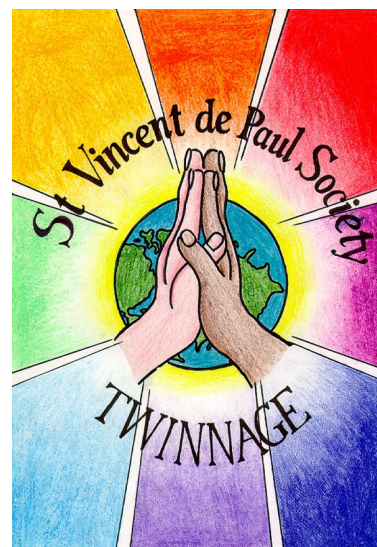


TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER No 113

January 2006

TSUNAMI ORPHANS: David Wiles writes: At the time of writing we have received a total of 2,755 sponsorship applications of which 1,760 are Younger students and 995 are Older. The total committed/paid over 5 years is £467K plus over £70K in potential Gift Aid refunds. This is marvellous and although we have called a formal halt to the Appeal, applications do continue to arrive and we shall continue to meet them as long as numbers are available. Currently there are 87 Younger and 647 Older ones outstanding.



One problem is that the supply of certificates from India has been rather slow. I have distributed well over half by now but I am now awaiting further deliveries from Xavier James Raj. Quite simply, the demand has far exceeded anyone's expectations and it takes time to put the documentation together in India let alone sort them out and distribute them once I have received them. For those of you who do not know, Xavier James Raj is a full-time rocket scientist who commutes to work (not easy in India!) as well as the CC president and Indian Student Sponsorship Organiser. I am very grateful for the patience shown so far and would ask you to endure a little longer. I will distribute them as soon as I receive them.

SUDAN: A comprehensive report from Ian Mawdsley on the tremendous work being carried out by the Society in Sudan is enclosed with this report. Jim McDaid and I will be joining Ian on his visit in February and I hope to be able to make a short visit to Juba during this time.

Juba is in the far south of the country and has been surrounded by SPLA controlled territory for many years. The SVP there has grown to 19 conferences and is undertaking a wide variety of work, particularly with orphans and vagrant children. A wood carving project set up to support them is doing very well and the boys are thinking of starting their own conference to help others even less fortunate. There is also a thought to start a conference in southern city of Wau.

DISASTER FUND: Pakistan – a donation of £10,000 was sent to the Society in Pakistan following the earthquake. Bro. Val Gonsales writes:

I am pleased to inform you that on 31st October, 2005 with the help of Army helicopters we were able to drop for the mountain people 2000 Blankets costing Rs.750,000/= excluding cost of transportation to Chaklala Airport as per Vouchers enclosed. Your timely assistance of British Pounds 10,000/-- permitted us to make an immediate dispatch of Blankets and I am sending you by separate mail photographs of the Trucks carrying the Blankets for your records.

Just for your information the second and final consignment of Blankets will be sent to Kashmir accompanied by Vincentians who will also arrange to distribute them personally.

Mexico / Guatamala - a donation of €10,000 was sent to Council General to support the general appeal for funds for these countries.

Romania – a further donation of €10,000 was sent to Romania to support their flood relief work in Onesti. Mary and Adrian saw a detailed report on this work when they were in Romania.

TSUNAMI CONFERENCES: The take up of twins to support the 43 untwinned conferences has slowed a little and there are still four waiting for twins.

GUYANA: We are still looking for twins for new and re-formed conferences in Guyana. Those most recently formed are away from the coastal strip in the jungle areas.

ANNUAL REPS' MEETING: A date for your new diary. Subject to confirmation from the Depaul Trust our annual meeting will be held at the usual Birmingham venue on Saturday 25th March (Feast of the Annunciation). Confirmation and directions will be sent nearer the date.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

In the meantime may I wish everyone a peaceful and fruitful 2006.