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News



Updates

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Highlights of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the fiscal year 2006-07 was held June 2, 2007, at Bethel Lutheran Church, Camrose. After a carry-in supper, a business meeting was held, followed by two presentations: first by Signe Swanson about experiences in visiting the work of SERVE in Hyderabad, India, and then, briefly, by Horst Depner on the Brazil work camp. (See mention in the President's and other reports.)

In general, among the challenges, this year has been felt to be one of great joy, both about accomplishments and contacts, and in anticipation of future developments.

Following are edited versions of reports distributed at the meeting. (Full reports may be had from the Sahakarini office).

President's Report 2006-2007

Alan Fielding

A dusty village in rural Guatemala. We [Gail and Dave Stolee, Tom and Diane Kieren, Valerie and I] are sitting in a circle with a group of women who have received small loans from a Sahakarini microcredit project. Before we begin, the women want us to introduce ourselves and they in turn introduce themselves to us. They make it clear that while they appreciate the financial support, they appreciate even more the opportunity to develop a personal relationship, albeit brief, with us.

It made me reflect that all of our work is based on developing good relationships.

The Loaves and Fishes Dinner, which was held November 18, 2006, was a wonderful success and is Sahakarini's main opportunity to develop relationships with our friends, supporters and donors. Thank you to Signe Swanson and her crew for making this dinner such a success.

Mark your calendars: this year's Loaves and Fishes Dinner will be held at the Norsemen Inn on Saturday, November 24, 2007.

Part of building relationships between Sahakarini supporters and those we help was the quilt project. Thank you to the quilters led by Linda Dey who took the squares decorated by the guests at the Loaves and Fishes Dinner and made

them into beautiful baby quilts. The quilts were distributed in Brazil, India and Guatemala. True comforters.

In 2005, a strong relationship was forged between the students at Jack Stuart School and Luther Paul and Jhansy, our partners from SERVE in India who paid a visit to the school. Special thanks go to the children and their families who chose to remember the slum children of Hyderabad at Christmas again this year. The relationship between our children and grandchildren and those in the developing world is so important for the future.

We are pleased to have built a solid relationship with both the Wild Rose Foundation [Alberta] and the Canadian International Development Agency [Canada] which has resulted in successful applications for matching funding. The Wild Rose Foundation provides matching funding on a one-to-one basis and then that funding has been matched three to one by CIDA.

We also need to continue to develop our relationships with our project partners. Signe Swanson and her daughter Amy travelled to Hyderabad, India in February and March of this year to evaluate and prepare a large CIDA-funded project with our partner organization SERVE. Horst Depner led a group of Sahakarini volunteers on a work camp in Marsilac, Brazil in March. They successfully raised more than \$40,000 towards this project.

Margery Monsma Gaede organized the second annual Sahakarini film Festival on April 13 and 14, 2007. We see this as an important local outreach of Sahakarini to develop

Membership

Membership in Sahakarini is available through application to those who commit to the purposes of Sahakarini. There is no membership fee. Applications are accepted by the Executive at its regular meetings. Membership will be for two years (approximately, depending on application date; in practice, to Mar. 31 and Sept. 30).

Mission (purpose) of Sahakarini: "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 sustainable programs in the areas of education, health, economic and community development."

If you are committed to the goals of Sahakarini and wish to apply for membership (or renewal), please complete the form below.

Application for Membership / Renewal of Membership

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

I, _____

of _____

Address

Telephone

Email (optional)

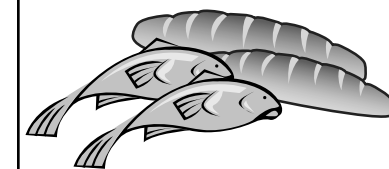
commit myself to the purposes of Sahakarini, and hereby apply for membership/renewal of membership in Sahakarini Inter-World Education and Development Assoc.

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

2007 Loaves & Fishes Dinner



**Saturday
November 24**

**Doors open 5 p.m.
Dinner at 6 p.m.**

**Norsemen Inn,
Camrose**

**Call 679-4385
for tickets**

contacts with those who are interested in development overseas, and to provide an opportunity for reflection and discussion of current issues.

I would like to thank the board members and other volunteers who have given so generously of their time and energy to further the important work of Sahakarini. In all, we have had a very busy and successful year.

Report on Projects 2006-2007

Gail Stolee

[Since some of this has been covered in previous issues, this is much condensed.]

Each year at Sahakarini is much the same and yet very different. In 2006-2007, we carried out more than the usual number of projects without the participation of CIDA, and at the same time were awarded, by CIDA, a significant new project under the Innovation Fund and completed most of the requirements for what we hope will be another under the newly established Voluntary Sector Fund.

