



Young Voices

(of the Students, for the Students, by the Students)

NEWS LETTER OF BOYS TOWN SOCIETY

(for Private Circulation)

Sentence - 6

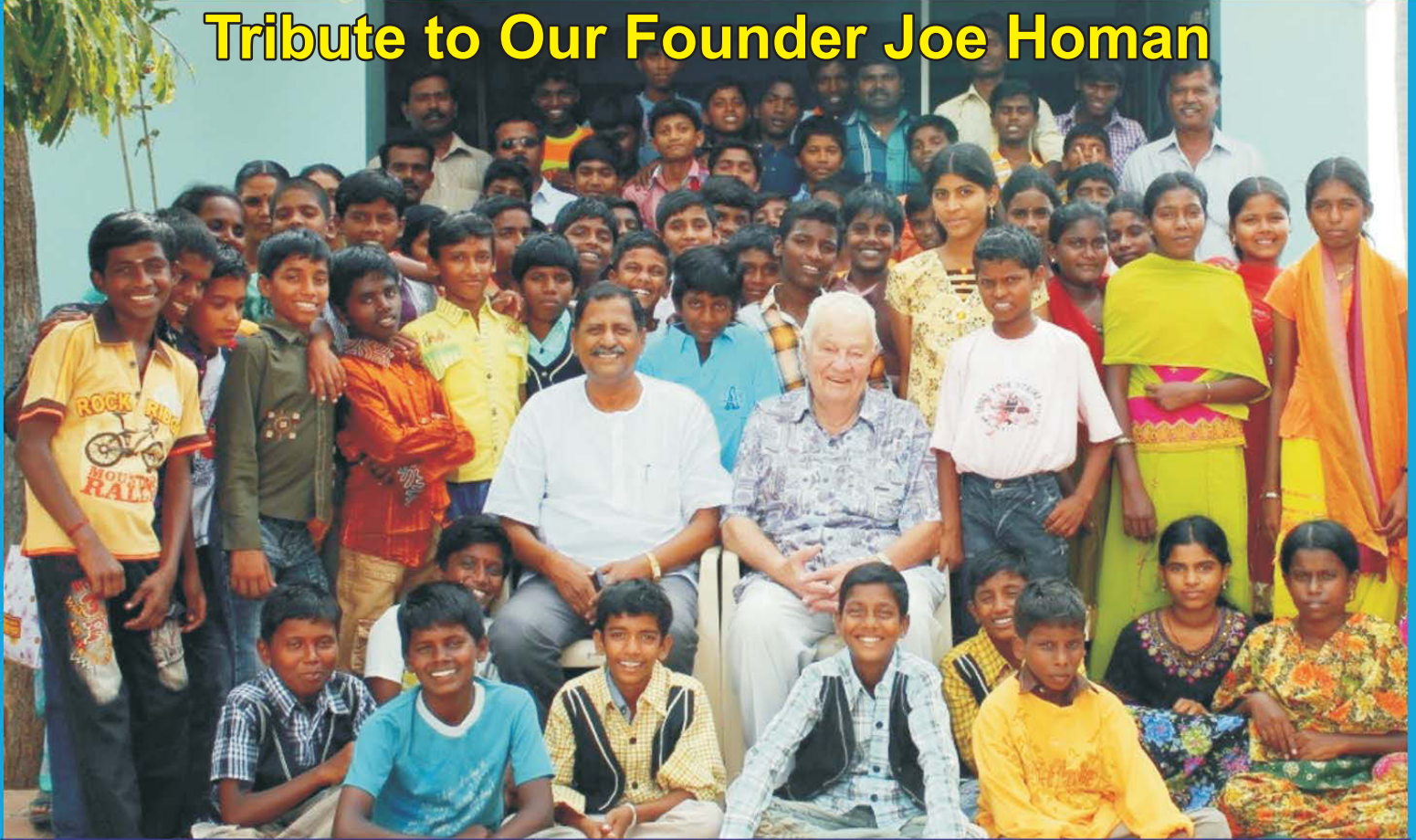
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Tribute to Our Founder Joe Homan



*"There is no greater role
Given to a Human Being
On this planet
Than bringing up and educating children
To help develop a child
To be as complete a personality
As possible is bothe awesome
and wonderful
But to accept that role and
then perform it badly
or with indifference is among
the greatest of crimes
against the child and the man."*



Views expressed in Young Voices are the views of contributors and not necessarily the views of BTS

