

Bethézer

annual report

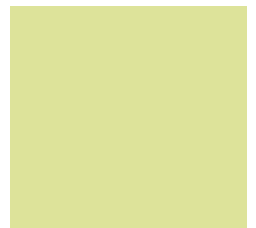


The Christadelphian
Bethézer
Fund

Spreading the gospel
to the world



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Chairman's message

Improving lives

At the age of 10, Matlena had never written a word in her young life. In fact, she had no idea how to hold a pencil, let alone how to use it. That began to change two years ago with the opening of the new Bethazer school on the ridge above her village in Vanuatu. Now Matlena is learning to speak English and to read and write it with a competence appropriate for her school grade. If she continues through Grade 6, she will have basic literacy and language skills which will afford her options and opportunities she would not have had otherwise.

About the time Matlena was learning how to hold a pencil, several thousand kilometres away in Cambodia, Sou Theung was first meeting her new friends at her new home, the Bethazer Girls Dormitory. By being accepted in the dorm, Theung, a young woman in her early 20s, was able to begin studies in Environmental Science at Phnom Penh's Royal University. Theung had been awarded a scholarship to the university but would have been unable to take it up if not for the Bethazer dorm. You see, Theung comes from a poor family out in the provinces which was unable to pay for a place for her to stay, or even to afford university materials or food.

Making a difference

Theung and Matlena are just two of many children and young people who are benefitting directly from Bethazer initiatives. Since inception Bethazer has sought to make a positive and helpful difference in people's lives. Nearly three years on, we strongly feel we are doing that.

As the free dormitory housing for university students in Phnom Penh and the Kapalpal primary school in Vanuatu indicate, improvement through education continues to be a focus. But in reality, helping a family or a young person with education is only the beginning. In our experience, people who need help with education also need help in other areas of their lives. Nutrition, health and medical care come readily to mind.

For example, Sam, a 10-year-old student at the Kapalpal school, clearly had eye problems. His head was always perched at an odd angle as he tried to see out of a corner of one eye. He hung back from the other children, would never break into a gallop with them

and, most touching of all in this land of happy people, he never smiled. As we came to learn, Sam had congenital cataracts in both eyes. He was effectively blind. When a Fred Hollows Foundation ophthalmologist visited the hospital on the other side of the island, Bethazer representatives enlisted the help of the village chief in persuading Sam's parents and grandparents to allow Sam to go to the hospital. Fortunately, they agreed (by no means a foregone conclusion in this remote part of the world). Bethazer provided assistance to enable Sam and his mother and father to get to the hospital (and back) and to stay there for a week while Sam's cataracts were removed and synthetic lenses inserted. Though his vision will never be as good as yours or mine, Sam, today, is able to see much better. And Sam has begun to smile.

Real needs

So with ongoing involvement through our projects, Bethazer has discovered quite a variety of unmet needs. Where practical and appropriate, we have taken steps to fill the gaps. Theung, for example, sews clothing and accessory items for Bethazer which provides her with a small income. This in turn enables her to buy food and other basics.

Where small steps won't do, in some cases we have been looking into larger ones. In Phnom Penh an agricultural project – an extension of the dorm project – is beginning to come together with the goal of helping families feed themselves and possibly even earn a modest income. In Vanuatu, ongoing agricultural trials are being conducted to provide a source of protein for the children and a small cash crop for the school.

Also (some might say most importantly) we are attending to the spiritual development of our dormers and students. At the Phnom Penh dorms, a rich and full spiritual development program has been in place from the start. Fieldworkers from the nearby Bible Education Centre conduct a regular "morning service" and are involved in other, spiritually-oriented



activities. At the Kapalpal school, religious instruction has been integrated into the curriculum and visits to the school by Bethézer representatives also feature adult Bible education either at the school or in villages in the vicinity.

So as we step back and cast our eye over where we've been and what we've been doing over the last three years, we are encouraged because we see tangible evidence that we are fulfilling our objectives, that we are making a difference by improving the lives of those in need.

To those who support our work, we once again give you our heartfelt thanks for your generosity and readiness to make a sacrifice for others unable to meet all their needs. With your help we are able to brighten the future of Theung, Matlena, Sam and others like them. In fact, we couldn't do it without you!

Your brother in our Lord Jesus Christ,

November, 2010

Chairman: *Terry Nutter*

Project Summaries

There are currently two projects being supported or administered by the Christadelphian Bethézer Fund.

