

Minutes of the Salisbury-Sudan Education Committee
Thursday 9th September 2010

Present:- Richard Ambrose, Richard Dean, Sheila Soper, Ian Pinder, John Foster.

Apologies:- Rev. Joe Edwards, Claire Budd, Alastair Campbell.

Item 3 Reports on school projects.

- (a) JDMSS. Richard Dean reported on the latest developments which can be summarised as follows:-
- There has been a record entry of new students—there are now 284 in the school.
 - The new Headteacher is excellent—very keen on good discipline.
 - There is now a need for more classrooms at a cost of £60,000. The Diocese of Adelaide is giving £40,000 towards this. These need to be built for May, 2011.
 - Although a girls' boarding house is still planned it will have to wait until the completion of the classrooms.
 - There were 48 entries for the Sudan School Certificate in March. On the whole the results were very good but there was considerable disparity between those who took the humanities route and those who studied science, with the former doing much better. This is attributed to irregular teaching and a lack of equipment for the science subjects. Richard Dean will make a proposal to the full Link Committee for support in addressing this.
 - For those wishing to know more about recent developments and future plans the JDMSS committee is holding an 'Eye-Opener Evening' on 10th November at 7.00p.m. at Sarum College in The Close.
- (b) Hope School. Joe Edwards is leaving Clayesmore in January but the school will continue to support Hope School. Joe was unable to attend this meeting.
- (c) Grace School. Claire was unable to attend but sent a report.
- The school opened in May, and Claire and Richard have been working hard to raise money for teachers' salaries.
 - The main problem is the supply of food. The World Food Programme is unable to help. Some land has been acquired and maize has been planted by the students. Another charity is being sought to help with the supply of food. Any help with ideas for this would be appreciated.
 - Samaritans Purse still has to dig the promised bore hole so water has to be transported some distance.
 - Funds have been raised for an electricity generator.
 - There is to be a Christmas Ball (a major fund raising event) on 18th December 2010. (Tel. 07854-173244 for details).

Item 4. Links with diocesan schools.

Ian Pinder is taking this forward. There is little to report since the last meeting owing to the holiday break. There are now links with all the ECS Basic (Primary) Schools in Juba. Tina Stubbs took some work from diocesan schools to Juba schools when she returned from her summer break here. Ian is to do some work in the new St. Aldhelm's Academy (Poole), and with its feeder schools, which may result in future contacts being made.

Item 5. Schools In Sudan.

Richard Ambrose is encouraged by the response which he has had to his enquiries about the support needed. Abiyei do want a teacher trainer but direct contact with them is difficult. £2000 has been sent to the Secretary to the Education Commission (Emmanuel Lomoro) to help to run the organisation of teacher training. Consideration is being given to providing funds to Kajo-Keji TTC which has good development plans.

Item 6. Youth leaders' visit 2011.

There is little to report on this as we are still waiting to hear the names of the two people who have been nominated to come next year. There is some concern at this delay as much needs to be done in preparation.

Item 7. Bursaries.

Sheila Soper is still trying to find out when the final amount (£6500) is due. We hope to be able to report this to the full Link Meeting on 22nd September.

Item 8. Report on visit to Juba and Yei by John Foster.

- (a) Theological Conference in Juba. This was, to a certain extent, a disappointing event as not all the colleges were represented, and three of those which were arrived either late or at the end. However, it was possible to have good conversations with individual Principals about the situation in their colleges. A common theme is a lack of money. The colleges rely on each diocese paying for the students which it sends. This money is often not forthcoming unless there has been outside sponsorship. The result is that staff often go without pay, and food is not available to the students. It seems that Renk, Ngalamu and Shokai are some way from being in a position to offer an externally accredited diploma course.
- (b) NBGC. The good news is that St. Paul's University, Limuru, has agreed to affiliate NBGC to its diploma course as from now. Trevor Stubbs is making rapid progress with building renovation to accommodate all the students for both the diploma and certificate courses. This is thanks to the funding from Bishop David's appeal. A report from Trevor was made available and will be sent to all the members of the full committee.
- (c) Bishop Allison College. There are very real difficulties here with funding. The college requires 92% of its income to come from donors. Staff have not been paid for some time and, until we provided money for this, no

recruitment of a new cohort for the diploma course had taken place. The Board of Governors has asked the Chancellor of St. Paul's, Limuru, to carry out a feasibility study on the future of the college in either Arua or Yei. The college is not reopening until the study has been concluded. No further funding is going into the rebuilding of the college in Yei by the major donors for the time being.

- (d) John was able to give a very encouraging report on the work being done at Yei Teacher Training College which we have supported financially for the last two years. Standards are high, and there is a real air of purpose about the place. There is now a requirement on the college to recruit from across southern Sudan so there will be well prepared teachers throughout the country. It seems that we are getting good value for our money.

Item 10. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday 25th November in Clayesmore School at 2.00p.m.