Brother JOE as I know

Joe is one among the few people whom I admired and have my reverence in my life. I know Joe since my childhood, I was born and brought up in Tirumangalam during the early days of BOYS TOWN our boys used to study in the P.K.N High School (Private School) at Tirumangalam where my father was the Head Master. My father was a very famous educationalist and headmaster in Tirumangalam area not only in Tirumangalam area but also in South Tamilnadu. He had lot of respect to Joe's hard work, Joe use to come and meet my father to discuss about the boys education in the early 70's. I have seen Joe quite often in my school days – as a English man passing via our home in a Bullet motor cycle. There was a talk that Joe and his brother loaded one full tractor with fertiliser for Boys Town as the coolies demanded more money for loading. He had a principle from the beginning of not spending money unnecessarily. And he used to do his work with boys at Boys Town without much publicity. He was a hard worker as well as who does not like any publicity of his work.

After I became a Doctor, practising in Tirumangalam I was introduced to Joe by Mr. Antony who was then the Administrator of Boys Town. At first I went to Boys Town to do a medical check up for BTS boys at Tirumangalam. On that day I had a cup of Tea with Joe at the Guest House. I liked the work which Joe was doing for BTS and was attracted by it. Joe also liked me and invited me to join as a member of BTS in the year 1984. Then in 1985 I became MC member. Those were the good olden days still fresh in my memories and I worked in BTS since 1985 in different capacities as Gen. Secretary for a longer period as President and as Treasurer. Till today my relationship with Joe is not only as EC member of BTS but also as his personal Doctor. Since 1990 I had the privilage of taking care of his health till he breathed his last. He is a man of different calibres, a man with a lot of perseverance,

simplicity and hard working. He had both qualities as a good fund raiser as well as good Administrator which is quite rare to find in one person.

I used to admire Joe for this. I am so happy that I had the opportunity in my life to take care of Joe's health till his last. On that day he came to my clinic at about 7'o clock in the evening for a check up and he was with me at the clinic till 7.20 pm and when he left the last words he said was “ THANKS DOC FOR ALL” then at 8.45 pm he developed severe heart attack and he was no more. I still have the feeling that he came to my clinic to say GOOD BYE. We assure you Joe that we will continue carrying the lamp for the needy children whom you have lightened continue to burn.

If you light a lamp for someone else it will also brighten your path - Lord Buddha.

We assure you Brother that we'll continue your Nobel job of enlightening the life of the children who are in need.



Dr. A. NATARAJA RATHINAM
President, BTS



Joe Wrote.....I am surprised

I just read what Joe wrote about our relationship in his Miles O' Smiles and I felt it is appropriate to copy his words. I realized the strength of our relationship only after reading his book.

Joe wrote...

I first met Dr. Raja in 1982 at one of the courses offered by him on Non-Government Organization's management at Pannaikadu. I had a discussion with him on the issue of drop out in Boys Town. He readily agreed to undertake a research on the issue. His research findings and suggestions thereupon soon helped us to reduce the drop out. Shortly thereafter, I invited him to join BTS where he became the General Secretary after my retirement and has used his vast educational experiences to carry the Boys and Girls Town projects to a new level. He offered a sixty hour course on counselling, a first of its kind in BTS, to all the staff members. From the mid 1980s onwards, he introduced our students to serious Vocational Guidance. As per his suggestion, a full Vocational Guidance department was established, headed by a trained social worker from his college.

Some years ago, I was invited to Cheltenham to meet a small group of college lecturers with an interest in Dyslexia. I had to admit that I knew the word, but still had not learned what it meant or

implied. On my return to India, I met Narayana Raja... who told that it was part of the teacher's training course, but was purely academic for most teachers, with little practical applications. Dr. Raja developed a resource material on learning disabilities (and teachers were) encouraged to start a learning disability cell in various schools.

Our UK charity then helped Narayana Raja to produce his booklet, entitled "Success is yours". The booklet was found to be a source of inspirations to students who have learning problems and a fear of examinations. About 5,00,000 copies were distributed over period of five years.

Dr. Raja felt a need for individualized guidance to the students of Boys Town and developed.... a case sheet to be maintained for each student.... and guidance that was offered to help each student to achieve his ambitions.

Various pilot schemes (to eradicate child labour and help rural children) were taken up, all with some merits. However, the one that offers best value for effectiveness and money is our "Education for Life" scheme, which was developed by Dr.Narayana Raja. (pp. 259-264, Miles O' smiles).

I am surprised...

I enjoyed every minute of my stay with Joe as it gave me enrichment in my perception and understanding fellow human being. I am surprised to see the work that we have jointly done which I realized only when I read his book. I feel fulfilled with joy and realized the purpose of my stay. His memories further guide me to continue his mission. Thank you Joe for made me what I am to day.

