

Application to Wild Rose re: Hope School

After a review of their procedures lasting several months, the Wild Rose Foundation (of Alberta) has given notice that it would again take applications for grants towards projects. However, applications previously submitted would have to be resubmitted. Accordingly, our Executive Director recently applied for \$25,000 (our maximum for a year) from them, to be applied to our support of the Hope schools in the village ends of Hyderabad, India. We await a favourable reply to this application.

At time of writing, the procedures to be followed in applications to CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) after their study of their organization and procedures appear not to have been finalized. However, one of their suggested avenues for receiving grants seems to be through what they term an "Innovation Fund". Sahakarini will investigate applying to it for one project.

Note on other projects, some completed:

The 30 Villages project in Andhra Pradesh – a complex including wells, local committees, training of paramedics, reclaiming of land, and growing of new crops – has been officially completed as of the end of January, 2006, and the final payment has been sent. The organization in India, CCDO, wishes to create another similar project for some other villages. However, it would lay more stress on care of women's needs, on the care of destitute elderly, and on prevention of spread of HIV-AIDS, as well as to include some work in slums. Their proposal has been examined by the Board

of Sahakarini and applications will be made for grant support.

We have sent the final payment for the Tres Coracoes project in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This was for teachers.

In Sierra Leone, in West Africa, we have given partial support to a project of rebuilding agricultural capacity in one of the areas devastated some years ago by a long civil war. Our part had been to finance the provision of some plows, plow oxen, their training, and counselling to farmers about crops and cultivation, similar to what we did last year.

Membership

In adopting new Bylaws a few years ago, it was decided that there would be no membership fee. (It was assumed that persons active in Sahakarini would contribute at some time or other.) However, it was decided that people should apply for membership, by indicating that they supported the purposes of Sahakarini, and that membership should run for two years at a time.

At the planning workshop held in August 2003, the following restatement of Sahakarini's mission was adopted: "Sahakarini helps the poorest of the poor, in developing countries, to help themselves improve their quality of life. We do this by working together with project partners in establishing programs in the areas of education, health, economic and community development."

Application for Membership (new or renewal – valid for two years)

Please print name, address, and phone number (if you wish, also e-mail address) and sign below.

I, _____

of _____

Address

Telephone

e-mail (optional)

commit myself to the purposes of Sahakarini, and hereby apply for membership/renewal of membership in Sahakarini Inter-World Education and Development Assoc.

Signature

(optional) Enclosed is a contribution to the work of Sahakarini in the amount of \$ _____.

Mail to Sahakarini, P.O Box 1685, Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X6



News



Updates

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President's Message by Alan D. Fielding, QC

While travelling in Mexico recently, I noticed that the main roads are very good. The public transportation system (which we always used) is extensive, and connects even the smallest villages by a regular bus system. I also noticed that there is plenty of food in the markets, and apparently everyone has enough to eat. Certainly there are very few beggars.

Recently I heard a talk given by a woman who had spent two years teaching in a village in Tanzania. She described the wonderful people, but also the very poor condition of the roads. They had to make a 10-1/2 hour journey (each way) over atrocious roads in order to buy food for the school. [Ed.'s note: I have read that under the British mandate, given up about 1960, the roads had been kept up.]

These two situations made me reflect on the connection between infrastructure and development. It is probably well known to economists, but not I think emphasized enough by those of us who are interested in sustainable development. We all know and acknowledge that we cannot improve the lives of the poor by aid alone; we need to give them the tools to be able to make and market the goods and services they need to sell to feed their families.

One of the most important tools is infrastructure.

I am talking here about decent roads and an affordable public transportation system, but the same concern can be applied to other public utilities such as water and power. We should in our projects always be ready to advocate for good basic infrastructure – critical to good development.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, May 5, 2006, 7 p.m.

– *Deepa Mehta's EARTH,*
followed by a discussion

Sat., May 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Titles to be announced

#4, 4926-50 Street, Camrose

Admission: Free

Annual General Meeting,

with carry-in supper

Friday, June 2, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

4102-73 Street, Camrose

Fifth Annual Loaves and Fishes dinner

An enjoyable time was experienced at the Norsemen Inn, Camrose, the evening of November 18, 2005, by 181 persons. The number of items contributed for the silent auction had increased a great deal from the previous year. From the dinner, there were revenues of approximately \$38,000 of which some \$4,000 was from the silent auction.

There was a live auction of two items, one of them being the sandals once used by the late Rev. Gordon Schieck. The other was a drum made and used by the “untouchable” class, the Dalits, for calling people together. Since it was of animal skin, other castes would not touch it. The auctioneer for the evening was the Hon. Kevin Sorenson, M.P. for Crowfoot constituency.

Special guests were Dr. Luther Paul Nakka and his wife Jhansy from Hyderabad, south central India. There, their major project has been the HOPE school. They had been in Camrose for some days preceding the banquet and for a few days after, and so were able to visit a number of groups, large and small, including Augustana, CLBI, Gardner College, Jack Stuart and Charlie Killam schools.

