

# Annual Report 2020



# CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
RECOGNITION AWARD.....	4
ACTIVITIES 2020.....	4
CURRENT PROJECTS.....	9
PROJECT PARTNERS IN INDIA.....	13
GOVERNING BOARD.....	14



Postfach 226  
CH-9053 Teufen AR  
Tel.: +41 77 330 07 69  
info@lightinlife.org  
www.lightinlife.org



## FOREWORD

Dear Readers

Dear Members

We are pleased to give you an overview of our activities in the past year with this annual report.

The year 2020 had barely begun when the Corona crisis hit the entire world. The calamity struck us all with full force. The worst affected are those people who had to fight for their survival even before this pandemic. Due to the strict measures taken to combat the Corona pandemic in India, millions of poor people, casual workers and day laborers were robbed of their livelihood overnight without social or health protection.

As people struggled with the Covid-19 pandemic, heavy rains and floods wreaked havoc in Northeast India. Hundreds of hamlets had been flooded, tens of thousands of houses were damaged, countless fields were destroyed and lakhs of people were temporarily rendered homeless. Suddenly the basic public services were laid completely at risk.

Our fundraising campaign for these afflicted people was a great success. Our local partners in Northeast India worked with volunteers for months in the affected areas, distributing food packets, personal hygiene items, masks, disinfectants and much more.

Despite these unfavorable incidences, the past year was a busy and successful one for our association.

With our sponsorship project 'LIGHT 4 CHILD', we have secured the education of 210 children from the 1st grade to the 10th. Vocational training plays a crucial role in the life of youth. Our financial aid enabled 41 young students to receive vocational training. Our school project - Construction of the 3rd school in Arunachal Pradesh in Northeast India - is in full swing. The school building is scheduled to be completed by mid 2021.

In the current year, a total of CHF 147,688/- was spent on our core project "Education and School Infrastructure". In addition, we spent CHF 40,764/- for Corona emergency aid and for the project, "A roof over your head".

In 2020, we were able to bring some "light into life" to hundreds of people in need in India including children with various aid projects totaling to CHF 188,452/-.

Without the generous donations from Private individuals, Organizations, Local communities, Parishes and Foundations, none of this would have been possible. We would like to thank all donors and our members for their support and trust in us.

Kindly continue to assist us in making these projects a reality in the future. Even a small contribution makes a big difference.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Shaji Adathala  
Präsident

Abraham Mathew  
Generalsekretär

# RECOGNITION AWARD



## ACTIVITIES 2020



### LIGHT in LIFE: Family Day in Egg/ZH: 18 January 2020

The 'get-together' of extended families of Light in Life in January was a momentous event. The gathering of the members with the second and third generations was a unique experience symbolizing a sign of solidarity. Egg in Zurich was the meeting point; the function began at 10am and lasted until 5pm with varieties of enlightening programs. In addition to a sumptuous lunch and coffee, there were club-related discussions and dialogues. Without exception, young and old enjoyed the day wholly. (Picture above)

# General Body Meeting

In 2020, the general assembly was held twice via video conference. In this current year, totally 14 telephone and video conferences were held with all the Board members to discuss about financial status, various projects and their implementations.



*Photo right:  
General Body meeting  
through video conference on  
5 December 2020*

# Distribution of Relief-packages in Neeleeswaram



## 28 January 2020

Organized by 'LIGHT in LIFE' through 'Sahrdhaya Kalavedhi' in Neeleeswaram, Kerala, the scheme of 'distribution of relief packages' was launched on 28 January 2020 by Justice Kurian Joseph, former judge, Supreme Court of India. As part of "A roof over your head" project, financial aid was given to three homeless families so that they could have a permanent roof of their own; also financial aid was given to 11 young people for vocational training. Mr. Shaji Adathala, President, LIGHT in LIFE, represented our organization.