- **Kapalpal Christadelphian Primary School**
Vanuatu
- **Phnom Penh Dormitory Project**
Cambodia

Kapalpal Christadelphian Primary School + *Loanialu, Tanna (Vanuatu)*

2010 has been a busy year with enrolments again exceeding the school's capacity and with new developments. Kapalpal's second year of operation began in February with an enrolment of 206 students. Classes are from prep through Grade 6.

In April, a team arrived from Australia and erected a much needed and awaited second building. The 18 X 7.2-metre building was divided into 3 rooms: 2 classrooms and a visiting teacher/fieldworker room. First Grade comprises 46 children and Second Grade, 34, making them Kapalpal's largest. So it was great to be able to move them to their new home in the new building, creating more space and reducing noise levels for the other classes. By employing another teacher early in the school year we have reduced class sizes for Grades 3 and 4 and formed them into more workable groups.

In September another team consisting of volunteer teachers, handymen and a nurse, visited the school. The team assisted with teaching, provided medical aid for students and villagers, built more desks and forms for the classrooms, replaced toilets and put up a lockable shed so that tools and materials can be more securely stored. The replacement, long-drop toilets were required as some of the existing toilets were falling apart because of the destructive effects of the high summer humidity and ashfall from the nearby volcano carried by the prevailing wind.

Planning and classroom management

At the request of the Kapalpal teachers, some of the visiting Australian teachers modelled approaches to teaching phonics, reading, spelling and maths. In addition, some of the Australian teachers did stints of team teaching with the local teachers and also took selected students out of the classroom for remedial work in maths and reading.

The visiting teachers also held workshops with Kapalpal's teachers focussing on lesson planning, use of resources and classroom management. Our local teachers greatly appreciated their time with the Australian



teachers which has provided them with new teaching techniques and enhanced their teaching skills across the board.

Medical aid

We were fortunate to have a nurse in our group. This allowed us to assist with some of the health issues in the surrounding villages. A nurse had never before visited the area and the villagers' appreciation was palpable.

Three first aid classes were conducted for Kapalpal's teachers and people from the nearby villages. Each session, which went for two hours and was illustrated with wall charts, was highly valued. Attendees included the chiefs from two nearby villages. One of our students at the school, Sam,



received medical assistance of a different sort. Sam, who is 10 years-old, was born with congenital cataracts and has vision so impaired he is virtually blind. Several other family members also have severe vision problems.

At the time of our visit a surgeon from the Fred Hollows Foundation was visiting the hospital at Lenakel to perform eye operations and treatments. With Bethézer's assistance, Sam was able to get to the hospital to see the surgeon. The surgeon removed both cataracts and inserted synthetic lenses. The result is that Sam is now able to see for the first time in his life.

Adult English classes

The visiting team also conducted after-school English classes for adults. A Beginners group started each lesson with a Bible story, continued by learning language units and vocabulary then concluded by retelling the story at a more difficult level of English. A Conversational class focussed on correcting pronunciation and grammar and expanding vocabulary. We hope to be able to provide these support activities again in the future.

Bible education

We were able to hold Bible seminars during both visits to the island in 2010. Sessions were held at the school and in nearby villages and were well attended. Each "tok tok" concluded with a seemingly endless number of questions. Our thanks go to all who visited and contributed to the school in 2010. Your help has been invaluable and greatly appreciated. We particularly thank our donors without whose support we would be unable to pay teachers' salaries or provide the facilities that enable the school to contribute to the lives of the children and families in East Tanna.

2011

God willing, in 2011 we plan to take another team across in April to build permanent toilets, to build in a library for the school and community and to continue the program of teaching assistance and adult English classes. In September, we plan to return with more teachers to help out with individualized instruction for those children who are having difficulty.

It is our constant prayer that our Father will continue to bless our efforts in this corner of the world and that we will eventually have been able to provide the opportunity that allows new brothers and sisters to be present at the marriage supper of the Lamb.



Phnom Penh Dormitory Project

Cambodia

Time passes quickly in the dormitories and looking back at older photos, many of the students show a clear maturing in appearance and attitude. We have been sad to see some students move on to take positions in the workforce and we've welcomed some new students into the accommodation. Since July 2009 there have been significant improvements and changes in the Bethezer dormitories, not just in services we provide, but in the internal processes used to manage the dormitories.

