

## Responding to the Signs of the Times

Sister Joan Van der Zyden



Photos: Courtesy of Divi Seema Foundation

Sister Grace Antonysamy with a women's group.

**T**his is a story that needs to be told! Women and children in Diviseema and Kothuru, poor coastal and urban areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh, a few Cluny Sisters of the South-east Province of India and a man from the United Kingdom! What could they possibly have in common? This is a relationship that has been in the making for years. It has evolved from observing, listening,

reflecting and acting. That is what 'reading the signs of the times' takes ... and it has resulted in encounter, collaboration and empowerment.

**Encounter:** Cluny sisters encounter the women and children each and every day through their ministries. They have also encountered Peter Winchester, who holds a Doctorate in Development Studies, during his work in the region. Quickly, a relationship of collaboration was

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