With Prayers,

Dr. P. N. Narayana Raja
General Secretary



அன்று எனக்கு சுமார் 13 வயதிற்குக்கும். என் பெரியப்பா திரு. ரெங்கசாமி நைய்னா அவர்கள் வீட்டில் ஒரு அன்னிய மனிதரை பார்த்தபோது ஒரு பிரமிப்புடனும், வேடிகையாகவும் அவரைப் பார்த்தார்கள். இன்றும் அதே பிரமிப்பு தொடர்ந்து நிலவி வருகிறது. சுமார் 30 வயதில் அவர் எந்த சுறுசுறுப்புடன் இருந்தாரோ அதே வேகம் குறையாமல் இன்றும் ஏழை மாணவர்களுக்காக தன் முழு நேரத்தையும் செலவிட்டு வருவது மிகவும் ஆச்சரியமான விஷயமாகும்.

தெய்வத்தான் ஆகாது எனினும் முயற்சிதன் மெய்வருத்தக் கூலி தரும்.

என்ற வள்ளுவர் வாக்கிற்கு இணங்க தமிழ்நாட்டு ஏழைக் குழந்தைகள் வாழ்வை வலுவடையச் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்ற பரந்த எண்ணத்தில் நான்கு குழந்தைகளுடன் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட இந்த பாய்ஸ் டவுன் இதுவரை சுமார் 30,000 அனாதைக் குழந்தைகளை அரவணைத்து வந்துள்ளது என்ற ஒரு பெரிய உலகச் சாதனையை செய்துவிட்டார் என்றே அவரைப் பற்றிக் கூறவேண்டும். அவர்தான் நாமும் நம் குழந்தைகளும் அன்புடன் அழைத்துவரும் பிரதர் ஜோ ஹோமன் அவர்கள்.

பாய்ஸ் டவுன் நிறுவனத்தை ஏற்படுத்திய காலத்தில் படிப்பறிவு இல்லாத ஏழைக் குழந்தைகள் சமுதாய சீர்கேடுகளால் சீரழிந்து ஒரு உதவாக்கரையாகவோ, பிச்சைக்காரனாகவோ, தீவிரவாதிகளாகவோ மாறக்கூடாது எனக்கருதி அவர்களுக்கு உணவு, உடை, இருப்பிடம் மூன்றையும் கொடுத்து அவர்களை நல்வழிப்படுத்தி அவர்களுக்கு தொழில் துறைகளில் அறிவு புகட்டுவதில் அவர் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தினார். அன்று அவருக்கு ஆதரவாக திரு. ரெங்கசாமி நைய்னா அவர்களும், மதுரை மாவட்ட காவல்துறை கண்காணிப்பாளர் திரு. டயஸஸ் அவர்களும் ஏராளமான கருத்துக்களை எடுத்துரைத்து, அதன்பின் சிறிய சங்கங்கள் அனைத்தும் ஒரே சங்கமாக மாற்றி அமைத்து மிகச் சிறப்புடன் இன்னும் நல்ல முறையில் நடத்தி வருகிறார். சுதந்திரப் போராட்டத்தின் போது வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு என்றோம். ஆனால், அந்த வெள்ளையர்களின் வாரிசுகளில் ஒருவரான திரு. ஜோ ஹோமன் அவர்கள் இதுவரை குறிப்பாக தமிழ்நாட்டில் தென்பகுதியில் ஏராளமான ஏழைக் குழந்தைகளை அரவணைத்து அவர்களுக்கு கல்வி மட்டுமன்றி பல்வேறு துறைகளிலும் அறிவைப் பெருக்கி அவர்கள் வாழ்வை ஒளிரச் செய்தார். வருடத்தல் 7, 8 மாதங்கள் ஏழைக் குழந்தைகளிடம் தங்கி அவர்களின் முன்னேற்றத்திக்கு தன்னை முழுநேரமும் அர்ப்பணித்துள்ள அவர் மீது நான்கு மாதங்களில் வெளிநாடு சென்று தங்களாலான கருத்தரங்குகளில் கலந்து கொள்வதுடன் குழந்தைகளின் வளர்ச்சிப் பணிக்கான தொகையை நன்கொடையாக பெற்று வருகிறார். அவர் தாம் சேவையை என்றும் தொடர வேண்டும். இன்று அவர் நம்மைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்தாலும் என்றும் நம் இதயங்களில் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்.

சேவையில் தன்னை அர்ப்பணித்த அன்பர்கள் பலகோடி இருப்பினும் பிரதருக்கு நிகர் வேறு எவரும் இல்லை.

