

TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER No 123

November 2008

DISASTER FUND



Burma and China appeal: Thank you to everyone for the magnificent response to the Burma / China appeal. We have been able to send £30,000 to Council General in Paris and, with the Disaster Fund standing at a healthy level will be able to make a second donation as and when we have an update on the work being carried out and the further needs.

Democratic Republic of Congo: At present we have no information about the strength of the Society in the DRC and the needs that the members are able to address. Enquiries are being made and more information will follow as it becomes available.

UK Floods: For those in areas which have been affected by flooding in the last year or so please note that we still have over £5000 available in the Disaster Fund to support any ongoing needs for rehabilitation.

SUDAN CHRISTMAS APPEAL: a Christmas gift brochure offering a range of ideas including the Sudan baby feeding programme has been circulated with the Catholic press and I understand that members will also receive copies with the next Vincentian Concern.

If you or any members are more anxious to obtain forms these can be downloaded from the web site www.twinnage.org.uk and sent either directly to me or to the National Office.

We are asking for £35 to feed a baby for a year and will issue either a gift certificate which can be filled in by the recipient or an acknowledgement certificate.

There will be an article about the Sudan programme in the next Vincentian Concern.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS: Thanks to everyone for the push on Indian student sponsorships. This has produced a gratifying number of additional students but we are still short of the numbers we need to continue our support at the present level. Could you please therefore remember to mention the scheme at your CC and DC meetings.

VISIT FROM INDIA: We were very pleased to welcome Bro Dominic Pinto, the Indian National Twinning Organiser who, accompanied by his wife Michelle, paid a brief visit to London. During his short time with us he was able to attend a conference meeting with our National Treasurer, Bro Joe Woods and also visited our National Office and the SVP shop in Hackney.

Bro Dominic attended the Scottish national meeting in Glasgow before visiting London and has given me a copy of his presentation which I hope to get copied and circulated.

VISIT TO GRENADA & GUYANA: The International Relations Committee has agreed to fund a visit to meet our twinned brothers and sisters in Grenada and Guyana early next year. This will be the first official visit since 1996.

Delegates for the Grenada section of the meeting will come from the two CC s twinned with them, East Anglia and Northampton.

Twinning with Guyana is more widespread and any members who may be interested in making this visit should contact me in the first instance. It will be incumbent on all visitors to produce a written report on the trip and to devote some time to speaking at meetings and promoting our support for the work of the Society in the countries visited on their return.

A DATE FOR YOUR NEW DIARY: I have made a booking for our annual Twinnage Reps' meeting to be held on Saturday 28th March.

As we seem to be getting evermore cramped at Gravelly Hill I have found a new venue which is the Masterson Room at St Chad's Cathedral. St Chad's is easily accessible from the Birmingham inner ring road, has ample free parking and is within reasonable walking distance of New St and Snow Hill stations.

Further details will follow and I hope to see everyone there.