Following the early growth of the dormitories, the last year has been a useful time to consolidate on our initial project success and look at ways to improve how we have been doing things. Strategic planning at Bethezer level has been informed by evaluation at the project level with initial evaluations completed in the dormitory in December 2009. The participatory evaluation involved workshops with the students to identify areas of strength and weakness and ways we could improve the conditions of the dormitory. Following these workshops, we targeted a number of areas including privacy, relaxation, study areas and safety. The workshops will become part of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation plan, helping us keep abreast of the needs and situation of the students.

Management has been strengthened with the addition of a second manager, Sister Kimsrean. A survivor of the Khmer Rouge era, Sister Kimsrean brings an elder's wisdom to the management team and is well loved by the dormitory students for her care and support. Sister Sithy, a Master's graduate in Social Sciences and the deputy director of an anti-trafficking coalition continues to support the management team, living in the dormitories and providing a role model of courage and academic achievement for the girls. The dormitory management has further been supplemented by the creation of a dormitory board to deal with issues that require a wider consensus than the management team. The board consists of the management, other selected expertise and student representatives.

Spiritual development activities have seen an ongoing support from Bible Education Centre Fieldworkers. Ongoing studies and involvement have developed a strong spiritual engagement with the students and a large number have been baptised into the name of Christ. Since July 2009, we have welcomed Brothers Sophea, Saory and Sophorn and Sisters Dany, Ren, Sokhorn, Phab, Chantry, Sokheing, Sokhean and Kong.

Special projects at the dormitory this year have included the furnishing of the rooftop, medical tests and the installation of a new student library. The library was the gift of a brother in Australia. Interestingly, he donated the payment he received from the German government for losses during his experiences as a Kinder Transport child in World War II.

On the financial front, the dormitory spends about USD \$2500 each month to maintain the premises and support the nearly 40 students. The chart below shows the breakdown of expenses between January and June 2010 into broad categories. Dormitory expenses include maintenance, utilities, rental and wages. Communication includes administration costs and bank fees. Welfare and Development is for support of poor students, for fellowship meals and social activities. Special projects is for projects such as the library or furnishing the rooftop.



■ Communication ■ Welfare & Development
■ Special Projects ■ Dormitory Expenses

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Williamsburg Foundation for their generous support of this project which has enabled us to do so much at the dormitories.



The future is looking exciting with strategic planning leading to the addition of new objectives to the project plan. In 2011 we will focus on providing the students with programs encompassing social justice and environmental issues. We have already begun with one of our environmental science students beginning a series of lectures and planning a program for the dormitory on environmental issues. Recent months have seen presentations on trafficking and issues related to vulnerable women.

Finally, we are introducing two new projects in 2011. Firstly, there is a trial agricultural program targeting health and nutrition issues in which we will engage student families in agricultural extension and financial planning activities. Secondly, this year we will be initiating a scholarship program for students showing academic promise.

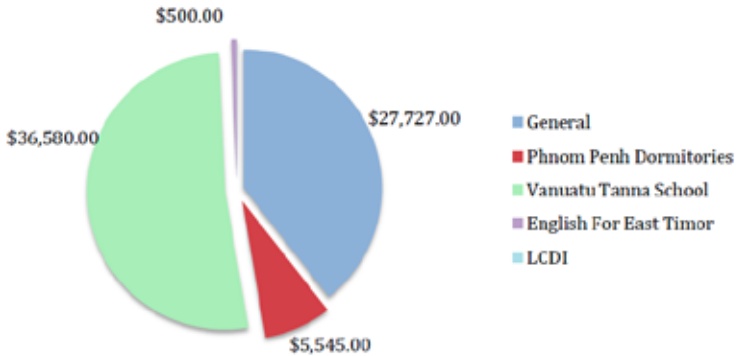


Finance Report

The Christadelphian Bethazer Fund would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our activities over the course of last financial year. We happy to report that the total donations received for the 2009/2010 financial year totalled \$70,352.72.

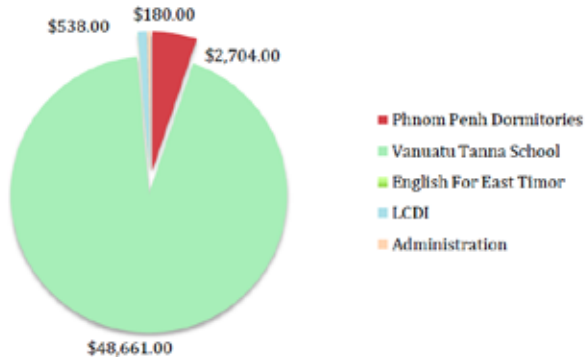
Donations received 2009-2010

The following is a breakdown of where our donors requested to have their funds allocated.



