

# THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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## CAMEROON SCHOOL APPEAL

In recent years we have bought two adjoining plots of land in Bamenda, Cameroon with the eventual aim of helping Richard Tambe, our project manager, realise his long held dream of establishing the Bamenda Community Learning Centre with a nursery and primary school for his local community. We want to establish a school that provides a higher standard of education than would normally be given to the children in the area and although the provision of enthusiastic and trained teachers is the most important thing, a well constructed modern building and facilities is a necessary starting point.

Our school in Oron, Nigeria is now operating (currently with 93 children) in a pleasant and well constructed building and we are trying to ensure it is self sufficient (more news on this in our next newsletter). We now would like to focus on constructing a similar permanent building in the Cameroon. Presently our school there has no permanent location and relies on unpredictable landlords for access and facilities.

Richard has spent a great deal of time investigating the legal and building requirements and now has sent us detailed architects plans and other official documents and estimates so that we can see that the project is feasible. The school will consist of a single storey building with a veranda, five classrooms, a staff room, office and toilets with surrounding play area/land.

The project is already underway and we have paid for the initial plans and documents and now the first step in actual construction is the making of several thousand bricks. This has begun but to construct the building shell and roof we must raise several thousand pounds. We have just received a donation from Christine Higgins in place of a wedding present for Mark Doyle and Anna Jones who requested people donate to charity rather than give them presents and this will start our Cameroon fund.



Richard has also recently appeared on a local radio station to talk about the work of the Learning Centre. (our photo shows Richard on the left with English and French speaking journalists)

If you would like to help in this project your donation, however small, would be greatly appreciated. Please send any cheques to either of the addresses above. We can now accept donations by credit card via the Paypal system but this can only be done through our website.

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all our supporters who with regular payments sponsor children in India. We now have over 90 active sponsorships and this is the backbone of our work and provides ongoing greatly needed support, improved prospects and friendship to the families concerned.

## **PICNIC OUTING FOR CHENGANNUR CHILDREN**

This is Jacobs report on a recent trip that he arranged for the children in our tuition class:

“The picnic on the 27<sup>th</sup> April went off very well and I must thank all of you for giving the children such a wonderful chance to see a big water theme park. We set off from here at around 8.30AM in a super coach called "Chitralaya". We were about 49 in all. I asked the children to carry their lunch along with them which they had outside the park as no carry-in food is allowed. None of us had visited the park before. It is quite an expensive place for ordinary people to go – so basically only the elite class go there. So you can imagine the thrill of the children who went. There was a good music system in the coach which was blasting Indian movie songs – which is the trend here when one is on a picnic. Deepa, my wife, got the children into a dancing mood by doing some shakes in the aisle. At one point there was no one on the seats as all of them were on their feet beating it out! That went on for the whole trip for about 3 hours. As we had arranged for the ticket earlier, and being a charity organisation, they managed to give us a concession of 50% for the children.

There were so many rides both in and out of water and one could get in as many times as one wanted! The adults had lunch in the cafeteria inside while the children were splashing all around. There was everything possible to have a great day. I entrusted about 5 children to one adult and let them go where they wanted. At each spot that I went around, they had the time of their lives. They enjoyed every bit of it. It was a lifetime chance for them and no one else would have taken them out for a picnic like this fully free of cost! Except mum and two others all of us were drenched in water.

I asked them to gather in a coffee shop at 4.30 PM and the officials there were kind enough to arrange tea for us as per our earlier order. We had some good snacks (rather a high tea) and coffee. The children were off again for the rides and I told them to gather again at 7.30 PM which was the closing time of the park. It was a day full of fun, something that they may not forget for a life time. We served some more snacks in the coach on the way home. They showed a Malayalam movie on the TV inside the bus and we were back home by 11 PM when all the children's parents were waiting for us. The children could not have asked for more.”

Mr Kutty our tuition class headmaster wrote “This excursion has created an indelible mark in our minds which we shall cherish” and two of the children have already written to thank us; Remya said “..the water rides were most beautiful and all the children enjoyed these and we felt we were in a little heaven, forgetting ourselves we had a wonderful time” and from Anu “I liked best the musical fountain with its multi colours and loud modern music”

## **INDIAN HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT**

Having now completed 30 houses there is no let up in the progress of this project. House number 31 is almost complete and no.32 is underway, albeit slowly, as is often the case in India. House 32 for Rahul and family (as featured in our last newsletter) is being built with the money raised by Mireille Stanton on her return from visiting Chengannur and we would again like to thank all her friends who so generously donated. Also Mireille`s son, Matthew, was recently married to Elizabeth and they had the wonderful idea of asking for donations to the Trust instead of wedding presents. They have raised £1000 in this way and we will be constructing a house for a selected family hopefully later in the year. Another of our supporters, Peter Swann, has decided he would also like to provide a house and has already donated £500 and has said he hopes to raise some more later. Jacob will be providing details of suitable families that we will pass to Matthew and Peter for their approval before work begins.

**Don't forget, please let us know if you can receive our newsletters by email or through our web site as this will save on the printing and postage costs so that we can use the money for our projects rather than on administration.**