P.G. அழகர்சாமி
பொருளாளர்,
பாய்ஸ் டவுன் சொசைட்டி



DEAR Dr. RAJA AND FRIENDS IN BTS,

Thank you for letting us know that Joe had passed away. It was such a shock to hear that he was no more and that we would not see his cheerful face again.

Thank you, too, for sending news of the ceremonies and photos of him lying in state. Amazing to see how many people came to pay their last respects! You have organized everything well and sensitively. He has been a good friend for over 40 years since John first heard about Joe's work.

Joining the Coventry and Warwickshire support group, each year, we heard Joe talk at Coventry about the developments at tirumangalam and around. It has been a magical journey with him, culminating in 5 visits to south India with Sue, to meet Joe and enjoy visiting the projects. I am proud to be a board member of his main funding group.

Joe has inspired countless people to support his work and helped thousands of poor children out of poverty. He himself will be sadly missed, but his inspiring work will continue in safe hands.

WITH LOVE TO ALL OUR
FRIENDS IN BTS AND SOUTH INDIA

JOHN AND SUE BOWMAN

JOE HOMAN EULOGY



Address by Peter Church, Chairman, JHC at St Oswald's Parish Church.

First of all may I pass on the condolences of the Joe Homan Charity to all of Joe's family and thank Margaret Cianni especially for giving me this opportunity to say something about Joe's life.

I am aware that many here are better qualified than me to do this so I hope that those who knew Joe best will put down their memories on paper for all of us to share – particularly those stories Joe used to tell over a glass of something, he laughingly called wine, after dinner in the mellowness of an Indian evening on the roof of his house in Tirumangalam, or at Lakeside, or latterly up in the hills at Perumparai.

My connection with India started in 1965. The same year, but 1000 miles away, a young Joe Homan was making a new life for destitute boys who were living on the trains in the railway junction of Madurai in the deep south of India. The difference between us was that I was teaching in a posh school for the sons of Rajahs and Joe was working for some of the poorest children in the world.

Like so many hundreds of others who were volunteers, supporters or sponsors Joe brought us together because we were so inspired by the work he was doing for the poorest children in India - and later in Thailand.

It is fitting to be celebrating his life in Peterborough where for 50 years the Charity has been based and where the City Fathers honoured Joe with a civic Reception marking 30 years of his work in 1995.

Other honours had also come his way and in 1988 he had received an MA from the University of Warwick much to the delight of the Coventry and Warwickshire Support Group.

Most people who met Joe came away with an abiding impression of an extraordinary character.

He was a charming man, humble and a man of great integrity and wisdom.

He was also an immensely kind man but he had a stubborn streak which probably contributed in a small way to his overcoming some horrendous difficulties in his life which would have sunk lesser individuals. It was a quality which, has to be said, did not always lead to success and when Joe crossed powerful interests it led indirectly 25 years ago to the libel action Joe was forced to fight. Nothing better illustrates Joe's qualities than that episode. He persuaded one of the top QC's in the country to fight his case, won the action and rebuilt the charity. His, QC Patrick Milmo, became a friend and supporter travelling to India to see for himself some of Joe's immense achievements. Patrick is now a valued Patron of the Joe Homan Charity.

Joe devoted his life to bringing hope and education to the lives of some of the poorest children in South India.

As Chris Mullin says, in the obituary he wrote for the Guardian recently, he first met Joe at St Josephs College in Ipswich – a boarding school run by the De La Salle brothers – where Joe was his teacher.

'Joe was never a conventional Christian. His Christianity had to do more with increasing egg yields and improving crops and introducing new farming techniques in a hungry nation!'

In fact throughout his life Joe was always ahead of everyone else in his thinking. When farming skills were no longer the passport to a sustaining life for children and their families he switched to alleviating the scandal of child workers with the child labour prevention scheme, then when environmental havoc was threatened by the cutting down of trees for fuel he turned to mass tree planting, when it was obvious that women and girls being educated were the key to family survival he opened a girls town and encouraged craft training so that women would have an independent small income.

When the Indian economy took off he saw the need for good quality education for the rural poor and the need for poor children to speak some English - so the Education for Life schemes were developed and the latest project, the English Medium School, was started.

The Indian NGO he founded, Boys Town Society, was the vehicle for all of this work and the ethos of



community responsibility which he engendered lives on in that organisation.

I recently came across a memorial plaque in St Johns' churchyard in Wapping East London, to commemorate Colonel Thomas Rains borough. It was unveiled appropriately enough by Tony Benn. After hearing all the arguments in the Putney debates Rains borough famously said 'It seems to me that the poorest he that is in this kingdom hath a life to live as the greatest he'.

