

TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER No 118



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Disaster Fund: A donation of £5000 from the Disaster Fund has been sent to Hallam CC to assist their work in relieving the devastation caused by recent flooding. This work is being coordinated through the Sheffield Furniture Store and will pay for an extra driver and rental van for three months to assist with the extra workload generated as a result of the floods.

Those with computers may wish to use the following link to see photos which will give an idea of the scale of the devastation:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/southyorkshire/content/articles/2007/06/27/flood_gallery_june_07_feature.shtml

Other affected Central Councils may be preparing applications. I am not aware of any at this stage but I know the topic was discussed at the last National Council meeting.

Sudan Appeal: Our appeal has been very successful with 1283 donations now recorded of which almost 900 have come from outside the SVP. Numbers of late have been falling off, hopefully just a summer (?) holiday blip but I would ask that conferences are reminded at CC and DC meetings and encouraged to make appeals within their parishes. Supplies of leaflets can be obtained from National Office.

The success of the appeal has enabled us to pledge to provide £185,000 to SVP Sudan this year, in addition to twinnage monies. Most of this will be used to support their ongoing work with the projects in the displaced persons camps around Khartoum.

David Wiles and Ian Mawdsley recently met with Bro Kamal Tadros, the National Secretary of the SVP in Sudan and Michel Bittar of the Friends of Sr Emmanuelle. From their report it is apparent that our appeal was launched in the nick of time with the baby feeding programme being the

most susceptible to lack of funding as this is the one programme where the SVP have no long term investment.

It became quite clear to them that funding for the work of the SVP in Sudan is not assured very far into the future and that it will require a sustained effort at fund-raising here to keep the levels of help as they are now. Kate Bretherton's report on her visit in February really brings home the reality of the work being undertaken by the SVP in Sudan and shows that we are making a real difference to the lives of these displaced people.

The SVP work in the Sudan is complimentary to other Aid Agencies such a CAFOD but that we are the charity running the largest amount of project work in the Khartoum area.

Among a multitude of other achievements the 'Street Children' project for orphans that we are running has so far produced 4 doctors!

Indian Student Sponsorship: Amid the other great efforts being made the Indian technical and vocational training schemes have taken a bit of a back seat recently. We have redressed this issue with an article in the latest Vincentian Concern and I would ask that this scheme, which is primarily aimed at conferences, is also given a push to enable us to keep the support level at the present 1136 students. Again a little cash is making life changing differences to these young people's lives

SVP Support: There have been a number of queries concerning SVP Support (formerly known as tithes). My view is that we have to accept a certain flexibility and where conferences are deducting support from payments for students or projects we will go along with their interpretation of the rules.

Where conferences wish to have a receipt which also shows the amount of SVP Support which will be refunded to Twinnage I hope you will be able to cope.

The answer to most problems is to remember that any extra twinnage monies which go through the system correctly will result in Twinnage getting the support payment back. The Disaster fund is slightly different as we only get the CC and DC support payment back, where this causes problems eg special collections, an appeal can be made to National Office for a full refund from National Office to the Disaster Fund.