

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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SHEEN MOUNT PROVIDE NEW HOUSE

Sheen Mount School have provided funds to help build a house for another needy family. Prem Rajan is a daily labourer and when he has work he earns about £3 a day. The family have a small piece of land and he had gathered just about enough money to lay a foundation for a new house which cost him nearly £200. He also managed to get hold of about 250 cut stones and also 2 small loads of sand which he has saved for his dream home. He kept them neatly tucked under plastic sheets so that the sun and rain did not spoil them but he was afraid that he could not build a house without financial help. The family had aid from the local government body about 10 years ago for a toilet but they have to fetch water from the common well nearby. Prem decided he would restrict the size of his new house to 2 rooms that would come to about 300 Sq. ft. in area. They presently live in a shack as seen in the picture which is tough for a family of six, so his new house when finished will make a huge difference to their lives.



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Our scholarships were set up in memory of Chester Mattin ten years ago now with the aim of assisting bright and enthusiastic and gifted children from poor families who would not be able to obtain the right education without our assistance. **Manu** in Chengannur was the first one to receive the scholarship. He had the rare chance to study in a private boarding school from age 11 alongside other bright students who were all from richer backgrounds - something that he could not have dreamt of especially as his father was a stone mason and mother a housemaid. This helped his self confidence and he did well in the final school leaving exams which enabled him to join a diploma course in automobile engineering and this qualification gives him good scope for employment. He has almost finished the course and is now looking for a job but meanwhile he does part time work as an insurance agent. During the ESCT Founders Day celebration earlier this year he gave a very confident speech in which he thanked the Trust for making him what he is today. He said that we have brought out the best in him and that our investment will give him a secure future and a better life. **Elizabeth** in Nigeria was another recipient of the scholarship and details of her achievements have been described in previous newsletters. **Nsidibe** another girl in Nigeria has just passed her final examinations and Idem and Esemé who have been administering this scholarship for us comment "I can say that the Trust has taken a child with no hope and put her through full secondary education, thus helping her to lay the all important foundation that can lead her to higher educational and career possibilities."

We are still helping Godwin, a deaf and dumb boy in Nigeria. Efiang arranges this for us and reports "Today I was in St Louise school, Ikot Ekpene. The school has given the official receipt for N22000 to me for the amount paid as fees. I spoke with the principal about Godwin's prospects. Presently Godwin is in primary 5 class. He will complete primary education next year. I asked the principal what he could do after his primary school. The principal told me he could continue in secondary school with them if fees can be paid. On whether he could learn any trade after primary education, she said they learn computers, sewing, etc. and because Godwin was active and intelligent, she would like him to continue at the school."

We are now commencing two new scholarships firstly for **Emem Umoh** who is studying Biological Education at the university of Calabar, Nigeria. The course is for four years. She is now in the second year. Emem has been struggling to pay her fees, cover her accommodation rentals and feed herself, being abandoned by her father. **Shahidha** has also just been awarded the scholarship and is another deaf and dumb student in Chengannur who was previously sponsored by the late Cyril Gill one of our longstanding supporters. She has always been very good

in her studies and managed to get first class exam results. Her mother is a maid in the gulf. Jacob reports; "Now Shahidha wants to join a degree course - Bachelor of Science in Computer Science in Trivandrum. It is conducted by the National institute of speech and hearing. It is a 3 year course and there are good job prospects. Being in Trivandrum which is about 120 KMs from here she has to be in the hostel there. The scholarship will cover the course fees and the hostel fees. She really wants to do the course and I think she will do well. I have asked her mother and brother in law to contribute something but not sure if they can do it. She has opened a bank account near her hostel and I make the transfers into that. Sometimes she is slow in writing to me but with her handicap it may be understandable. Shahida is doing well at the college. She likes the hostel and the food there and many from that college who are both deaf and dumb stay there and so she enjoys their company. On the day of her initial interview it was a scene to see hundreds of such students talk in their own language and I felt quite out of place!!! I think the course is a very prestigious one and she is so very happy that she is in one of the best places for differently abled students. Her mother thanked us specially for this kind gesture."

ST WILFRIDS Cof E PRIMARY SCHOOL in Ribchester have provided funds to help a local nursery school near Chengannur. Rajani a teacher who runs the nursery approached us for help. It is supported by the Government but as is often the case in India



this help is inadequate. There are about 25 little children attending and she runs it in a small hall. The government provides free meals that she has to cook for the children each afternoon. She does that over an open cooker in the single room so there is always a danger for the children. There is a shutter inside the hall and she wanted to separate that portion into a kitchen so that the children then have a separate area to learn and play in. There was also only an open pit toilet outside. St Wilfrids have kindly provided a

wooden door to separate the hall and also funds to do up the walls and roof and enclose the toilet which is shown in the photo. Our other photo shows some of the children on the steps of the hall.



ST PETERS CHURCH in Parkstone Dorset St Peters Church has recently raised £100 for our projects in Chengannur. This was collected from the sale of refreshments at their musical recitals held at Friday lunchtimes through the summer in the church. We would like to thank everyone involved in making the tea and sandwiches!

GOAT PROJECT

We are providing some goats to Santhosh, a daily labourer, who works climbing trees to pull down coconuts and also fell large trees which is a risky job especially in the rains. His earnings are not sufficient to bring up his family and also to pay for the studies of his only daughter. They have a small piece of land on which they have a tiled house with 2 rooms, a bath and toilet. The family love animals and have a cow and a single goat in a thatched shed behind their house. They call the cow Lakshmi and they feed her and the goat with jackfruit leaves, oil cake and cattle fodder. They would love to rear more goats which would give them a better living and they have agreed to give us back one kid goat every year to pass on to another family. Jacob is currently arranging all the details.

OTHER HELP IN CHENGANNUR

Jacob has also been busy distributing small amounts of aid that make a huge difference to individuals lives. We have provided money for uniforms, books etc for an engineering student Saran Soman and also Aswathy who is training to be a nurse. We provided cement and steel to enable Rajappan to complete a house to replace his banana leaf hut. We have also bought sarees for girls who could not afford them for their wedding day. Rice is still distributed monthly to around 20 destitute elderly people as part of our 'Hungry Fund' operation. So all in all the last six months have been a very busy time. All this would not be possible without the ongoing interest and donations from our supporters old and new so **the Trustees would like to wish all of you, wherever you are, a very festive Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2010.**

Apologies for the reduced sized print but it was the only way to get all the news on 2 pages and keep costs down. Our proof reader said we should offer free magnifying glasses next time !!!!