

Minutes of the Salisbury-Sudan Link Education Sub-Committee
Tuesday 9th March 2010.

Present:- Richard Ambrose, Richard Dean, Rev. Joe Edwards, Alastair Campbell, John Foster.

Apologies:- Claire Budd, Ian Pinder, Sheila Soper.

Item 3. JDMSS

Richard Dean gave a very encouraging report on recent progress which had resulted from his visit to Juba in January:-

- A new Headteacher was appointed who took up his post on 1st March. Gasim Philip Logun has 20 years of teaching experience, seven of them as a Headteacher in Port Sudan. A great deal rests with him to move the school forward and build up numbers.
- The first cohort of students to sit the Sudan School Certificate is doing so this month. Richard has established that there are opportunities for them to continue their studies at Juba University provided that they achieve the required grades.
- A girls' boarding house is being considered. Approaches are being made to Comic Relief for funding.
- The school will shortly be connected up to the main town electricity supply.
- A sum of £40,000 is required to 'plug the gap' in the school budget over three years until student numbers have built up. At present half of that target figure has been raised.

Item 4. Hope School.

Joe Edwards reported that £16,000 has been donated by charitable trusts to build a further two classrooms blocks. In addition to this the pupils of Clayesmore School have raised £2,500 towards the cost of paying teachers.

Joe is finding the same difficulty as others in getting money into Sudan.

Joe Edwards is going to Kadugli at Easter to see the school but also to try to establish a 'micro-financing scheme' which aims to finance small business ventures.

Item 5. Grace School.

Claire Budd informs us that the girls' dormitory and the bore hole are near to completion. When an opening date has been agreed Richard will visit to make a video and take photographs, and Claire will make a film to help with fund raising. Application has been made to register as a charity. If this is approved the new name will be 'Key to the Future'. The aim is to get 150 people to pay £300 per year towards the ongoing running costs of the school.

Item 6. 'Schools In Sudan'

Richard Ambrose gave the very good news that two people have been signed up as trustees so the charity will be able to continue. A rough two year plan has been drawn up, and they now await a reply from Abiyie to questions which they have asked regarding the current situation. He is optimistic that there will be some action this year.

Item 7. Bursaries.

Sheila Soper reported on the one outstanding bursary (for James Garang). This covers the period from now until his graduation in November 2011. The projected amount is £6,500.

Item 8. Visit of the youth Leaders.

The news on this is disappointing. The visit has had to be postponed as it proved impossible to get visas for the two youth leaders, in spite of the best efforts of Rev. Jonathan Ball on behalf of the committee. A further complication was the resignation of the Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Claire Estall, from her post in February. She was meant to be leading on this project. It is very disappointing for all the parishes which had agreed to act as hosts and were looking forward to the opportunities which the visit presented.

The intention is to postpone the visit for one year provided that the Link Committee agrees to this. There are issues of funding which need to be resolved, especially as we had been given grants for the visit this year. Those will be followed up after the decision of the Link Committee. The other major issue is finding someone to be the 'Sudan Link Youth Project Officer' (effectively the chairman of the committee which organises the visit).

Item 9. Support for diocesan schools.

Ian Pinder is leading on this. He was in Juba in January as part of the group which visited JDMSS, and together with Tina Stubbs, helped to arrange links with 10 of the 11 ECS Primary Schools in Juba with schools in this diocese.

Ian is also developing contacts with schools in the diocese (e.g. the Poole East pyramid of schools) which are interested in forming links, and has been invited to contribute to a teacher training day organised by the diocesan adviser, Derek Holloway.

Item 10. Theological Education.

- John Foster reported that there is still no news on the appointment of a Secretary to the Theological Commission.
- Bishop David has most generously agreed to raise funds for NBGC through his Lent appeal.
- We have received a number of requests for bursaries from individuals and Bishops. In each case these have been turned down with our new policy explained as the reason why we cannot help in this way.
- Trevor Stubbs has requested help from us in paying the costs of the two staff from St. Paul's University, Limuru, who are visiting later this month to assess NBGC's readiness for affiliation to the diploma course. This will not exceed £1000. The Education Sub-Committee recommends to the Full Committee that we agree to this. It is very much in line with the way in which we want to support colleges in raising their standards.
- The Archbishop, through Trevor Stubbs, has requested an exception be made to pay a bursary for Rev John Chol Atem who has two further years to study at Limuru. The plan is that, when he has finished his course, he will head up in-service work in the new Twik East Diocese. The Ed. Sub-Committee discussed this and formed the opinion that we cannot make an exception to our policy.
- John has been in contact with Emmanuel Lomoro, Secretary to the Education Committee. Last year we gave £6000 towards a two year teacher training course in Yei. Emmanuel has requested that we do the same this year in order that the second year of the course may be completed. This is in line with our decision to support teacher training as the best way of raising standards in ECS schools. The Sub-Comm. requests approval from the Full Committee for this.
- The Sub-Comm. also asks for approval to give £1500 towards the annual youth leaders conference which takes place in different parts of Sudan in November. The

money goes to SOMA who help to organise the event. This is something which we have done for a number of years.