 1977.A. INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

As stated in our progress report No. 1, the cyclone and tidal waves of 19th November, 1977 ravaged coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. The cyclone caused damage to property, while tidal wave razed to the ground homes, killed people and animals and carried away or destroyed whatever people owned. The number of people rendered homeless and continue to need relief, medical attention and resettlement runs into lakhs. The cyclone swept the whole diocese of Vijayawada and we have turned the existing 36 Parishes into relief centres. The super human task of providing clothing and shelter, food and water, medicine and sanitation, and every possible assistance to these suffering people continues. For administrative purposes and efficiency the diocesan relief committee has established three main centres at Avanigadda, Nagayalanka and Machilipatnam, 90 kms, 100 kms and 68 kms respectively from the Central Office at Vijayawada.

B. THE ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP:

The Central Office at Vijayawada is established to organize and coordinate the entire work under the central committee with Rt.Rev.J. Thumma, Bishop of Vijayawada as its Chairman. At present a team of 22 are busy with the work under the guidance of Fr. John Vattamattam SVD. This includes an office manager, coordinator, buyers, accounts assistant, typists, artists etc. Thus we have a well established office to carry on the work.

C. RELIEF CENTRES:

- 1) Avanigadda: Soon after the Tidal Waves receded 5,000 people who were deprived of everything came to Avanigadda Parish. Fr. K. Mathew, Parish Priest of Avanigadda took up the challenge and went into action. These people were clothed and fed and taken care of for a week. By this time work was started in the villages at Avanigadda, Lingareddipalem, Peddagudimottu, Chinnagudimotu, Nakkalavaridhari and Jayapuram.

At present 47 volunteers and 20 paid workers are involved in the relief and rehabilitation operations. Under Avanigadda Centre there are two sub-centres at Lingareddipalem and Peddagudimottu and Fr. Neuhasur is incharge of the former and Brother Sebastian is incharge of the latter. Ninety-nine labourers joined the volunteers at Lingareddipalem and 31 at Peddagudimottu and six at Nakkalavaridhari.

- 1) Nagayalanka: Nagayalanka centre was started on 5th December. From then onwards Frs. Cuthinha S.J. and Amalraj S.J. are a source of inspiration to everybody in the Centre. From Nagayalanka work is done in Mandapakala, Chintala Dibba, Bellamkondadibba, Addenkivaripalem, Narasayagaripetta, Harijanawada, Chintacoola, Pathareddipalem, Georgepetta, Thotamoola, Gaudapalem, Potumeeda, Kammanamolu villages. Eighty volunteers and ten paid workers are engaged in relief and rehabilitation work. Chintakola under Fr. Arulraja and Potumeeda under Fr. Amalnathan are shaping into sub-centres. Besides volunteers, some 5,350 man days were utilised at the centre.
- 3) Bandar: At Bandar soon after the tidal wave receded a thousand people came to the centre and Fr. K.J. Antony, Parish Priest of Bandar in collaboration with the sisters fed, clothed and gave medical care to them. It went on for a month and even now certain number of these people are in the Church compound. On 15th December Sister Maria Goretti from Nagayalanka was called to take charge of the office. There are some 16 villages and their hamlets affected by tidal waves. But work is taken up only in Karaagraharam, Yedara and Ranga Rao Pet. There are 15 volunteers working in this area. Of these 5 volunteers are working at Bantumilli where Fr. Thomas has started a sub-centre.

D. MEDICAL RELIEF:

At the very beginning itself Bishop Mathew of Nalgonda and a team of doctors and sisters came to the affected area. They together with the staff of Avanigadda St. Ann's Hospital gave preventive inoculations to 24,000 people. This was a timely measure to prevent epidemic. At Avanigadda 13,542 people are treated up-to-date. Two doctors and seven nurses are taking care of this work. At Nagayalanka 8,801 people are treated up-to-date. This work is carried on by 4 doctors 3 nurses and two helpers. On an average, 700 people are treated at different centres daily. Thirty-five per cent of the patients are treated for respiratory tract infections. There are many diarrhoea cases also. The services rendered by St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and St. Ann's Hospital, Avanigadda are praise-worthy.

