

REPORT TO THE PCC BY THE MISSION SUPPORT TEAM – MAR 2019

Team members Andrew Strong, Anne-Marie Humphrey, Jane West, Jonathan Atkinson, Stephen Ind, Tony Skrzypecki, Des Humphrey

Frequency of meetings 5 times a year

General Note.

The purpose of the Mission Support Team is to be in contact with the mission links we support and to inform church members about the links. The work of the Team is founded firmly on prayer and each meeting begins with Evening Prayer.

Amala Children's Home

Tom Allen, a Trustee of Amala Trust in his visit to us in February 2018 gave us notice that Amala Trust would be closing down in May 2020. As reported last year the reasons for this are that the Indian Government are not in favour of foreign funded charities and are putting pressure on them to seek local funding. The Team is presently looking for potential charities that could be considered to replace Amala next year. We have invited a Trustee of Amala Trust to visit us this year to bring us up to date.

Casa Reom

We had hoped that someone from St. Peter's would go to Mozambique with Dave MacLellan last year, but it didn't work out. As it happened Dave decided not to go alone and is now thinking of returning next year. Dave along with Iain and Farai, all Trustees of the Casa Reom Trust, came to us on 10 March and Dave gave a splendid presentation, featuring some of the boys at the home. As we all know Cyclone Idia hit the coastal city of Beira just four days later with catastrophic results. Casa Reom Trust immediately put out a call for prayer and reported damage to Casa Reom buildings. Fortunately none of the boys were hurt and were transferred to another room that was dry and protected. Across the country hundreds of people were drowned or died from other causes and many thousands have been made homeless and lost their livelihoods. The Trust has made an appeal for repairs to damaged buildings and to get the school that serves many of the local families around Inhamizua up and running. MST has responded by sending £450, half the emergency element of the budget and retiring collections were authorised by Jackie for Sundays 24th and 31st March.

Peace & Hope

Just under a year ago Nicaragua was in turmoil with violence and demonstrations against Government legislation on pension reforms. Demonstrators were beaten and many killed, leading to a period of uncertainty for those who opposed President Daniel Ortega or his Government. Many people in fear of their lives crossed the border into Costa Rica to seek sanctuary. The P&H volunteers team visit planned for July was cancelled and later the Spring team for January also. However, Stephen and Richard Geary made a reconnaissance visit in January/February giving the Trust confidence for forward planning. Stephen comments "The Trust is to replace an existing old school building at Taleno, 25km west of Bluefields, in April, using a team of 4 experienced volunteers and a host of local parents. In 2020 it plans to resume the dental visits and most other work, with a weather eye on the tense political background in Nicaragua." We look forward to the

restoration of team visits as the hallmark of P&H activities and we pray for peace and justice to return to Nicaragua.

Hersham Youth Trust

When we chose HYT as our home mission in succession to the foodbank we set a target of increasing the number of volunteers helping out at the Youth Club. We now have at least one volunteer from St. Peter's for each of the 6 days the Club is open. HYT is an amazing organisation offering young people a safe and secure environment to be with their friends. They are very pleased to have St. Peter's as a partner.

Walton & Hersham Foodbank

The number of people needing help with providing food for themselves and their families continues to grow. Those being referred for food assistance in 2018 showed an increase of almost 50% over the previous year. The main reasons for referral continue to be connected with delays and changes in benefits combined with low income. There appears to be no end in sight as the rolling out of Universal Benefit to all in need drags on. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community in donating both food and money the foodbank continues to provide the food required and the volunteers under the leadership of the foodbank Manager, Nina Malyon, continue to deliver the service expected of it.

Des Humphrey
22 March 2019