



# Shining Stars

## Centres for Youth Development

# MONTHLY MAGAZINE

# JUNE 2023

Dear Friends,

We hope that this finds you all well.

Summer is coming to an end for us, we're anticipating the monsoon any day.

Below is a brief report of the happenings in Shining Stars over the last month or so.

On May 13th we had our Annual General Body board meeting. It was well attended and encouraging as we presented our audit from and ministry accomplished last year, then the budget and goals for 2023-2024.

We had another important retreat from May 19th-21st. Once in a while we get our alumni together for fellowship and further equipping. We call it the Shining Stars Alumni Fellowship. This time we focused on career development and wise financial investment. We had several experienced faculty share their wisdom. The idea was to give, particularly our young alumni, ideas of what options they can choose from, when entering the workforce, AND, how we can live as Christians while we are out there. Many of our senior alumni joined us too . . . so this gave an opportunity for them to rub shoulders with the younger ones. See a photo of those who attended below.



Our annual training program for our partners & teachers in the two states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana went really well. We're gearing up for the new academic year, starting now. We met at a retreat center near Hyderabad from June 5th-8th. Twenty seven of our partner center's were represented. Our agenda was to equip them further to run after-school, holistic developmental center's in their areas . . . we emphasized longterm discipleship. We also explained to them the terms of our partnership. We were so encouraged by the maturity and eagerness of many of them to invest in the next generation. Below is a picture of us all. There were about 70 of us there. One of the teachers shared an encouraging testimony:



*“My name is P. Sameera, a teacher from Haddubangi. I am attending this training for the second time. I have attended the same programme last year in Gunupur, Odisha. I learnt many new things and implemented the same in the tuition where I helped the children during the last academic year. This training, 2023, is like a review for me, but it was eye opening in how to understand the children, how to handle the misbehaviour of the children and how I, as a teacher, should be with the children etc. I have learnt new games and songs to teach the children. The very important thing I have learnt, that inspired me in this training, is how I should be an example to the children in words and deeds. The faculty taught us many things in moral values, to follow as leaders and teachers of the child development centres. Another thing I really liked is that I should focus on each child and mentor them to become like me in the days to come.”*

Please pray for the training of our Odisha (a neighbouring state) leaders and teachers, coming up in July. We expect five of our partners and their teachers to be represented there. Now, please pray for our partners as they get ready to start their centers in the next few days. Some of them are new partners, and some we have been partnering with some for one or two years.

There are a few updates concerning our staff. Peter officially stepped down as Director, and Premdas (who has been with us for about 23 years) has taken his place. Peter would like to focus more on raising funds for Shining Stars (both in the US and in India). Sushma, who was overseeing our Nacharam center over the last few years, completed her MBA, and has moved on. Nehemiah, one of our longstanding alumni (since pre-school), has joined our staff.

We hope you are blessed by these communications. Please pray that God would work in the hearts of the children and provide for all of the needs of Shining Stars. If you have any questions, please let us know.

You are invited to pray for these needs and contribute financially (any amount), if you are moved to. You can click on donate button bellow.

Sincerely,  
Ponaganti Prem Das  
for Shining Stars (SS)