# PUNARJANI

4 February 2020

'PUNARJANI' is a rehabilitation project by 'LIGHT in LIFE', systematized in collaboration with various Aid organizations such as MANOFA (Florida), DELMA (Delaware), NEMA (New England), WISMA (Wisconsin), KAC (Chicago), KCF (UK), NSS College Alumni (Palakkad, Kerala), and GLOBAL GIVING for the victims of flood disaster - 2018.

This project comprised of construction of seven houses. These houses were built in Lakatoor in Kottayam district, Kerala costing CHF 95,000/- in total, of which LIGHT in LIFE contributed its share of CHF 43,000/-.

Mr. George Naduvathettu, our PRO, was the coordinator for this project on behalf of LIGHT in LIFE; Ms. Remya Peethambaran was the liaison officer for the donors of North America and Rev. Fr. Jijo Kurian was put in charge of Kerala section. The land for the construction of the houses was donated bigheartedly by a member of our association.

On 4 February 2020, the houses were handed over to the seven designated needy families in a specially organized program. Five LIGHT in LIFE families traveled to India to witness this program at their own expense.



## PUNARJANI HOUSES

### HANDING OVER CEREMONY

4 February 2020, Lakatoor, Kottayam



# 'A Roof over your Head' Project

## 2 Houses in July 2020 handed over

In partnership with the 'Parents - Teachers Association' of the Oil Refinery School in Kochi, LIGHT in LIFE handed over a house to a needy family in Thiruvaniyoor, Cochin on 12 July 2020. Simultaneously, a house was handed over to a poor family in Kunjithai.

## 3 Houses delivered in Neeleeswaram

### 29. August 2020

LIGHT in LIFE made the long-awaited dreams of three families in Neeleeswaram come true on 29 August 2020. As our ONAM festival gift, these families received permanent homely accommodations.



# 'LIGHT in LIFE' lends a hand despite COVID-19 crisis

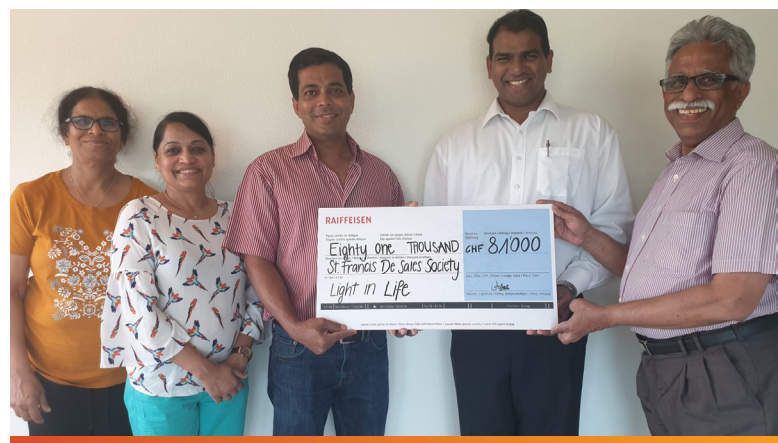
## Financial assistance for construction of school building in Arunachal Pradesh und Training in Northeast India: 21 Mai 2020

The proposed school is located in Aalo (Aalong), the headquarters of the West Siang District. Most of the villages have public schools but they are poorly attended. The old school building with 432 students from Kindergarten to 10th grade, which MSFS has taken over, is in a dilapidated state in spite of the many repairs done in the past years.

There is an urgent need to find a stable and permanent solution for this issue in demolishing the present shabby building that would offer the children safety and security for a high quality education.

On 21 May 2020, Mr. Shaji Adathala, President, LIGHT in LIFE presented a check of CHF 81,000/- (INR six million sixty thousand) to Rev. Fr. Salu Mathew, MSFS

representative, in Winterthur for the realization of the two projects mentioned above. Several LIGHT in LIFE members were present at this event observing the Covid-19 guidelines.



# Flood amidst Corona-Pandemic



## 31. August 2020 Monsoon arrives in Northeast India in the thick of Pandemic

As people struggled with the Covid-19 pandemic, torrential rains and floods wreaked havoc in Northeast India, leaving a large number of people temporarily homeless.