In Sierra Leone, we partnered again with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee to help farmers increase their food production through the use of animal traction. Unfortunately, yields were poor because of a lack of adequate rain for the rice crops. Nonetheless, all the loans from the phase 1 and 2 farmers were paid in full with interest except for the Yiffin farmers who had the poorest crops. We hope for better rain and crops this year.

In India, we fulfilled our commitment to SERVE to provide three years of support for HOPE School with over 300 students in grades 1-7 in 2006-07.

[As reported earlier] the most exciting initiative has been in Guatemala where we have been able to assist Mayan women in three villages with a micro-credit project. The work is under the auspices of the Kaqchikel Presbytery (KP), a fully indigenous organization involved in health, education, and community development, to which we were introduced by Hans Olson of Camrose who served as a CIDA intern in the villages.



On a recent vacation in Guatemala, several of us were able also to visit the villages located outside of Chimaltenango, about an hour from Guatemala City. Each village has a strong women's group, and they put great importance on education for their children. One said, "We may not benefit so much,

but our children will change the world." I hope.

For several years, while CIDA underwent a review, we were unable to access the matching funds which enable us to do much larger projects. However, we were successful last fall in receiving approval of a project to work with SERVE in Hyderabad, India for two years, aimed at helping the people become stronger and more self-sufficient.

Application has also been made for another project with CCDO under the leadership of Dr. Luke. We are still ironing out a few details, but anticipate that this 3-year project will be accepted. It will be similar in thrust to the last one (30 villages), but with added emphasis on girl child education, care of elders, and HIV/AIDS. If successful, this will provide a 3:1 match in funds.

Highlights of the Brazil Workcamp – March 2007

Submitted by Horst and Karin Depner

On March 2, 2007, five people from Winnipeg, Camrose and Edmonton set off to Brazil, to be joined a few days later by others from Hamilton, Ontario. We ranged in age from 16 to 86. It was so nice to have four young people under 25 to participate. We worked at a seniors' home on a farm on the outskirts of Sao Paulo in a building that was once part of a pig barn but which had been enlarged and reconstructed. We were put to work sanding, staining and varnishing 23 doors, installing wooden ceilings, doors, casing and baseboard in the rooms, and in building shelves and closets. My mother, Emmy Schultz sewed curtains for all the rooms, 20 altogether. We also worked at putting grout in tiles that had been placed.

The workcamp group also toured four area daycares, and we were impressed by the quality of care for the little ones. We are very thankful to all those who supported this workcamp by praying and donating money, tools and clothing to the needs there. We were able to give over \$43,000 towards the seniors' home.

Having been on ten workcamps now, we continue to see them as very worthwhile experiences and something we would encourage everyone to participate in at some time in their lives.

Additional from annual meeting

Financial highlights (fiscal year April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007): Receipts, donations (including some from auction at dinner), \$124,124; grants \$85,000; some other smaller categories, a total of \$220,207. Expenditures, \$199,770, of which \$173,961 went to projects. (Of funds on hand, some are designated towards projects. Times of remittances depend on grants, reports, and local conditions.)

Those serving on the Board of Directors will continue in office, with some shifts in responsibilities. They have been Alan Fielding, Vincent Eriksson, David Stolee, Gail Stolee, Herb Anderson, David Bartel, Horst Depner, Roy Hehr, Mary Ellen Eriksson, Margery Gaede, Signe Swanson, and Ken Taylor. Vincent Eriksson will be relinquishing the position of vice-president (successor not yet determined),

and taking over as recording secretary (and keeper of file on membership); he will likely also relinquish compiling of the newsletter.

Sahakarini Film Festival

Tell me a story... Stories, better yet stories with pictures, are a powerful way to communicate ideas, generate insight, stimulate discussion, and encourage action. The Second annual Sahakarini Film Festival focused on women's stories from around the world. The first film, Moolaade, made by an elderly Senegalese film maker used the situation of six young girls who refused the rite of female circumcision and in doing so challenged both the women and men in their community. The courage of a few, and the intrusion of outside media – the radio, in this case, that brought information directly to the people – were the catalyst for change. The film highlighted the many ways in which technology is a player in change and development. A presentation by a young woman who had spent a year in Malawi with Engineers without Borders shared her first hand experience of learning and making a difference in a girls' school. Another film festival is planned for this year with details to follow.

Who is our neighbour?

