



## Eleventh Meeting

### FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

DATE commencing: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 TIME: 9 am  
DATE completion: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008 TIME: 9 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network  
[fswl-australia@googlegroups.com](mailto:fswl-australia@googlegroups.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting

### 1. Rollcall of members and others present and apologies.

There were 5 participants in attendance  
Robert Coenraads (President)  
Delphine Swadling (Secretary)  
Kathleen Swadling (Committee)  
Yvonne Hirt (Committee)  
Saskia Raevouri

### 2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Tenth meeting were sent to each member of the committee and were accepted by the committee  
Moved by Yvonne Hirt and Seconded by Delphine Swadling

### 3. Reports from the Committee.

The President's Report was received by the committee

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I welcome you all to the 11th meeting of FSWL Australia.

I am also sure that you will be pleased to know that during next week FSWL - Australia will be sending off a donation of \$670 to Sister Crescence.

For our accounts the breakdown is as follows

- Allan Platcher	\$250
- Coenraads Family	\$250
- Kevin Bermeister	\$50
- Yvonne Hirt	\$120

Thanks again to all of the committee for taking the time to participate, your continued enthusiasm, and for your valuable comments.

Kind regards,  
Dr. Robert Coenraads (President)

#### 4. Progress in Thailand.

#### 5. Progress in India

An update on the activities of our Indian scholarship students from Sister Mary Elise on behalf of Sister Crescence. It is most satisfying to see how they are all coming along. Hopefully the assistance of FSWL has been able to reduce somewhat their life's burden, possibly eventually freeing them up to assist others in their struggles.

Dear Robert,

Loving greetings from Sister Crescence and all students getting scholarships. Last year, in November, when Sue and Saskia with John came to India, these Scholarship Children presented a Program for them. I wish you had been here. Now I am giving you some current information regarding their studies.

THIS IS AS FOLLOWS:

##### ASHISH KUMAR MAJHI [boy, age 19]

Ashish is a poor but very intelligent boy and has always secured first place in all of his classes. His father is a cook in one of the convents. Ashish began at the Motihari Evening school and from there was recommended to the formal school, St Mary's Motihari. Since Ashish has 4 sisters and one brother, his father, Nagender Majhi, has not been able to help him as he only earns Rs.1800 per month. Ashish has finished 12th exams. His further plan is to be laboratory technician and support his father by his earning.

##### PRASANT D' CRUZE [Boy, age 19]

Prasant is a student of St Mary's Motihari. His father, Anil, is a man of small means who finds it very difficult to meet the yearly expense of Prasant's education. Prasant has turned out to be a Champion in School athletics, especially in running, long jump and cricket. At Present passed 12th from a Jesuit school at Bettiah and is going for college Studies.

##### SONAL [Girl, age 18]

She has done her schooling at St Teresa's Girl's School, Bettiah and has completed class 10. All through her career she has been a born leader obtaining awards in elocution, dance, songs, drama, art and paintings. In dance she attends competitions on district and diocese level especially in Bharatyam dance.

##### JYOTI MANJHI [Girls, age 19]

She studied up to class 5 in N.F.P. Education. She was found very bright there and was promoted to Sacred Heart School Bettiah run by Sacred Heart Sister's. She passed 10th and was taken by our Superior general to Patna for college studies. Now she has completed 12th. She is studying Computer.

##### RUFUS [Boy, age 6]

Rufus passed class 1st from St Stanislaus Pathshala Bettiah and we helped him to get admission in Class 2nd of mission School Bettiah run by Jesuits. Rufus obtained 1st Rank in his class.

##### SPANNA KUMARI [Girl, age 8]

She did her Schooling in a Hindi M. School up to class 1st at Chuhari village. Since she happened to be a very bright her mother got her admitted in St Michale's an English medium School in Bettiah. Here too she secures above 85% in every Subjects. She is in class 2nd, After the class she becomes a teacher at home and teaches the girls. She imitates her teacher.

MARIYAN BENEDICT [Girl, age 7]

Mrs. Ashok Benedict is a man of small means. He lost his father at age 5, and his windows mother brought him up and educated him to secondary school level. He married and had 3 daughters. Mariyan has passed class 2nd in Mission Middle School Bettiah Securing rank 1st in December exams. Liza Benedict is still in Aloysious Pathsale Bettiah.