Several villages were inundated. The hygienic conditions were appalling; there was hardly any food or medicine. These people were in dire need of immediate help. LIGHT in LIFE started a fundraising campaign on 31 August 2020 that lasted until the end of September 2020.

The organization used a total of CHF 16,000/- distributing food packets, masks, disinfectants and much more to the affected people. (Picture left).

# Emergency Aid to the Children affected by Covid-Pandemic

In addition to our Corona emergency aid campaign for Northeast India, we also financially support "Hallo Friends Social Media Group, Switzerland". This philanthropic scheme reinforces the projects of "Different Art Center at Magic Planet, Trivandrum" for the differently-abled children. **The collected fund was donated by the "Hallo Friends Social Media Group, Switzerland" on 1 November 2020 in Trivandrum.** The amount is used for the rehabilitation of children, suffering from the aftermath of Covid 19 pandemic. The Different Art Center, a prestigious project by Gopinath Muthukadu`s Academy of Magical Sciences,

aims to educate children who suffer from physical and mental illness, by recognizing and refining their natural talents through specific and appropriate methods.





# CURRENT PROJECTS

## TRAINING FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

### Financial help for the Training

Despite compulsory schooling for children aged between 6 to 14, tens of thousands of children in India still do not have access to an adequate education. Many of the poor children are also unable to attend school due to financial difficulties and geographical constraints. Parents can barely feed their children and are no longer able to provide right education. Our association helps hundreds of families so that their children can get a professional training or a high school education. Both educations coupled with improvement of the existing school facilities and infrastructures in inaccessible areas in Northeast India are important goals of LIGHT in LIFE.



## Sponsorship Projects in Northeast India: LIGHT 4 CHILD



Education is an area to which 'LIGHT in LIFE' has always paid special attention. It is an important factor in the development of a society, and therefore of an entire nation. Elementary schooling for all children is a goal of our nation, and we, in turn, desire to achieve this important goal. As part of this project, we have initiated two projects called "LIGHT 4 CHILD" in Northeast Indian states, where not all children have the opportunity to receive an appropriate education. **We are realizing this project under the leadership of and in partnership with MSFS (Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales), Northeast India. These two projects are:**

**a. Sponsorship of CHF 300/- per child/annum** including school books, uniform, food and accommodation: This project is specially designed for those children who come from distant places and have no transport. These children are given the opportunity to live and study in the school's own premises.

**b. Sponsorship of CHF 150/- per child/annum** without overnight accommodation: The education of the children from Kindergarten is planned.

Since we have initially committed ourselves to these projects for five years?. Desirable would be a five-year? sponsorship.

If this is not possible, LIGHT in LIFE will take over the remaining years. Depending on our financial situation, we make sure that these children get all of the primary school education.

It is important to mention that the full amount donated will benefit the child in need with no administrative costs for us or our partners in India.

**In the year under review, we have supported 210 children with these two above mentioned projects.**

## Covid-19-Pandemic and its Sequels

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, Northeast India was paralyzed as well. Although many schools began the academic year in late January 2020, everything came to a standstill from 25 March 2020 when a complete lockdown was announced in India for the first time. The schools were then fully shut down. The preventive measures were expanded every month as the number of positive corona cases increased. As a result, the schools were closed for months.

**Online Teaching:** Many schools introduced online teaching to ensure the continued education of children. For the children from remote villages who cannot afford cell phones / computers and who have no network facilities, the teachers provide them with appropriate teaching and learning materials from time to time.

**Academic year:** The majority of schools that normally complete their school year in December, have extended the academic year to the end of March 2021.

**Current Scenario:** The government granted permission in December 2020 to start offline classes, starting from upper secondary to high schools, observing COVID-19 guidelines.

**The School fees:** Since the MSFS (Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales) school is a private institution, the salaries of the teachers depend on the school fees of the students collected. It is a great challenge to finance the teachers when the school fees are not paid.

