



Thirteenth Meeting

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

DATE commencing: Friday 4th July 2008 TIME: 9 am
DATE completion: Sunday 6th July 2008 TIME: 9 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network
fswl-australia@googlegroups.com

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Rollcall of members and others present and apologies.

There were 8 participants in attendance
Robert Coenraads (President)
Ben Bowler (Vice President)
Ian Esmore (Public Officer)
Delphine Swadling (Secretary)
Merindi Swadling (Treasurer)
Chelsea Mclean
Sue Tennant
Saskia Raevouri

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Twelfth meeting were sent to each member of the committee and were accepted by the committee
Moved by Ian Esmore and Seconded by Robert Coenraads

3. Reports from the Committee.

The Committee received the President's Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I welcome you all to our 13th meeting of FSWL Australia. Could you all acknowledge yourselves as PRESENT for this meeting if you are able to take part.

Please find the Agenda for our July 2008, 13th FSWL Committee Meeting which opened on Friday 4th July at 9:00 am.

Attached are the minutes for the 12th Meeting. Could you please look at them, and I would like someone to accept and second those minutes, please.

We have a lot to think about this meeting. Concerning the list of students for scholarship in Thailand. You will see that all of their profiles and photographs have been quite well

organized - one page per student. The cover letter from Parisudha Sudhamongkala states that each student needs 1000 Thai Baht (approximately A\$31). That is a total of \$1,550, which is an amount that we can probably work towards achieving for those children this year, without compromising what we are sending to India. What do you all think?

We need to determine, however, exactly whom is going to be responsible for administering these funds, and to whom they will be sent. Perhaps Sue or Ben will be able to clear this up?

Thanks again to all of the committee for taking the time to participate this weekend.

Kind regards,

Dr. Robert Coenraads (President)

4. Progress in Thailand.

Sue: Dear friends, can you help?

*Dear Sue ,
This email I sent you the database of 50 kids in the free school project. And the teacher would like to asked for their scholarship. This is Ben tell the teacher before he leave that free school might be can help. One year is about 1,000 B per kids. For the Mirror , We didn't commit with them that will support them. Then you can decide. Anyway you can use this information to promote Free school Because they are in school of Free school Project.*

Khun Paul you might be help me to explain if in case I make confuse. Next email I will sent you report for May ka.. now on translate ka..

*Thank you.
Best Regards,
Moo*

Ian: The list of students is extensive and project summary outlines the financial goals. Somehow the Thai data with the Mirror foundation requires packaging into a product with a sale tag. Broken down into bits that comprise packages attractive to a sponsor recipient. I feel at the moment we have a bigger picture which requires modifying into something palatable for whom we are trying to outreach. I would prefer we source extra help before any further public outreach. It appears we may require two different outreaches. The India vision is different to the Thai process.

Ben: Just on the topic of the Thai scholarships and how to administer any funds, - there is currently a review in process of the local management of the project some six months after the handover. Jildou and Pui have prepared a report which will be sent to Sue this week. After this process is complete will be a better time to discuss future scholarships.

Robert: Thanks Ben, we will postpone our discussions until then.

5. Progress in India

Sue: News from Sister Crescence

Dated: 17.06.08

Dear Sue,

Loving greetings from myself and all the children & the staff!

Sorry for this delayed letter, the month of May & June proved to be too tight due to congregational programmes & religious functions.

Recently we were busy in scheduled to have teachers' training programmes and meetings. Two days teachers' training was conducted at Motihari for 22 teachers on 5th & 6th May and another training programme on 7th & 8th June for teachers of Bettiah, Sugauli, Lalgah, Ninwalia, Channainbandh and Dhumnagar. 15 teachers took part in the second group.

Before the training began, I highlighted the role and importance of world literacy teachers. They were told that the world literacy teachers play very important role such as:

- 1. The teachers function as the link between big powers of the world. On one end is the vast abyss of the ignorance and poverty of the people and on the other end is the desire and self-less love to extend educational opportunities to every child.*
- 2. World literacy teachers are the channels through which will flow the great willingness and wealth to reach every needy and unprivileged child.*
- 3. World literacy teachers are the effective instruments to make the dreams of our donors a reality i.e. to dispel the darkness of illiteracy to make children's life bright and happy. Without you and your helps the mightiest powers of the world would feel helpless but with you it will be enthusiastic, full of powers and energetic. So our vocation to world literacy programme invites us to give self-less love to our children, to dedicated services to them.*

The above address touched the teachers' heart and led them virtually in tears. Following this we took the theme of this training. It was to introduce the teachers into the scientific methods of teaching a child. Our book "Chirag" gives such methods. Slowly the teachers would be helped to give up old traditional methods of teaching and adopt more modern and scientific ways to reach. During two days the teachers were helped to give model classes to the group itself.

At the close, we all felt very satisfied and happy. Next to this, we will be engaged in setting parallel the junior and senior classes.

Some of the new centers we started recently. The program for residential students is taken up in enthusiasm. Work on renovation and construction is started. Monsoon is in competition with us. We need your prayers.

Sad news, one of our teachers from Motihari "Prema Devi" passed away suddenly. We feel very sad about it.

