

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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EARTHQUAKE RENEWAL and REGENERATION FUND

This is a new fund that we opened on 1st January 2005 following the devastating Tsunami on 26th December. We are hoping to use the funds raised (£950 so far) to aid the south west Indian coast area affected. We have investigated several possibilities and have decided our earlier idea of providing fishing equipment for families may be the most useful. Jacob has been in discussions with local officials and aid distributors and is still working to ensure the money will be used wisely and to the best effect. The funds have not yet been allocated as we always intended it for longer term regeneration and self support rather than immediate short term relief.

KAY`S RECENT VISIT TO NIGERIA

This is a brief report on her visit this year:

I visited Oron 5 years ago with my very good friend Grace Ekong to see Mr Efiog` Idung`s school. We were greatly impressed with the excellent education the 43 nursery children were receiving in the two roomed rented accommodation. On 7th March this year we made a return visit with Graces` fiance, Tom Mcquaid,

It was good seeing the wonderful progress that had been made and watching the children at work in four classrooms and knowing that the school is settled and is no longer liable to be moved on by a landlord as had happened in the past. The school is now a Primary as well as a Nursery school with 100 pupils. This has been achieved by an amazing amount of work and dedication by Efiog, his family and the school staff. The trust has been pleased to help construct the present building which is almost complete. Efiog and the teachers worked hard with the children to present a most enjoyable programme of songs and recitations as well as a formal welcome for us.

We were happy to visit two other schools and to meet pupils being helped by the Trust and two receiving the Chester Mattin Scholarship. We met Godwin who is a border at St Louise`s Special School for Deaf and Mentally Retarded Children, We saw him on our first visit to Eket when he was 5 years old. At that time although attending school, being deaf and dumb, he could not join in lessons but used to help the teachers. Now he has learnt deaf & dumb sign language so is not only able to communicate but is receiving a very good education as shown by his exercise books and the fact that he is top of his class.

We also met Nsidibe at the Methodist Girls Secondary school at Ikot Ekpene. It is a larger school in pleasant grounds with a nice relaxed atmosphere. She was taking her exams but we visited her in her classroom. We also met the headmistress who was very helpful and appreciative of the award of the scholarship to Nsidibe.

All the children are extremely keen to learn and it is very rewarding to know the trust is making it possible for even just these few children to have a good education.



HOUSE 35 COMPLETED

House number 35 was completed for Koshy and his family and this is an extract from a letter that Jacob sent to Peter Swann who generously paid for it. "Mr. Geoff Thorsby (who is a long time associate of the Trust) and his wife Ting very gladly handed over our 35th house to Koshy and his wife Leelamma yesterday, the 10th of March, 2005. It has a nice veranda & two spacious rooms. It was a great day for the family & many of his friends were around. His parish priest Rev. Isaac was also present on the occasion. He graced the moment with a short prayer and blessed the house & handed over the keys to Koshy and family Geoff then cut the ribbon.contd

*This picture shows Koshy`s new house
with his previous home along side*

.....There was a high tea for all his friends n relatives. You can imagine the joy you have brought to the family. Their long cherished dream has been made a reality. As the plot was near water some piling had to be done & so a bit more money went on the foundation. Koshy & his son Binu did a lot of work themselves to help the masons & thus save on costs. Last week we had some unusual heavy summer rains and in the night Koshy shifted to his new dwelling and it is hard for him to believe that he is sleeping under a proper roof. Some months back he was saying that he saw a cobra in his hut. So you can imagine what change you have brought to that family. They are ever so grateful to you!"

CAMEROON SCHOOL PROGRESS

We managed to raise funds to pay for the roof to be completed before the annual rains came. Richard Tambe, our Project Manager in Cameroon, has sent us updated estimates of the costs for completing the school and we are hoping to work with him in joint fundraising and to initially establish a working school in one or two rooms of the new building.

`FEED THE HUNGRY` FUND

This is a new fund that we set up at the end of 2004 to help destitute grans/grandads in the Chengannur area. These had previously been helped by Help the Aged who ceased their activities in the area. We have already sent some funds to Jacob, our Project Manager, and he has distributed supplies of rice and basic necessities to some of the most destitute. We are still seeking donations to enable us to help on an on-going basis.



DIGITAL CAMERA

This is the first photo sent to us by Jacob using the new digital camera that we have provided to help improve our communication. Photos of our Indian projects, children waiting for sponsorship and those already being supported can now be sent instantly where before it would often take 2 or 3 months. The picture shows Ian & Rosemary Riddell two of the Trust's supporters, with Deepa & Lilly (Jacobs wife & mother) during their recent visit. Geoff Thorsby and his wife Ting have also enjoyed a short stay with Jacob and family this year. Visitors from the UK always say what a wonderful time they have had with Jacob and his family. He manages to arrange interesting visits to tourist spots, volunteer work in local schools, and visits to see the houses we have built and families that we help.

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

Recently the Kent Messenger Newspaper (Bromley Extra edition) ran a half page article on our Trust and how Kay started it back in the 1970s. As a result of this quite a lot of local interest has been shown and we have made some new contacts.

DONATIONS and THANKS

Our thanks go to everyone who has generously given amounts large and small over the last few months. We have never received so many donations as we have since we opened our two new funds. We would like our special thanks to go to the following for their donations of £100 or more:-

Bournemouth Health Support Group £100
Chislehurst Churches £1000
Diageo Foundation £100
Holy Trinity Church Bromley £150
Ptarmigan Trust £300
Sheen Mount School £371

Eleanor Bailey £100
Richard Breese (Trustee) £100
Juliet Chaplin MBE £160
David Cox £700
Joyce & John Davys £100

Julie Grigg-Benny £100
Murray Hedgecock £100
Callie Marks £130
Nancy Mauger £300
Ian & Rosemary Riddell £300
Sue Slaughter £200
Geoff Thorsby £100