Students at two schools thought carefully about that question and the follow-up one: How do we treat our neighbours? They read stories about life in other countries and then put together posters that expressed their answers. Love, fairness, equality, and the right to the basics for a healthy life were common themes. The project was part of Sahakarini's public awareness campaign. We found that teachers were interested and hope that more classes will participate in the new year. The posters below were made by students from Our Lady of Mount Pleasant School.

Poster by Jesse Ruser, Ryan Huolt, Dylan Durand and Dustin Palmerchuk (dark one).



Donors, April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following individuals and organizations. (If somehow we miss a name, please accept our apologies.)

Robert and Martha Adams, Ardelle Ries and Roger Admiral, AFSC, Herb and Carolyn Andersen, Debi Anderson, Jim and Sharon Anderson, Muriel Anderson, Sharon Anderson, John Anderson and Marilyn Murray, Anonymous, Garry Appelt, Lawrence and Minnie Arnold, Johs and Janine Asfeldt, Elisabeth Bagdan, Doris Bailey, Brandon and Shalom Ball, Ruth Ball, David and Muriel Bartel, Sam Bartel, Selma Bartel, Ted Belter, Lawrence and Marlene Bergquist, Otto and Elfriede Bergquist, Horst and Doris Birkholz, Lee Bjorgum, Phyllis Bjorgum, Janet and Sterling Bjorndahl, Ray and Norma Blacklock, David and Theresa Blackmore, Siegbert and Ruth Bockrandt, Florence Boden, Alan and Jean Bouck, Howard and Phyllis Bouck, Elfia Breitkreuz, Ivy Breitkreuz, Monica Breitkreuz, Susanna Bruneau, Erich and Edeltraud Buerger, Bob and Ruth Burke, Clifford and Helen Campbell, John and Betty Campbell, Camrose Pipe, Central Agencies Inc., Pam Chamberlain, Church of God (Kelowna), Church of God Faith Promise Mission, Elsie Combs, Leslie Congdon, Margaret Congdon, Kathleen Corcoran, H. Elizabeth Cowan, Barry and Joyce Cowie, David and Darlene Dahle, Horst and Karin Depner, Ken and Angie Depner, Gerry and Margaret Derksen, Waldy and Wanda Derksen, Joy-Anne Murphy and Darryl Dewalt, Gerrie and Linda Dey, Ken and Iris Drever, Tim and Shirley Dubland, Judith and Harold Dueck, Lawrence and Denise Dufresne, Mary Durand, Donald Easton, Dorothy Easton, Dave and Jan Edwards, Fran and Red Elliott, Irene Engst, Doug and Naomi Enns, Roger Epp and Rhonda Harder Epp, David and Barbara Eriksson, Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson, Catherine M. Evans, Irene Ewert, Josette Faltreschi, Maria Fast, Alan and Valerie Fielding, Phyllis Fisher, Alan and Ruth Ford, B.H. (Berdie) Fowler, Ulrich Frank, Stan and Janet Franklin, Gerald and Susan Gaede, Harry and Margery Gaede, Lisa Gaede, Bruce and Sharon Gair, German Church of God, German Church of God (Winnipeg), Gian Gibson, Nora Gilbertson, Edna Good, Clarence and Mabel Goosen, Laverna Grandfield, Ron and Vivianne Grue, Henry Gusse, Rudi and Hilda Gutzman, Nancy Hanneman, Lucille A. Hansman, Agnes Hanson, Tim Hanson, Jonathan Hawkins and Michelle Kennedy Hawkins, Alan and Ella Heffren, Roy and Mary Hehr, Lana and Dwight Hennig, Howard and Sandra Hildebrand, Trevor Hildebrand, Adolf and Maria Hill, Katja Hinz, Tony Hladun and Deanne Morrow, Harry and Ingrid Hoehne, Darlene Hoffman, Anjah Howard, John and Nancy Howard, Barry Nolan and Agnes Hubert, Diane Hutchinson, Don and Nola Hutchinson, Asgeir Ingibergsson, Jack Stuart School Students, Dorothy Jackson, Janet Janssen, Dennis Johnson, Ira and Adeline Johnson, Larry Johnson, Ray and Isabel Johnson, Dale and Nanette Jones, Martin and Connie Kaefer, Frieda Karl, Katepwa Farms, Garry and Betty Kellsey, Yvonne Kelly, Tom and Diane Kieren, Carl and Evelyn Kober, Henry Krenz, Erwin Kugler, Evelyn Kugler, Mike Jones and Alyson Lavers, Peter and Joy LeBlanc, Wilma J. Lee, Herman and Doreen Leicht, Fritz and Renata