NIKITA RAI [Girl, age 13]

Nikita Rai is the only daughter of Remy Rai and Daya Nindi, residents of Varansi. At age 3, Nikita got severe burns (60%) and her right hand was severely damaged. She is a student of class 8th in an English Medium School at Varansi. Nikita's father is an assistant librarian in a private School earning Rs 5000 Month for the upkeep of the family. The parents are worried about Nikita RAI's future and an application has come to me requesting for some help for her studies, and I recommend her for your Kind Consideration.

SONU VICTOR [BOY, AGE 14]

Sonu is a poor boy but his mind is very sharp in studies. His father's name is Victor Ishahaq who has no any job and has not been able to help in studies. While their mother, Asha earns some income as a nurse in Bettiah. Student of class 9th in Sacred Heart School in Bettiah. He has a extra actives, such as dance, drama, sport. Competiton and elocution. His further plan is to become a doctor.

DEEPAK GYAN [BOY, AGE 12]

Deepak is the first child of Gyan Prakash and Clara, unfortunatunately. Gyan turend to be, a a drunkard and made the life of all three miserable. So Clara left her home and came to a Convent. There she was giving a job to look after sick Sisters. These Sisters sent Deepak to Malighat, a Convent School. They requested me to help Deepak, who is in class 3rd.

ALAKA FANCICS [GIRLS, AGE 7]

She is very quit girl and intelligent girl. His father has no job but he earns something at casual works. Her mother earns Rs. 1500 per month, so she finds it very difficult to provide for the education of Alaka. Now Alaka is in class 3 of Sacred Heart School, Bettiah.

DISCUSSION ON INDIA

**Saskia:** The other day you posted a letter from Sr. Crescence with the progress of children being sponsored. I can't find it anywhere! Would you please resend it to me? Meanwhile, attached is a letter Sr. Crescence sent me on the same day. I am confused because I thought some of these girls were already being sponsored by you. I need to compare names. For instance, I had intended to sponsor Sapana, but I recall her being on your list as well.

I have not yet sent Crescence money for the girls I had planned to sponsor, because the information/communication has been too vague and confusing. When I sent Crescence money last year for two particular boys in Sugauli, it turned out completely different boys were selected and I don't even have their names. One reason this needs to be very clear is to make sure favored children (such as their own nieces and nephews, etc.) are not given priority over the best and brightest children. On our first trip to Patna Sr. Rosita introduced us to a "very bright" boy named Sagar, whose poverty-stricken parents could not afford his education, and after I sent some money, it turned out he was Rosita's own nephew and that both parents had jobs.

Do you have a complete list of the children you and the other Aussies are sponsoring? When I return in November I'd like to create a master list to prevent two people from sponsoring the same child. This will also give me more confidence in raising money.

**Robert:** Here is that email form Mary Elise with the update from Sister Crescence. I will send you my full updated list shortly - and also I am now making a spreadsheet (also attached

here) which will make it easier for us to keep a track on things. I have gone through the sponsorship list in the letter that Sister Crescence (probably her assistant) sent to you and note:

1. Sapana - Yes, I have Sapana's story on my list, and a note that you are sponsoring her. I also have you down as sponsoring Pratima Das and Jyoti Manjhi. As you have not yet sent any letter or money, perhaps they are unaware that you still intend to do so?

2. Sonal - daughter of Vincent Paul - she is on my list and has been sponsored by my daughters Francheska and Leonora for some time now (remember the family photo I sent you a while back). We send regular correspondence to Samridhi and Sonal through Sr. Crescence and receive replies from them, so I am in fact surprised to see Sonal's name on a list asking for sponsors

3. Deepshika and Suchita - I have not heard of these children before that have appeared on your list, but I will now add them to the master list.

4. Some new names have appeared in the update sent to me - Sonu, Deepak and Alaka - I have also added these to my master list

On my original list I also have Lisa Benedict, Mariyan Benedict and Nikita Rai with no one listed as a personal sponsor. I have on several occasions written to Sister Crescence telling her to ensure that no student misses out (by using some of our general donation from Australia for this purpose) regardless of whether we have found a personal sponsor for them or not. I assume that this is being done, although no one has explicitly confirmed this.

