

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BROMLEY COMMON, SUMMER FAYRE

We were once again kindly given space at the Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common, Jubilee summer fayre. Unlike last year we did not have to contend with monsoon conditions but this year it clashed with an England world cup match! A television was brought along and with a break of 90 minutes we managed to raise over £100. With many of the items left over we then had a stall at a boot fair and raised a further £65.

(This photo shows Russell and Kay at the Jubilee Sale)

DONATIONS

We are delighted to have recently received another large donation of £250 from Holy Trinity Church and we would like to thank all those involved in raising this large amount. We have also received £157 from Callie Marks in Bristol who raised this from donations and serving refreshments at a `front room` art trail event where a group of artists opened their homes to the public for viewing their work. Callie estimates that around 1000 people attended!

NIGERIAN SCHOOL TEACHERS

We are very grateful to Christine Higgins who is kindly donating £30 per month towards teachers salaries at our school in Oron, Nigeria. This will enable us to employ professional teachers from Nigerian universities. Under a national assistance scheme these graduates are required to work in local schools for one year. Accommodation and monthly allowances are provided by the school. If at the end of the year they prove satisfactory and they like the school then there is the option of a permanent position.

*Oron now has a telephone centre so Efiang, our project manager, no longer has a days journey to make phone calls!
Congratulations to Efiang and his wife Itim on the birth of a baby boy named Alamanighi.*

HOUSING PROJECT

Our housing project in Chengannur continues under the expert guidance of Jacob and our 30th house is nearing completion. This is Jacobs initial report on the plight of the selected family:

“ASHA and PRASANNA KUMAR & family’s dream for a long time is to have a roof over their head. They are going through difficult times. They have a small plot of land of their own but they live in a tiny thatched hut attached to the house of Prasanna’s brother. (see photo). They have a daughter Anchu aged 10 and son Prasanth aged 5. About 2 years back, Prasanna became ill and was vomiting blood and since then is not able to do hard work. He used to be a daily labourer.

They get very scared in the rains and wind for fear of their hut falling apart. So on nights like that they sleep in their neighbour’s house. The children get very scared of this situation. They do not receive any help from their relatives who themselves are daily labourers finding it difficult to bring up their own families. Asha goes around selling small packets of spices in the neighbourhood and the small margin that she gets is their only income. They are in no position to build a house of their own. Hence their request to the Trust. For sure it is a needy family and their need is a genuine one.”



Jacob is also using funds to pay for repairs on houses that are in a dangerous condition and in desperate need of weatherproofing before the monsoons set in. By doing this we are also spreading the benefits further within the community.

Earlier in the year Jacob was also approached by a lady, Thankamma Varghese, to see if we could help her with the construction of a small cattle shed. She lives alone and has no regular income but had been offered a cow by her church provided she had a shed ready. Jacob agreed this was a deserving case as we try not to just offer money but a means of helping people support themselves or to give them a better standard of living.

MEETING OF SPONSORED FAMILIES IN CHENGANNUR

Around the time of our last newsletter Jacob asked all the sponsored families to attend a meeting so they could get a better understanding of the Trust and to give Jacob a chance to explain the efforts he and supporters put in to help them and how they can build up the personal rapport that we try and encourage. About 140 people attended and this shows the respect given to the Trust and particularly Jacob and his family. Many of the families (after initial shyness) spoke some words of thanks for the help given by Jacob, their sponsors and the Trust. Some children also performed some songs and hymns and the meeting ended with tea and some refreshments.

REQUEST TO SPONSORS

Jacob has been asked by many sponsored children what their sponsors, their families and their homes look like. If you can send a photo or two this would be appreciated and would help build the relationships that we are keen our sponsors should have with their sponsored children. Please do not send letters/snaps to us but direct to Jacob Punnen, The Indo American Club, Chengannur 689121, Kerala, INDIA. Quoting the name of the child and sponsorship case number if you know it. Thankyou!

AID TO CHENGANNUR GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

Jacob often receives requests from local groups and schools for help with provision of equipment or small amounts of aid. Even government run schools have severe problems obtaining funds for their basic needs. One such request resulted in us providing uniforms for children in a government primary school. Our photo shows the children who received the uniforms



REQUEST FOR MAGAZINES

*Jacob has asked if any of our supporters can send him by sea mail any used magazines of any type and quantity including childrens, business, entertainment etc as they do not see many because of the high cost of subscriptions etc. If you feel you can help please send them direct to **Jacob Punnen, The Indo American Club, Chengannur 689121, Kerala, INDIA**. If you mark the packet/envelope `Printed Papers` the cost is only £1.14 up to 250g or £1.90 up to 450g. He would be very grateful for your help.*

WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

An exciting new development is the construction of our own web site in the new year which will enable people all over the world to see information on us and our work, read newsletters, apply for information or make donations. Currently Russell is working with Rob Dubery who runs a web building and maintenance company www.websites-for-small-businesses.co.uk and has very generously offered his services free of charge. Watch out for more details in the next newsletter!

As the festive time of year is approaching we would like to wish all our supporters the happiest Christmas ever and a prosperous and peaceful new year!