

REPORT ON THE VISIT MARCH 2016

Hot and having had more than enough heavy rain we returned from Sri-Lanka with a feeling of considerable satisfaction. Paul and I spent 14 days with the Sinhalese and much was achieved for the people there and the project in general.



Previously a sewing course had been arranged with Singer, who supplies the machines, for the women who had already received sewing machines to teach them sewing techniques and the machine potential. This has been great success and the remaining machines have now been delivered to the women still to attend the course. Another 12 machines have been ordered for the next group to attend the course.



Progress has also been made with the 'starters' hoping to set up small businesses. This time 13 individuals have received help with their projects. From a Beauty Parlor to a wood-working shop needing tools and machines .

Of the previous 30 'starters' only two have had problems. One, a man making concrete blocks, seriously broke his arm and will not be able to work for 6 months and another starting a small restaurant on a local road has found that the road has temporarily been broken open. This can happen in Sri Lanka unfortunately.

The rest of the Micro-Credit recipients are paying regularly.

BOATS



This time 6 new boats found new owners. All the fishermen on the peninsula now have boats. This element of the project has now reached a conclusion and with the possible exception of a few nets, no further boats will be supplied. Obviously some people would prefer to have a motorized boat to enable longer trips out to sea but we have decided against participation in this.

SCHOOL



Previously we had made a visit to a school, slightly away from the peninsula, where many of the Tsunami children go to school. This is due to the fact that many parents are frightened of the sea and will not return to the peninsula.

It is deeply distressing to see how little is available to a school like this. The government supplies educational books and the teaching staff are paid but anything else has to come from the parents. For the last 10 years this has not been feasible. The school has nothing.

We have been able to help with teaching aids, work books, pens, compass boxes, uniforms, satchels, shoes, 2 computers and a TV with DVD player. Arrangements have been made to improve the sanitation and library and repair a fence around the school.

Children happy, Theo and Paul happy.

SCHOOL BICYCLES



Another aspect which drew our attention is some children, because of their good grades, have to go to another school, often further away, and need transport. This time 4 children were given bicycles to help in their future development.

MICRO-CREDIT REPAYMENTS



We have decided that monies being repaid under the Micro-Credit system will now largely be used to help those wishing to advance their studies or, in a few cases, help the families where children need to attend school. Currently we support 12 children of which 7 attend a university and were unable to pay their way. For example, a highly talented young lady of 21 who has been studying medicine for 3 years and whose Father died last December.

Simple, no money no study. Her grades are stunning, all A's (9 and 10's) She has another 18 months to go and this will be paid for out of the Micro-Credit repayments (Euro 65 per month).

IN GENERAL



What do we see now happening on the peninsula?

One person makes items of clothing and another sells it and uniforms are made by our own people.

On the peninsula the construction of a new 5 star hotel will bring many tourists to the area. This will greatly increase the local economy prospects, bringing work for many small shops and businesses. Also of importance is that the infra-structure and accessibility of the peninsula will be greatly improved to everyone's advantage.

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