As I mentioned to Sue in the past, it is probably getting harder and harder for Sister Crescence to manage all of this, and being an exceptional person, the people around her are nowhere near her standard, nor as thorough or organized. Notwithstanding the convenience of email, the communications are by no means as detailed through her "assistants" as when I used to receive hand written letters from Sister Crescence. Our disadvantage is that we are not there on the ground, and are dependent on the people over there to organize everything for us. We have our hands somewhat tied in this respect, and it will be difficult to avoid sponsoring "favoured children", but I am hoping that this number will remain relatively small in comparison to the total that we are going to end up sponsoring.

The original aim of the scholarships was to ensure that the brightest of kids in the FreeSchools were able to attend regular day school (and who would have no hope of doing so otherwise). The program has, since its humble beginnings in 2000, expanded to see us continue to support some of those children now college level (plus some new ones). This is not such a bad thing either as it ensures that these students will take a place in their society where they can, in turn, contribute back. But, yes, hopefully we can see it stay properly organized and on track to give us confidence to seek new sponsors. Thank you for your continued support and efforts, Saskia.

**Saskia:** Thank you so much! I like the idea of having a Master List, and when I return in November I'll take it with me, if that is okay with you. The cases of Sapana and Sonal are baffling! I recall the letter you posted from Samhridi and Sonal's father, acknowledging that your daughters were sponsoring his daughters!

I have sent several emails to Sr. Crescence with particular questions that I needed answered before sending her money. So far I have not received adequate responses. Sue (on her recent visit) did manage to get some answers (which I will quote from as soon as I can locate them!), but I am still confused. I had intended to sponsor Sapana, Pratima, and Jyoti. Apparently Pratima is no longer eligible, and about Jyoti she said, "Robert will sponsor." And now Sapana is apparently already being sponsored! You can see why I am holding back.

I have met several people who would like to sponsor a child, but I think I need to sit down with Crescence and your master Excel spreadsheet first, before feeling confident enough to take in money for this cause. Thanks again for all your work!

**Robert:** Thank you for preparing to sort all of that out. It sounds like there might be several groups or individuals sponsoring children and Sister Crescence is having difficulty

remembering exactly who is who. Of course you and I are jointly sharing our list - but, yes, I don't know who is personally sponsoring Pratima, as I did not have any personal sponsor for her - I only had you listed there.

Although, as I mentioned already, I did tell Sister Crescence to cover all of the children on the list from our Australian Funds until such time as we organized a personal sponsor. By personal sponsor, I mean someone who may end up writing to that student and developing a longer term one-to-one bond and interest - after the success of the bond developing between my kids and Samridhi and Sonal. So that is something to sort out in November - while in the meantime hopefully resting assured that all them are happily at school. Thanks again Saskia.

**Sue:** Dear Saskia (and Robert), First of all, both attachments from Sr. Crescence are very well written and presented. Kudos to Sr. Crescence! I'm also very glad to hear that she is purchasing materials now, because prices are bound to increase. This final estimate is coming in at \$24,351 U.S. and apparently is for hard construction costs only. Specific finishing costs are missing from the estimate, including electrical and plumbing fixtures, tables, chairs, blackboards, storage, beds, bureaus and linens (to name a few) which I would estimate to cost roughly another \$3000. Saskia, amazingly, you raised \$18,000 last year and I'm thinking you might want the next campaign to raise another \$10,000 - \$12,000, factoring in the increased size and scope of the renovation and the unforeseen increases in costs of materials and labour. I trust you both can work out the scholarship details. All these kids are precious beyond belief and I'm convinced they are our best investment in a better tomorrow for our poor and suffering Urantia.

Thanks for all that you both are doing. Love, Sue

## 6. General Business.

The following discussion took place during the meeting and is recorded here:

## 7. Set date and time for COM meeting. Close meeting

Meetings of the Committee of FSWL Australia will be held on the first Friday of each month. The next official meeting will be from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2008.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement

END OF MINUTES

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