Joe had much in common with that and the parliamentary system of Government in the Boys and Girls Towns reflected his deep belief that the poorest 'he's' had lives to live which would contribute to the Indian nation when they grew up. The boys and girls who did grow up under that regime are an elegant testimony of that - people like our own JHC manager in Dindigul, Dr Gobinath, Muthupandi the Manager of the Guest House, many Directors of the residential units and scores more who are passing on the ethos they learned in boys and girls towns to their own families in the new India. They all came back to honour Joe.

In fact Margaret received a lovely account of Joe's funeral from a friend in Tirumangalam a few days after Joe died. Apparently the ambulance carrying his body from the Guest House, covered in flowers and packed full with, mostly young men in their twenties and thirties, took an hour to get to Tirumangalam town being constantly held up by auto rickshaws coming from both directions carrying people anxious to take part in the celebrations of Joe's life. With more flowers strewn all over the road it took another two and half hours to reach the crematorium where there was such a crush and jubilant noise that it was impossible to hear what was going on! The boisterousness of the youngsters helped all attending to celebrate Joe's wonderful life.

In his retirement Joe spent much of his time up in the hills at Perumparai. Many of us have great memories of Joe showing off the latest butterfly reserve that he had created or retelling us the story of the herd of bison who kept breaking through the perimeter fence until he hung women's' saris over the wire to frighten them away, and being taken out by Pandhi to see the latest addition to the long list of birds living in the hills around Perumparai, and the environmental centre that Joe created and was so passionate about – climate change being another example of his unique perception.

When I spoke in Tirumangalam 15 months ago at the Pongal 50th Jubilee celebrations I said that Joe had become a legend in his own lifetime – something that is accorded to very few. Now that life has come to an end.

I know that Joe loved the Robert Frost poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' – a poem which Pandit Nehru also loved and had beside his bed when he died.

'The woods are lovely dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.'

Well Joe has travelled those miles and is now asleep. We remember him today with love and affection.

Peter Church
Chairman, JHC



என்றும் என் நினைவில் ஜோ

நான் சிறுவயதிலிருந்தே ஜோஜோமன் என்னும் உத்தமரை, உடனிருந்து பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருந்தவன். அவருக்கு என்னென்ன பிடிக்கும் என்பதை நன்கு அறிந்து கொண்டவன். அவருக்கு சேவை செய்து பழக்கப்பட்டவன். நான் திருமங்கலம் பாய்ஸ் டவுனிலும், ஆத்தூர் லேக்ஸைடிலும் அவருடன் பழகிய அந்த நினைவுகள் என்னுள் இன்று நினைத்திருக்கிறது. நான் இருக்கும் வரையிலும் அவரது நினைவுகள் என்னுள் பயணித்திருக்கும். அவர் எங்களை விட்டுச் சென்றாலும் அவரது ஆத்மா இன்னும் எங்களுடனேயே இருப்பதாகத்தான் எண்ணுகின்றோம். அவரது நினைவாக கெஸ்ட் ஹவுஸில் கட்டவிருக்கும் நினைவிடத்தில் அழகிய பூங்காவை அமைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றோம். அவரது நினைவிடத்தை நாங்கள் கோவிலாக எண்ணி பூஜை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். அவர் நம்மை விட்டுச் சென்றாலும் அவரது நினைவுகள் நம்மைவிட்டுச் செல்வதில்லை. அவர் என்னுடனேயே இருப்பதாகத்தான் நான் எண்ணுகின்றேன். என்றும் நினைவுகளுடன்...

V. முத்துப்பாண்டி

கெஸ்ட் ஹவுஸ், திருமங்கலம் பாய்ஸ் டவுன்

Tribute to my Beloved Brother Joe Homan

My life changed completely after June 1989.

Yes, due to my family circumstances, I joined Tirumangalam Boys Town for my 8th standard.



Besides our warden, the only man we knew was Brother Joe. He played many roles like General Secretary, Administrator, Fund Raiser and many more. All the children were delighted to see Joe riding his motor cycle every time.

After completion of my school studies, he helped me to study 'Computer software' course through apprenticeship scheme. I couldn't forget the incident-he sanctioned my apprenticeship course in the middle of the road between Athoor Boys Town and the Lake Side Guest House. He was so generous and dedicated. This was the real upliftment in my life.

I know Joe for more than 25 years. I have never seen such a person in my life. He dedicated his whole life for the upliftment of the poor children. More than 20,000 thousands children have directly benefitted through his service. He not only helped the children but also has helped many families, villages, schools, etc.,

I am so happy to share that I have worked together with Joe for 2 years during 1998 & 99 when the sponsorship office was at Athoor Boys Town. I was the sponsorship manager and am so happy that I still work for Joe Homan Charity.