**Hostel Fees already paid:** The money allocated for boarding and lodging the children in the hostels during this time will be used for various other expenses, such as additional clothing for the children, blankets and other necessary items. The children who have a bank account get the money transferred to their account directly so that they can use it for their education. The children supported by LIGHT in LIFE were provided with food and other required relief supplies during the pandemic.

# 2 NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

After the successful construction of one schoolhouse each in Assam and Meghalaya in Northeast India, it was our goal to build a school in Arunachal Pradesh. We are realizing this project under the direction of and in partnership with MSFS (Missionaries of St. Francis of Sales), Northeast Indian Province.

**Arunachal Pradesh** is a Northeast Indian state; the capital is Itanagar. It comprises an area of 83,743 km<sup>2</sup> with 1.4 million residents. The majority of the population lives from agriculture. However, the level of production is very low. The situation is exacerbated by the lack of marketing opportunities for local products.



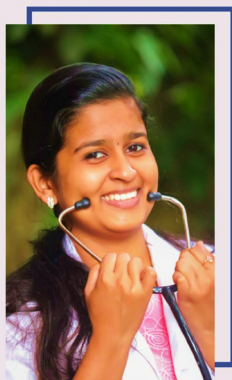
Above: Ongoing school building construction

The school that is at the present under construction is in Aalo (Aalong), the headquarters of West Siang District. The current school building with 432 students from Kindergarten to 10th grade, which was taken over by MSFS, is in a dilapidated condition despite many repairs in recent years. There is an urgent need to demolish the older building and find a stable and permanent solution.

Our plan is to construct the school building in two phases, each with seven classrooms and a toilet block on the ground floor and the first floor. The property assigned for the new school building is adjacent to the present school. The estimated cost for the two phases amounts to the equivalent of CHF 282,000/- of which LIGHT in LIFE and MSFS share equal parts.

## Testimonial

Being a nursing student, I am in love with this profession which gives me satisfaction. I feel I am blessed to choose this way of life of caring and empathy. Thank you Ligt in Life for supporting me to make my dream come true.



Anjana Shaju  
2nd Year Nursing Student

It is a blessing that I am brought up at Mother and Child Foundation from my childhood...



Chinju Joy  
STAFF NURSE

'LIGHT in LIFE' is another divine sanction, walking with me for continuing my professional studies in Nursing. I thank everyone of you for fulfilling my dreams in life.




# 3

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

An essential prerequisite for people to have a hopeful future and to be able to finance their livelihood independently is education. It plays an important role in the life of youth. But young people from poor families in India have little chance of receiving such an education. LIGHT in LIFE gives financial support to these aspirants.

Our aim is to promote the education of young people when their parents are unable to meet their required expenses. We want to provide sustainable help for self-help so that one can take life into one's own hands. LIGHT in LIFE provides financial support for young people who have completed mandatory schooling and desire to attend a vocational training or a secondary school.

**Total Cost of Vocational Training: (Duration: 3-4 years) is CHF 800/-. In this current year, we supported 41 young people to complete vocational trainings.**



**VIPIN P.M**  
Student - Masters in Commerce

“ I am a confident young man today, doing my 'Masters in commerce' in St. Xavier's College, Vaikom.

I cherish this grand thought that 'LIGHT in LIFE' has shaped my life as it is today.

I express my sincere gratitude from the bottom of my heart to all of you concerned.

”

# 4

## A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

In India, lakhs of people live in makeshift sheds and huts made of straw, mud, plastic and tin. Many even have to get by without a roof over their heads. LIGHT in LIFE helps to build simple and stable houses that can withstand the rainy months and the hot summer.

### Construction of six houses for the needy families in Kerala



In this financial year 2020, we were able to bring roofs over the heads for six families. 1/3 of the construction cost was funded by LIGHT in LIFE and the remaining was shared by the Local partners, Aid organizations, Patrons, Personal contributions or donations generated through the help of families, relatives and friends. We find it is vital that the beneficiaries contribute to the construction of their houses, through an-albeit small-co-financing. The accommodations offer the beneficiaries comfort, stability and security; thus a starting point for improving their living situation.