Expenses for 2009-2010

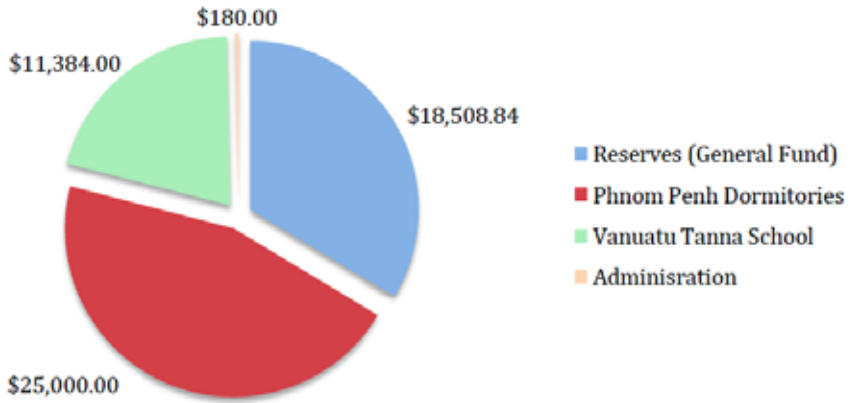
The following is a breakdown of how this money was distributed across our projects.



Changes in budgeting strategy

With heartfelt thanks we acknowledge the contributions of the WCF who contributed significant funding to our Cambodian projects during the last financial year. This has now allowed us change from operating on a month-by-month basis to being able to assign a year's worth of funding to all our projects at the start of the year and then spend the remainder accumulating funds for the next.

As at the 31st December 2010
Bethézer had a balance of \$54,892.84.
The following diagram is a breakdown
of how we are allocating these funds
for 2011.



**Why not? Consider reviewing your
Bethézer contributions each time you
receive a salary increase.**



How can you help?

We are always in need of donors who can contribute a regular amount. These monthly donations will help us to sponsor or support students in the dormitories or to fund teachers and equipment at the Kapalpal school. We also appeal to brothers and sisters to volunteer for longer term missionary trips with the ACBM. Without preachers, the word of God cannot be proclaimed and Bethézer's objective of complementing that work will be diminished. For those who feel unable to teach, there is plenty of pastoral work that needs to be done in ACBM areas and in Bethézer projects.

If you wish to visit Bethézer projects or become involved in our work, please contact bethezerfund@gmail.com and we can provide you with the relevant information.

The Christadelphian Bethézer Fund could not operate without the generosity of the ecclesias and brothers and sisters of the Christadelphian community. We thank all who have sent donations and continue to donate, regardless of the sum. We ask that the work of Bethézer remains in the prayers of all.

Farewell

"At the end of 2010 we lost a member of the committee, Sis Ruth Devis, due to a heavy load from other commitments. We have valued and will miss Ruth's involvement in Bethézer and the practical contributions she made to our discussions. We wish her well in her other endeavors. Sis Ruth is not the only one with heavy commitments. Bro Jonathan and Sis Melinda Saxon joined the Management Committee during the year but, sadly for Bethézer, found it to be too great a juggling act to keep up. We thank them for their help and also wish them well in their other many activities."



much greater gain

Long years we spent
have taught us all our
the truth we learn are
old friends can make
recalling all our hopes
Kapalpat Christadelphians

As days may pass and
beneath our fathers' guiding
we now the years will only
that we have learn to

The Treasurer can be contacted on
bethezerfund@gmail.com

All cheques should be made out to
“The Christadelphian Bethézer Fund”
and posted to:

The Treasurer

The Christadelphian Bethézer Fund
12 High Street,
EBBW VALE, QLD, 4304

Direct Deposits can be made to the
following account. Please put your
name into the comments field.

Account Name: The Christadelphian
Bethézer
Fund Inc

Account Number: 4848 55637

BSB: 014-002

SWIFT: ANZBAU3M

With the thanks of the Bethézer Man-
agement
Committee

Steve and Lynne Armes
Michael and Miriam Hewitt
James and Miranda Rasmussen
Terry and Karen Nutter
Raju Devis