Joe Homan is the God for many families in Tamil Nadu.

He has been a good model, brother and a good administrator. His loss is unbearable.

K. Gobinath

Joe Homan Charity (India)



Dear Dr. P. N. Narayana Raja and Wife

Our condolences to you both with the sad death of my brother Joe.

We give prayers and thanks to god for at the end of his life. God called him to heaven so quickly.

It makes the loss a bit easier to, carry that I visited Joe for 3 weeks in December. It was not always easy, we talked more about our parents and brothers and sisters.

I have come to thank you for all your support, help and encouragement to Joe, I saw how you helped and guided along the best road at the necessary time.

Joe was not always easy or ready to see your view, but in the end gave way.

Joe was very spoiled by all of you.

The Committee, Directors, Office staff, Cook Muthupandi, Chauffeur Pandi, House boys, Saravanan and others, and the boys town boy with his daily newspaper.

Whenever Joe wrote to me he always mentioned you all, and especially you, your wife, and children.

I hope the building of the new high school is all going to plan?

Prayers for one and all.

Pauline and Family

Homage to our Founder Bro. Joe Homan



My Journey started with our Founder Brother Joe Homan in the year 2003 at BTS, where I met our founder in the Interview. He interviewed me with other members and I was selected as "Apprentice officer". I thus started my career with BTS. On 30th March 2016 at 6.30 P.M as a routine, I left my office saying "see you Brother in the Morning" for that Brother Joe replied me "see you Shiva in the morning, go safe, go early to home". I am not able to believe, when I heard the news that Brother Joe has left us. For the past 6 months my day will not begin without a word from Brother Joe and my day will not end without a word from Brother Joe because he spoke to me every day. It's a great honor for me to work with BTS & Brother Joe as he was a noble, kindhearted, Legendary Personality. I use to admire him in many ways, he is my inspiration throughout my career in BTS. Apart from BTS official work, he used to converse with me about earthly life and eternal life. His recent conversation was about "The Purpose of Life in this world". This has made an impact in my life. As he has fulfilled his purpose of his life, every one of us will have to fulfill our purpose of life. I am trying to follow these verses "Miles to go and Miles to go before we sleep.

H. Sivakumar Asst. Admin Projects

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER JOE HOMAN



All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts. William Shakespeare's As You Like It

Bro. Joe Homan was not just an individual but a personality, I

count myself lucky to have befriended a wonderful human being like Joe whose zest for life and capacity to live life to the full was inspiring.

My first meeting with him was at Lakeside, Athoor when I had taken my students on an exposure trip. This meeting had resulted on a friendship which lasted till his end. The common interest between us is our love for nature and birds. The Palani Hills Bird Watcher's Society and the Perumparai Environmental Centre (PEC) were two organizations I had associated with Joe. He was instrumental in conducting two Bird Fairs (first of its kind in India), which brought eminent birders throughout India to a common platform. This effort of his had brought praises from all sectors. His contribution towards environmental awareness among the youth and school children using his time and resources is noteworthy. The weekend programme in the PEC had been well tailored and remembered by all who participated. The PEC been dear to his heart and he wanted it to be a centre for environmental learning and research.

Joe always gave time so willingly to all his friends and the old boys of Boy's Town. He became dear to my family and made it a point to visit us from time to time. He had always appreciated the homemade plum cake which we used to give during Christmas. My children consider him as like their own granddad. This association resulted in starting a project "Education for Life" at A. Vellodu. Now the project is more than seven years, at present the project is funded by my family and run by the Boy's Town Society.

His life is a lesson to us; he is a multifaceted person as summarized in his book "Miles o' Smiles. Joe has influenced me in many ways. He was well organized, punctual, caring and willing to trust others. He is authentic in all his dealings, being true to himself which often led him to be impulsive. His life has been exemplary and his passing away is a loss to many who have come to know him personally.