At Jack Stuart school, they had spoken to the grade 3 classes. In preparing to talk to them, Luther Paul had read through one of the textbooks they had been studying (as part of the curriculum) which includes a section on India. He was able to fill in the picture more completely. He had very good rapport with the children, and he and Jhansy were impressed by the quality of the questions the children raised as well as their openness and generosity.



Luther Paul shares the story of life in the hutments with Grade 3 children at Jack Stuart School in Camrose.

A special contribution towards the Hope School was

made by students from Jack Stuart School, who, rather than make an exchange of gifts for Christmas, contributed the money in the amount of \$454 towards the HOPE school.

Interestingly, two of the grade 3 students at Jack Stuart went on to make presentations to grades 4 and 5 and invited them also to support HOPE school this year.

At Charlie Killam school the drama class, under the guidance of teacher Jen Lindstrand, had met several times with Luther Paul and Jhansy. As a result some of the class put together for the banquet a dramatization of the Bible story of the loaves and fishes, interspersed with events in the founding and growth of the HOPE school in India, in which what started as a small gift became a brighter future for hundreds of children.

At the banquet, each table displayed drawings by children from the school in India. (See picture.)



Tables were decorated with colorful drawings made by the children from HOPE School. Dinner guests were invited to draw their own pictures which were sent back to the children. Stick figures are a universal language!

At the banquet, Luther Paul and his wife Jhansy were introduced by Prof. Jack Waschenfelder and his wife Signe Swanson. Some years ago, Jack and Signe had experienced the hospitality of Luther Paul and Jhansy in India and had been inspired and challenged by what the latter had been trying to do for slum dwellers in their city of Hyderabad.

In his talk that evening, Dr. Luther Paul described how the organizing of the school had arisen as a consequence of their concern with the health of people in these areas. At one time among those who were destitute and asking for help was a woman who became their first teacher. As he often did, Dr. Luther Paul had enquired about what skills she might have and found that she was a teacher but unemployed. They engaged her to teach,

“I had the privilege of congratulating and giving a gift to each of the graduates. Mr. Rood presented the diplomas that were organized and printed by Paul Breau. The teachers were acknowledged also and a gift given to each of them...”

“A dinner ... was provided for all who attended...”



Graduating with a strong sense of occasion.



Male student proudly models his suit.

We quote some of the letter sent by Phyllis Newby for the graduation:

[After expressing greetings, she paid tribute to Hans Steinke.] “On several visits to Haiti he always worked hard at whatever he did, although he was in his 70s, loving Haiti and the people of Haiti with a passion. He

wanted to find a way by which he could help as many persons as possible to be able to provide a living for themselves. He firmly believes in the Chinese proverb of teaching a man to fish... Finally, he hit on the tailoring projects and Tailoring Project Sahakarini of Canada – Saintard came into being. The idea was to train 50 persons through the program but we actually had 92 persons attending classes. A few of these trainees fell through the cracks – illness, moving to a locale too far from the Centre and a few found the program too difficult. However, the success of the program is attested in that at the first graduation 14 received diplomas and today 54 will.

“The program had its share of problems....

“The first group of students had an added dimension to the tailoring. They were taught millinery skills, using fabric from Mrs. Susan Breau...”

“It would be remiss not to pay tribute to two men: Pastor Jean Mie Louis Jean...[what] he has done to make this program the success it has been. From the ground plans, shopping for things, being calm under pressure, encouraging... And Maitre Pierre Rood Dugue (Mr. Rood).. . as director and as the visible head [of this program].”

We also quote a bit from a letter of Mr. Saintfleur to Paul Breau (as translated by Mr. Breau):

“...For the Sahakarini Sewing Center, it is working out very well. There are seventeen [new] students... Sahakarini Sewing Center is becoming Sahakarini Professional School of Saintard.” That is, on their own, they are continuing the sewing instruction, but have also added other courses.

Mr. Saintfleur mentioned that there were now just three machines (provided by Sahakarini) plus one owned by his wife. So, at our Board meeting of January 19, 2006, it was agreed that we would enquire whether they could use an additional three machines, and if so, we would spend up to \$1,000 towards these. (These have to be treadle machines, and part of the instruction was in how to do this.)

Mr. Breau picked up a number of dresses while in Haiti in June 2005, paying something for them, and is gradually selling them, to remit any profit back to the woman who made the dress.

Education is key to a brighter future for millions of people in developing countries. While progress has been made – more than 84 percent of the world’s children now attend school – more needs to be done. More than 800 million people are illiterate and 115 million children, most of them girls, have never seen the inside of a school.

(From Canada’s International Policy Statement)

Celebration in Haiti

Amid all the news of political, social, and economic difficulties in Haiti, it is wonderful to be able to report a happy occasion, the result of a constructive work. On December 4, 2005, 54 persons graduated from a tailoring course at the village of Saintard. (Saintard is in the west part of Haiti, about 25 miles from Port-au-Prince.) Sahakarini (supported by the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation) had contributed to this project for a number of years.

A number of difficulties were encountered some years back by those organizing and running the course and the duration of Sahakarini's support had to be extended. These were complicated by political difficulties, and there were sometimes breaks in our communication with our partners there. So what actually came about was in several respects a delightful surprise to us.