There are two requests from me dear Sue,

1. *To be on safe side from Home Ministry of India in future any cheque may be drawn in the name of "Fakirana Sisters' Society-World Literacy Programme" for detail please contact me on phone.*
2. *Kindly send me the name of schools in numbers so that new centers may be given number.*

Yours truly,

*Sr. Crescence
Superior
Sacred Heart Convent
Bettiah, West Champaran Bihar*

Saskia:

Dear Sr. Crescence and Sr. Elise,

*Greetings from Holland! Please give everyone my love and greetings. I hope you and all the Sisters are doing well and not suffering monsoons and mosquitos!
I have booked my ticket already from Amsterdam-Delhi from November 9-21, and Dr. John will be booking his ticket soon. I believe you had mentioned that we should be in Bihar the week of November 10-14. We may fly in on the evening of Sunday November 9, if that is more convenient, and spend that night at the convent in Patna. This way we will be ready early Monday morning. I hope I have these dates right, as I cannot change them.*

Soon I shall start raising additional money for the building construction. The plans look wonderful! With the construction cost of 1,040,896 and subtracting the 697,000 rupees I gave you last year, it looks like you will need another 354,000 (approximately US\$8,240.00. (I will try to raise \$10,000 so you will have a little extra.)

Regarding the girls to be sponsored, I am still somewhat confused, since Sonal (who you told me was available for sponsoring) is already being sponsored by Robert Coenraad's daughters. Also, Sapana was listed as being sponsored by Robert's group in the report you sent him. To avoid two people sponsoring the same child, I am working with Robert to create a master list that we can all refer to. I will bring it with me when we come in November, and together we can sit down and straighten it out. It is too confusing at this distance with contradictory information.

Regarding the two groups of 15 girls who will be boarding at both convents (Vanhoeck and SH Bettiah), Sue has given me the information that it will cost around 210,000 (today's rate \$4,890) for each group. Assuming this is correct, I will try to raise an additional \$10,000 to cover that.) When we come in November I would like to meet the girls and take pictures to show those who will be sponsoring them.

In addition, Dr. John has plans to purchase a vehicle, etc. I believe Sue mentioned this during her recent visit, but I cannot find your response written down (although she mentioned that Sr. Elise would know how to go about it. I will be visiting John in September and we will discuss his ideas in more detail, then let you know.

Several friends of mine have donated money to me for additional tricycle wheelchairs, and I will also bring that money with me in November.

So the main points are:

- 1. We are planning to spend the week of November 10-14 in Bettiah.*
- 2. I will raise another \$20,000 (860,000 rupees) for the building construction and two groups of 15 girls boarding expenses for one year.*
- 3. We will discuss Dr. John's plans for medical camps within the next few months.*

Much love and many blessings to all of you wonderful Sisters in the work you are doing in the name of Jesus. We are privileged to be working with you in these worthwhile endeavors to help God's forgotten children rise up to their full potential.

We look forward to seeing you in November! Please let me hear from you very soon.

*Love,
Saskia*

Saskia: I am gathering together all my information to start fundraising for India within the next month, and wonder if you could email me the latest version of your Excel spreadsheet, listing the sponsored or to-be-sponsored children.

Robert: Here they are.

Saskia: Thank you! I have updated the list (attached) and you will see the changes in red. Today I will try to get a bank draft of 36,000 rupees to Crescence for four girls (9,000 each). (Pratima was removed, Crescence saying "not worthy," and there are some other changes but will find out for sure in November.)

6. General Business.

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

Letter of Thanks and Tax Receipt

Ian: However a comment on minutes re page 9 Official Receipt. Reference to "Donation are Tax Deductible" We require this left off any receipts until Gift Recipient is finalised. Furthermore the text size on printing page is too small. At least 12-point font should be utilised on any public correspondence. Anyone wanting to make a donation lets make it easy to read about their good deed. If they are not a grandma they may show their mum proudly, or want to pass on the news to be read without a magnifying glass.

Philippines FreeSchool/Rotary/FSWL Charitable Status

Ian: I would like to get the latest info on the Phillipines contact and background needs as Donna mentioned. The Daylesford Rotary Club had a representative visit Manilla last week and our club donated 2 water purifiers over a \$1000, to a new healing clinic setup by another Rotary club from Melbourne. They built a concrete structure to accommodate medical volunteers for administering to the local refugees in Smokey Town. The FreeSchools concept may require packaging in various ways for each outreach.

FSWL Australian Website and Communications

Ian: I found out I could receive emails however could not respond as only my work email was registered with Google FSWL Not sure if other members have similar. problem. Registering multiple addresses will duplicate emails. Does any one have a solution for this? Say via web mail? Re communication topic. I tried using Windows Messenger and another VOIP phone system using My Net Phone. So far the best communications is via SKYPE utilising a VOIP phone. Free phone calls and video connection as well for other SKYPE users. This I believe is an option path for online communications. So far I have checked this on wireless and Satellite use OK.

Over the next month I am targeting to put some time into the web site. Any ideas and info which may assist please forward as an attachment.

FSWL Publicity

Robert: This is a very important contact that you have established for us with 60 minutes. It is one of the top current affairs programs and must compete with others to stay on top - and that is the reason why we cannot just expect to be welcomed onto the first available program with open arms. The main thing though, is that we are now on their radar, and can remain in the back of Jonathan and Sarah's mind, while we continue working in the background to become more relevant as "Australian current affairs news" Thank you very much for your efforts, Chelsea.

Ian: Great letter and contact Chelsea. Each step helps build hope

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 1st to Sunday 3rd of August 2008.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement

END OF MINUTES

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