Dr David Ravindran
Professor, GRI, Gandhigram

கல்விச் சேவையின் கதாநாயகர் உத்தமர் திரு. ஜோஹோமன்



பாய்ஸ் டவுன் சொசைட்டி மூலமாக எங்களது கிராமத்தைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து தரிசு நிலத்தில் 1985 முதல் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடவு செய்து பராமரித்து வந்த நேரத்தில் திரு. ஜோஹோமன் அவர்கள் மரக்கன்றுகளை அடிக்கடி

பார்வையிட வரும்போது அவரை நான் பார்த்திருக்கிறேன். பின்னர் 1989ம் வருடம் எங்களது கிராமத்திலுள்ள இளைஞர்களைத் தத்தெடுத்து தொழிற்கல்வி பயில்வதற்கு பயிற்சி கொடுத்த நேரத்தில் நான் அச்சம்பட்டி என்ற கிராமத்தில் கிராமப்புற வளர்ச்சித் திட்ட அலுவலகத்தில் அருவலக உதவியாளராக பயிற்சியில் சேர்ந்தேன். பின்னர் 2 வருடப் பயிற்சி முடித்தபின் திருமங்கலம் சொசைட்டி அலுவலகத்தில் தட்டச்சராக பணியில் சேர்ந்து தற்போது 25 ஆண்டுகளாக சொசைட்டி அலுவலகத்தில் பணியாற்றி வருகின்றேன். திரு. ஜோஹோமன் அவர்கள் என்னிடம் பெரும்பாலும் தமிழில்தான் பேசுவார். எனது பெயரை நல்ல தமிழ் உச்சரிப்புடன் குறிப்பிடுவார்.

எனக்கு 2001ம் ஆண்டு திருமணம் நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்டது. அப்போது திரு. ஜோஹோமன் அவர்கள் ஆத்தூர் லேக் சைடில் தங்கியிருந்தார். அவருக்கு திருமண அழைப்பிதழ் கொண்டு சென்று அழைத்தபோது எந்த வேலையாக இருந்தாலும் ஒதுக்கி வைத்துவிட்டு திருமணத்திற்கு கண்டிப்பாக வருவதாக என்னிடம் தெரிவித்தார். அதுபோல திருமணத்தன்று காலை 9 மணிக்கு தாலி கட்டும் நேரத்தில் எனது திருமணத்தில் கலந்து கொண்டு எங்களுக்கு மாலை அணிவித்து தாலியும் எடுத்துக் கொடுத்து எங்களை ஆசீர்வதித்தார். அவரது தலைமையில் தான் எனக்கு திருமணம் நடந்தது. அவரது ஆசீர்வாதத்தால் நாங்கள் நன்றாக இருக்கின்றோம். எங்களுடன் போட்டோ எடுத்துக் கொண்டார். திருமண போட்டோவிலிருந்த ஒரு போட்டோதான் தற்போது அனைத்து யூனிட்களிலும் அவரது கல்வி வாசகம் பொருத்தப்பட்ட போட்டோவாகும். இப்போட்டோவை பார்க்கும்போதெல்லாம் எனக்கு திருமண நாள் தான் ஞாபகம் வரும். எனது திருமணத்தில் கலந்து எனது வாழ்க்கையில் ஒளி ஏற்றி வைத்த திரு. ஜோ அவர்களை எந்நாளும் நான் மறவேன். அவரது போட்டோவும் நினைவுகளும் எங்களைவிட்டு என்றும் அகலாது.

மேலும் 50 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக பல்லாயிரக் கணக்கான ஏழை எளிய குழந்தைகளின் வாழ்வில் ஒளியேற்றி அனைவரின் வாழ்க்கையையும் பிரகாசிக்க செய்து பல ஆயிரம் குடும்பங்களை வாழவைத்த "வெள்ளை உள்ளம் படைத்த உத்தமர் மாமனிதர்" அனைவரும் அன்போடு பிரதர் என்று அழைக்கப்பட்ட "திரு. ஜோ ஹோமன் அவர்கள் தற்போது நம்மைவிட்டு சென்றாலும், அவரது சேவைகளும் அவரது நினைவுகளும் நம்மைவிட்டு என்றும் அகலாது. அவரது ஆத்மா சாந்தியடையவும், அவர்விட்டுச் சென்ற சேவையினை நாம் அனைவரும் தொடர்ந்து செயல்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்ற சபதத்தை ஏற்று இன்னும் குழந்தைகள் சேவையில் வைரவிழா மற்றும் பவளவிழாவினை காண நாம் அனைவரும் இறைவனை பிரார்த்திப்போம். குழந்தைகளுக்கும் சேவை செய்வதில் பெருமை கொள்வோம்.

K. பாண்டியராஜன்
உதவி பாய்ஸ் டவுன் அலுவலர்

MEPA-102

Tributes to Joe who helped street children

Memorial service planned for Joe Homan who set up homes for children in India and other parts of Asia

TRIBUTE

By STEPHEN BRIGGS
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Tributes have been paid to a charity pioneer who helped thousands of children across Asia. Joe Homan died aged 85 in India earlier this month - after setting up a network of villages for needy children in the Asian country. Mr Homan, who lived in All Saints Road in Peterborough as a youngster, devoted his life to helping others, and spent very little time in the UK, concentrating on his charity ef-

orts abroad for much of the year, having set up the Joe Homan Charity.

