

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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CAMEROON SCHOOL PROGRESS

Richard, our project manager, keeps us updated with progress and now reports that the walls and door frames are up and the roof is the next major work now being tackled. We are continuing to receive funds and donations for this project including £500 from North South Development Trust (see below) and £100 from Mrs Bamford.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FAIR

Our summer sale at Holy Trinity Church has also raised further funds for the Cameroon project and we would like to again thank the Church for allowing us to be part of their spring fair held in the beautiful vicarage grounds. We were pleased to sell the first of Leslie Salmon's paintings that he has donated to us.

SUPPORTERS VISIT CHENGANNUR

In the last six months three of our sponsors have visited Chengannur, staying with Jacob our project manager, and visiting their sponsored families and general places of interest. Peter and Sheila Brown and Nancy Mauger also had the opportunity to officially hand over 3 more of our completed houses to delighted families. Nancy cut the ribbons on the house paid for by Mathew and Liz Stanton who collected funds in place of receiving wedding presents. She also handed over the house for Rahul and his family who you may remember we featured in a previous newsletter living in a tin shack.

We have received from India the following account of the handover of house number 33
(the photo above shows the gathering at the ceremony)



"We had a visitor from UK, Nancy Mauger, in the first week of March. I am very glad to let you know that our 33rd house was handed over to the family by Nancy. I am sure that Mathew and Liz Stanton would be very pleased to know this especially as their wedding gift has turned out to be a permanent roof for the family. The function was well attended by his family, friends and relatives. It is a big house compared to our older houses as the family had put in a lot of effort on their own both physically and also with some financial help from friends. They also sold two of their milk giving cows and also chopped down a good tree (to make the doors, windows etc) to help with the house. I feel the contractor has done a good job. It consists of a big hall (where the family can have group prayers because they usually have them at home), a bedroom and a kitchen. It has a special place to keep the picture of Jesus, something that they wanted. Nancy made a short speech, cut the ribbon and handed over the keys to them. Jacob (not to be confused with our project manager!) is a peon in a Chartered Accountants office and gathered courage to say a few words during the meeting. He was almost in tears and his voice choked when he said that a house was just a dream for him all this time and he could not believe it is a reality now. He thanked the Trust and especially Mathew and Liz for this fantastic life time gift to them. They will always remember that and would always be grateful."

SCHOLARSHIP

Manu is receiving a scholarship with funds from Sheen Mount Primary School to allow him to attend a quality boarding school. Sheen Mount have now sent us another donation collected in various ways to provide funds for a further year for Manu's board and education. He is an enthusiastic and appreciative student.

We were very saddened to hear of the passing of two of our long time supporters. Sarah Garson and Norman Twyman had both been providing funds each year to pay for teaching staff as well as each sponsoring a child. Sarah visited Chengannur and was very impressed with the work done by Jacob.

STAMPS

Retrospect Gallery in Orpington are now selling our donated stamps as quickly as we can supply them so please keep saving them for us. Any UK or foreign ones are of use.

MADRAS AID

For some years we have also been giving a small amount of aid via Asha George in Madras. This has been used mainly to sponsor education for several children and also enable young children to attend a day nursery run by a local church. Asha has recently put on a puppet show for the nursery children and we have also provided some educational toys for them.

RECOGNITION FOR JACOB

We were delighted to hear that our hard working Project Manager has received some well deserved local recognition. There is a literary and arts society which each year selects a group of outstanding citizens of Chengannur and recognises them in whatever field they are involved. On Feb 5th, they awarded Jacob a shield and certificate for the Charitable activities that he does there. While introducing the prize winners, they were full of praise for the Trust and all the work we do amongst the poor and the needy. Our tuition teacher Mr Krishnan Kutty is one of the founder members of the society. The occasion had good coverage in the local newspapers. Our photo shows Jacob (centre) receiving the award



NANCY MAUGER

As mentioned above Nancy Mauger visited Chengannur this year and has generously donated £300 for an outing for the children and staff in our tuition classes. Jacob will arrange a coach to take the large group to places of interest. For many of the children this will be the first time they will have travelled outside the Chengannur area. These trips are thoroughly enjoyed and are a very valuable experience for all the children. Nancy also kindly donated £100 towards a water cooler.

NORTH SOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

We have received a large donation of £500 from this trust who administer the profits from North South Travel Agents with whom we have had a good relationship with over many years. This like our other current donations is going towards the building of our school in the Cameroons. If you need to use a travel agent please give them a call to see if they can help you. Tel 01245 608291 or visit their website at www.northsouthtravel.co.uk – they are friendly and very helpful.

TOURISTS/VOLUNTEERS TO INDIA

Kerala is getting to be a very popular tourist destination. Many people from the west, especially from Britain, visit this area of Southern India which is often referred to as 'God's Own Country' with its enchanting hills, backwaters, wild life sanctuaries & lovely beaches. If anyone is planning a visit you could get the help of our Project Manager, Jacob Punnen, and he would be happy to arrange home stays for you in popular destinations which is much more exciting, cozy and sometimes cheaper than being in regular hotels. These are specially selected homes with separate bathroom facilities and the chance to join family meals. If you are interested you can contact Jacob by email alp_nikkita@sancharnet.in (note underscore after 'alp')



ORON, NIGERIA SCHOOL

Our supporters Grace Khamis and her fiance Tom made another visit to our school earlier this year. It is fully operational although there are further works to be done and Efiong, our Project manager, is now trying to establish ways of funding the school on an ongoing basis.

Our photo shows Efiong with teachers and some of the enthusiastic children.