



CHILD AID UK NEWSLETTER

Extra

WHAT'S NEW FROM TAMIL NADU ?

26th December 2004

They say a picture is worth a `thousand` words, so let me tell

you the story of this group of ladies. The lady in red's story is hard to believe, as indeed every other mother's story in the picture. There is a smile on some of the faces, but that is only because we coaxed it out of them. **Every mother in the picture lost members of their families** on that eventful day after Christmas. The lady in red's story is tragic, she and her child were swept up by the Tsunami to the top of a thirty foot palm tree with waters swirling around her below, with one of her four children with her – the others, no where to be seen. She still doesn't know their fate or should I say, doesn't want to accept the inevitable. All this was in the small coastal village of **Allikal**, not far from Cape Comorin.

The Villages

I can only show you the houses that have been left, *in part*, standing ; all the timber houses have been flattened or washed out to sea ... and with them, all the villagers belongings and their money. The dreadful thing is that fishermen villagers do not have banks, so whatever was in their homes was washed away. **When one says that**

26th December 2004

these villagers are homeless, destitute and penniless, they truly are.



The Homes

You have all seen broken houses, but you have probably never seen so many outside a war zone ; **but this is NOT a war zone**, it is `Mother Nature's` vengeance ... for what, we are not certain, but make no mistake these houses were being lived in as the disaster unfolded. Whole villages were



totally flattened ; it is easy to show

26th December 2004

broken brick houses, but many many



more houses were simply washed away. **The beach scene below** looks idyllic, but to the right of the road, and a few to the left, were houses, wooden houses, all washed away in



seconds. So, after all this,

how can we help those left behind ?

the very best way to help, is to give those left behind their self respect. They are all very proud people and simply want to make a living. To rebuild a village, or even part of a village, would be an immense project, but to bring back a village's self respect might be an easier task ... so for us it will be helping the fisherman fish, helping the baker to bake ... providing utensils to cook ...

**Can you help us do this ?
Please**

**If you feel you can, please send your donation to : Child Aid UK, Highfield, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8ST
Or direct to Child Aid UK's Bank : HSBC sort code 40-08-44 Account No 41203169 Registered Charity No 1095796**