Mr Homan set up his charity after being shocked by suffering endured by children he saw on a trip to India in 1965, and quit his job as a teacher.

He moved to Madurai in southern India, where he set up a poultry farm in which the children he saw begging and dying on the streets could work.

The charity has since created a number of homes and projects in India and Thailand, and the charity says that more than 18,000 young-

sters have been helped since the first scheme was started more than 50 years ago.

Joe was one of 12 siblings, and one of his sisters, Margaret Cianni, said: "As a child he was very interested in nature - he was always lifting up paving slabs to see ants building their homes."

He always knew what he wanted, and would not accept second best

"He held Christian beliefs, and wanted to teach children regardless of their religion. He wanted to give people who would not normally have had the chance of an education."

"He enjoyed life. He looked after his sisters, and was a

good, protective brother. "He always knew what he wanted, and would not accept anything else."

"Second best was not good enough. He would always stick with a project through thick and thin."

"He spent more time in India, and would only come back for a few weeks at a time. During those weeks he would spend a lot of time giving talks about the work he was doing. "We went out to see him in India last month."

Jon Crouch, from the charity, said Joe's work would continue following the sad news of

his death.

Mr Crouch said: "Joe has made such a big impact on so many people's lives over the years."

"The charity has grown year by year. Joe was the honorary president and founder, and did so much for children in India."

"He was dedicated to carrying out the work with the Boys Towns throughout his life."

"We will be continuing to support those people in Asia into the future."

"As a charity we will be having a book of remembrance for Joe, as well as a memorial

service.

"A lot of people will have known him, and there will be an awful lot of people with stories who want to remember him."

"We have already had many people getting in touch to pay tribute to him, from across the country."

A memorial service honouring Joe's life will take place at The Sacred Heart & Saint Oswald's Parish Church in Lincoln Road at 1pm on Wednesday, April 27.

Joe's autobiography, Miles o'Smiles, is available to buy on Amazon.

For more information about the Joe Homan Charity visit www.joehoman.org.uk.

உள்ளத்தில் என்றும் நிலைத்திருக்கும் ஜோ



Joe in India



Joe was given an honorary degree at Warwick University



Joe at one of the projects

'I wanted to do something more'

Joe Homan started the charity in 1965, having been in India to carry out voluntary work - but was shocked into action after seeing children begging and dying on the streets. Speaking to The Peterborough Telegraph in 2005, 40 years later, he said: "I did some volunteer work in the early 50s in India and decided to see if I could do something more. "I got up my job as a teacher in Ipswich and moved to India, where I bought a patch of land for £200. "With the help of some homeless boys from the nearby city, we built some mud huts and poultry sheds. "Within a year I was raising chickens, and over the years we've expanded into farming and also built residential homes for the children. "We now have 11 residential homes in India and one in Thailand, each housing 70 youngsters. There are also another five similar projects for girls and younger children. Joe died at his home in India on March 30.



Joe Homan and another man standing together, both wearing medals.

ஜோஹோமன் என்னும் மகான், பல்லாயிரம் ஏழை எளிய குழந்தைகளின் வாழ்வில் ஒளியேற்றி வைத்து தற்போது ஜோதியாக பாய்ஸ் டவுனில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார். அவர் என்றும் எங்களுடன் பயணித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார் என்பதை நான் உணர்கின்றேன். அவர் என்னுடன் இருந்து என்னை நல்வழிப்படுத்துவார் என்பதில் எந்த ஜயமுமில்லை. அவர் என்னுடைய வாழ்வில் அனைத்து சுக, துக்கங்களிலும் கலந்து கொண்டும், என்னை முழுமையான மனிதனாக உருவாக்கியும் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருந்தவர். அவர் தற்போது என்னுடன் இல்லையென்றாலும் அவரது நினைவுகளும், சேவை செய்வதில் எவ்வாறு ஆர்வமுடன் செயல்பட்டாரோ அதுபோல் நாமும் குழந்தைகளுக்கு சேவை செய்வதில் பெருமிதம் கொள்வோம். அவரது சேவையை முழுமையாக செயல்படுத்த நாம் அனைவரும் ஒன்றுபடுவோம்.

G. துளசிராமன்

வார்டன், திருமங்கலம் பாய்ஸ் டவுன்

BTS Expresses its gratitude to all the Donors

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- 23,000/- (Annual Expenses for a child at BTS, excluding Capital Work)
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