E. RELIEF DISTRIBUTION:

FOOD STUFF DISTRIBUTED AT DIFFERENT CENTRES:

<u>Commodities</u>	<u>Avanigadda</u>	<u>Nagayalanka</u>	<u>Bandar</u>
1. Rice	70,104 kgs	6,400 kgs	6,260 kgs
2. Bulgar	15,257 "	5,060 "	21,741 "

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<u>Commodities</u>	<u>Avanigadda</u>	<u>Nagayalanka</u>	<u>Bandar</u>
3. Milk	60 kgs	45 kgs	920 kgs
4. Vegetables	9,000 "	1,085 "	117 "
5. Dhal	5,000 "	-	-
6. Oil	940 "	-	-

CLOTH DISTRIBUTION:

<u>Commodities</u>	<u>Avanigadda</u>	<u>Nagayalanka</u>	<u>Bandar</u>
1. Sarees	9,000	-	300
2. Blouses	3,000	-	-
3. Dhoties	12,000	-	650
4. Pants	2,000	-	-
5. Shirts	6,000	-	300
6. Childrens wear	10,000	-	150
7. Blankets	10,000	750	2,300
8. Towels	1,000	-	-

F. TEMPORARY SHELTER:

- 1) Avanigadda: One of the difficult task was the clearing of debris, corpses and carcasses deposited by the tidal waves in the villages. Even now while digging out debris, we come across many corpses and carcasses. This is a major work taken up by us. And the volunteers put up five community shelters for the people. Our team cleared 636 house sites at Avanigadda and also made 23 temporary shelters. We collaborated with CARE to put up 102 shelters.
- 2) Nagayalanka: At Nagayalanka our volunteers helped to put up 325 shelters with the materials they collected from the ruins. At Mandapakala they cleared 500 plots for CARE to build houses. At Georgepetta they cleared 47 sites, at Pathareddipalem 163 and at Chintakola 65. Besides, we provided materials for 50 shelters and put up five community shelters in different villages. Our volunteers cleaned 8 wells and installed 23 new hand pumps to provide people with clean water.

	<u>Avanigadda</u>	<u>Nagayalanka</u>	<u>Bandar</u>
No. of Volunteers	47	80	15
Paid workers	20	10	
Daily workers	122	5,350 mandays.	
Community Shelters made	-	5	
House sites cleared	636	775	
In collaboration with CARE	102	-	
Temporary shelters made	23	325	

	<u>Avanigadda</u>	<u>Nagayalanka</u>
Materials given for houses	-	50
Wells cleansed	-	8
Hand pumps installed	7	16

G. CYCLONE RELIEF:

We have distributed 4,450 sarees and as many dhoties, towels and blankets to 36 cyclone relief centres. Besides this we have supplied 95,000 kgs. of rice 4,690 bags of bulgar, 72 bags of milk, and 60 cases of oil.

H. AGENCIES THAT GIVE US FINANCIAL AID:

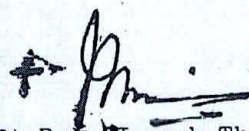
- 1) CARITAS INDIA.
- 2) C.R.S. - U.S.C.C.
- 3) MISEREOR - I.G.S.S.S.
- 4) CARITAS GERMANY - Through Caritas India.
- 5) MISSIO

I. OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT COME TO OUR AID:

- 1) Andhra Pradesh Social Service Society.
- 2) Coclila Sangam - Cuddapah
- 3) OXFAM
- 4) CARE

J. A VOTE OF THANKS:

We are grateful to all the Donor Agencies and other organisations that help us. We are also grateful to all institutions that send volunteers to help us with the work. Without this help we could not be able to do the work we are doing. We can confidently tell them that we are well organized to aid the poor victims of tidal waves and cyclone.



Rt. Rev. Joseph Thumma
Bishop of Vijayawada and
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December 31, 1977.