The project was suggested by the Rev. Hans Steinke of Mississauga Ontario, who had been in contact with Phyllis Newby, a missionary nurse in the country. Over the years Pastor Steinke has interested others in the project, some of whom have also been contributors to it. Recently these have included Mr. Paul Breau of Hamilton and a friend Dennis Vandenburg, as well as (Mrs.) Karen Goodyear.

(Incidentally, on his own, Mr. Breau has become a supporter of a kindergarten in the same location; Sahakarini, however, is not involved in this.) For the sewing centre graduation, Mr. Breau prepared and printed the diplomas. Karen Goodyear represented Sahakarini.

Among those participating in leadership of the project at Saintard were also Mr. Pierre Rood Dugue and Pastor Jean Mie Louis. In recent years Mr. Jean Dorsainvil Saintfleur (who initiated the kindergarten two years ago) has become involved, and his wife Manassee has recently become the principal instructor. A few years ago the sewing centre moved to the Saintfleur home where the machines were more secure than in an earlier location.

Because of serious illness – only after some time diagnosed as malaria – Phyllis Newby was not able to be present at the graduation, but wrote a letter, which was read and also translated into Creole. We will later quote parts of it.

After the ceremonies, Karen Goodyear wrote Gail Stolee a description, from which we quote parts:

“Graduation – Sahakarini Sewing Project...Sunday, Dec. 4, 2005. The event was well attended (150 including graduates) with delight, excitement and appreciation from everyone.

“The classes presented a wonderful display of blouses, shirts, skirts, dresses, hats, men's pants, children clothing, suits, jackets ... Several of the graduates modelled for the guests the clothing they had made, evening dresses, a man's suit, everyday dresses, shirt and pants, business skirt and jacket, blouses...



Graduates wearing their creations pose in front of a display of other items they have made.

“The Master of Ceremonies introduced the speakers and each of the graduates (as they walked into the room) to family and friends. The letter from Alan Fielding, President of Sahakarini, was read in English by myself and translated into Creole to the graduates and their guests. Mr. Rood communicated the message that Phyllis Newby had prepared...



Sewing School graduates arrive.

“...Gifts were prepared in Canada for the graduates by Pastor and Mrs. Hans Steinke. Each gift contained a pair of scissors, two spools of thread, measuring tape, thread needles, tailoring pins and \$5 US.

promising her a salary – even though at the time they had no means of paying it – and the school began under a tree. This had been seven years ago.

Since then, their school has expanded to two locations, and in buildings (for one of which Jhansy supervised the construction, acting as contractor). The school now has over three hundred pupils. They receive training in basic mathematics, social studies and health instruction, in three languages, English, Hindi and Telegu.

Their parents are illiterate, day labourers, cleaners and rock chippers, living as squatters in hutments in various “village ends”. This is because most are drawn from the layer below the official castes, the Dalit (in past times referred to as “untouchables”).



A Grade 3 student explores the hut made of sticks, cardboard and plastic. Huts just like this are home for most of the children at HOPE School. As many as 10 people may live in one hut.

At the school, the students receive a well-rounded meal, a uniform, a bottle of water to take home, vaccinations against diphtheria, smallpox and polio; if needed, also a bath and change of clothes at the beginning of the day. Since their homes do not have electricity, they also do their homework at the school.

Dr. Luther Paul also described how the school was not only one of hope for the children, but also gradually for their parents. For instance, where originally there was high dropout – when children got old enough to work (too young by our standards) – this has been decreasing as parents saw the advantage of education.

One of these has been children able to help their parents with encounters with writing and even to lead some to literacy.

The organization begun by Luther Paul and Jhansy is called SERVE (Society for Enlightenment and Reorganization of Village Ends). They hope to be able to have students continue through grade 10. This will depend on getting broader support.

In recent years, Jhansy has been conducting nursing training of 18 months each (with a class to have graduated this January). They have also given some vocational training in sewing, and making of food preservatives, soap powder and disinfectants. These latter activities are so far a small way of producing income.

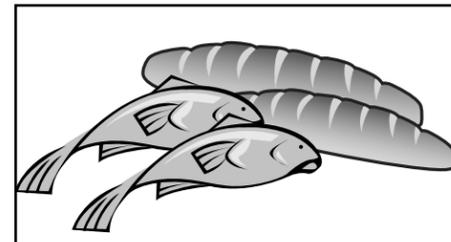
Besides the contacts and contributions mentioned earlier, the Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak has also contributed \$500 for books. Literacy is an important concern of Rotary both at home and abroad and this was an opportunity to address that concern.

Donations towards the school are still coming in. (For instance, we have heard of a recent offering by the women's organizations of Bethel and Messiah Lutheran Churches for this purpose.)

Sahakarini is continuing support for the school and hopes in future to present a project to CIDA towards other aspects of the work of SERVE.



Jhansy (left) demonstrates some of the silver jewellery and other items at the marketplace, a popular feature of the evening.



The 2006 Loaves and Fishes dinner is planned for Saturday, November 18, at the Norsemen Inn in Camrose