

Habitat Team—India

God's Multiplication

The tsunami waves had crashed over the roof of Susai and Maria's house on the 26th December eighteen months before our Australian **Habitat for Humanity** team arrived in their village of Mandaikadu-Puthur on the very southern tip of India in the Kanyakumari district.

With no prospect of help or opportunities available to them they continued to live in the most difficult situation until Habitat for Humanity India saw their plight and the plight of many others living there and offered to begin working on many of the houses needing complete deconstruction and rebuilding work.

On our last day as the team had finished their work and we were preparing to leave the village for the last time Maria expressed her overwhelming joy and thanks in the only way she could by kissing each one of us as she stood in front of her house which had been re-roofed and was in the final stages of completed restoration.

We had been there for two weeks with our 11 person team working on 7 of the 28 homes that had been identified as in need of this vital work.

In addition to the hard work of carrying large amounts of rubble, carting thousands of bricks, mixing tonnes of cement by hand, painting, tiling, rendering walls, fixing doors and windows, the team also had the wonderful privilege of providing and distributing 325 packs of exercise books, pencil, biro, eraser, ruler and Australian faith card for the children of the village, providing a meal of rice and chicken curry for over 1400 people, gifts of electric fans for the home owners of the seven houses, 2 cricket sets for the children, and a generator for the Habitat for Humanity office.

And God's multiplication has continued with the remaining funds from our visit providing a teacher in one village to support 60 children with extra tuition for at least one year. They will now have the on-going support as they attend the 'Aaron Mann Memorial Tuition School'.

We left Mandaikadu-Puthur with much more than we gave – experiences, friendships with these beautiful people, shared joys with team members and the awesome experience of seeing Jesus working in and through us all.

If you would like to be a part of a Habitat for Humanity team in the future or if you would like to support the next team, you're invited to talk to us about how you can join in this exciting opportunity. We know that you will not be disappointed. But this invitation comes with a warning.... **You won't be the same again!**

Jeff & Glenice Hartwich