**We can proudly report that we have built houses for 106 families so far.**

## PROJECT PARTNER IN INDIA

Our collaboration and regular mutual communication with local aid organizations is important for the successful implementation of the projects. Rich experience of our project partners based on local conditions and needs is an important factor. They in turn network closely with the local authorities and other organizations. Our projects are therefore widely supported by the general public. We are responsible for the successful implementations of the projects and therefore accompany those responsible persons through regular reports and field visits.

### Punarjani Project

Rev. Fr. Jijo Kurian, who has a great deal of experience with various Aid projects for victims of natural disasters, is in-charge of this project. With his trusted employees and the representatives of seven families, he had set up a foundation to ensure that this project ran smoothly.

### Sahrudhaya Kalavedhi & Library

Sahrudhaya Kalavedhi and Library in Neeleeswaram, Kerala is a center that promotes Arts and Social welfare with specific purposes. The members work on a voluntary basis and organize various aid projects for the deprived people of the population.

### Mother & Child, Thodupuzha

The Mother & Child Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organization based in Mailakombu, Thodupuzha, Kerala that offers mothers and children in need security and safety. It takes care of the abandoned, unmarried and socially traumatized mothers and the upbringing of orphaned newborns and toddlers until they are independent.

The Mother & Child Foundation is registered under the Law on Charitable Societies and operates strictly according to the rules and regulations of that law.

### Fransalian Agency for social Care and Education in India (FASCE)

Fransalian Agency for social Care and Education in India is a non-profit, non-governmental, secular, voluntary organization, registered in 2005, to promote integral development of individuals and local communities. FASCE India, the official social development agency of the MSFS (Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales) Northeast Indian Province, is entrusted with the educational and social development of the region.

“

*On behalf of all the children here, I take this opportunity to thank you, all the members of 'Light in Life' for your share in shaping the lives of the older ones in Mother and Child Foundation. I specially thank you for taking up our projects, this year also. It will enable our children who are doing their professional studies. It will definitely encourage them to continue with much more confidence.*

JOSHY MATHEW

Secretary,  
Mother & Child Foundation,  
Mailakombu P.O., Thodupuzha 685608  
Kerala -India



## GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



**Shaji Adathala**  
President, Teufen/  
AR



**John Areekal**  
Vice president,  
Brüttsellen/ZH



**Abraham Mathew**  
General Secretary,  
Bottmingen/BL



**Gordie Manapparambil**  
Treasurer, Egg/ZH



**Mathew Thekkottil**  
Project Manager,  
Aarau/AG



**George Naduvathettu**  
PRO, Windisch/AG

**Joby Mangalath**  
Auditor, Wittenbach/SG

## Information about our Organization

'LIGHT in LIFE' was founded in 2013 as a recognized non-profit organization based in Teufen / AR.

It pursues exclusively humanitarian, social and charitable purposes. Our members work on voluntary basis without pay. We provide our help directly and informally to the people affected.

Our goal is to provide sustainable humanitarian support for the poor people who live on the fringes of society, in particular mentally or physically disabled people, children from poor backgrounds and people in need. The association is particularly committed to training young people.

**LIGHT in LIFE is recognized by the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden as a non-profit organization and is tax-exempt. It is our principle that your donation goes in full to the people in need, without any administrative costs for us and our partners in India.**

### Contact Address:

LIGHT in LIFE  
Postfach 226  
9053 Teufen AR  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 71 330 07 69  
[www.lightinlife.org](http://www.lightinlife.org)  
E-Mail: [info@lightinlife.org](mailto:info@lightinlife.org)

### Bank Info:

Our CHF Account for Donations:  
IBAN: CH88 8080 8001 3568 0173 4

Our USD Account for Donations:  
IBAN: CH12 8080 8001 5342 9700 0  
SWIFT/ BIC Code: RAIFCH22A23

Bank Address:  
Raiffeisenbank Appenzell,  
9050 Appenzell, Switzerland