



Annual Report

2020/21

The Senior Volunteer Network is a Christian organisation linking primarily retired teachers from across the UK, many of whom go on short-term projects overseas, to share their skills and experience.

SVN is a registered charity No 1068049

Website: www.svnet.org

How do you write an Annual Report when nothing has been happening, i.e. when no projects overseas have been possible? BUT God has been at work through SVN and we are reporting on that this year. A very different journey for the Leadership Team and the members. Thank you all for travelling with us.

Working with our friends in Manipur, India

For several years now we have been looking at ways of offering a project in Manipur but the Foreign Office has advised against travelling there and the proposed project has been on hold. But read on because God has answered our prayers for in a different way. Please read Shirli's account of what is happening.

The SVN Leadership's decision to provide help to our project schools affected by Covid19 meant that Shirli Lickfold contacted the Head of Emmanuel School Manipur to ask about their needs. The Head, Joanne Kipgen, said that she was interested for her teachers to obtain some online teacher training, but this needed resourcing. It was agreed to send £2,000 for this purpose.

Joanne sent the following email to the Leadership Team: *"My colleagues were greatly encouraged to hear about your donation. And I would like to say a massive thank you from all of us at Emmanuel School, Haipi. Even when Shirli first mentioned it to me, I could already think of devices which would really enable us to be more effective in our connection for online teacher training and at the same time improve the effectiveness of our teaching online and in the classroom. However, I will be taking time to discuss and pray with Senior Management and Board Members how best to spend it and I will keep you posted on that."*

She has already spent some of the money on a new laptop, and some other items necessary to facilitate online teacher training for her school. When it was suggested at our SVN Leadership meeting in November 2020 that maybe a new approach to our work should be considered in view of Covid19 restrictions to travel, it was

decided that we should schedule a Zoom meeting for those interested in pursuing using the internet.

At that meeting on December 8th 2020, after much useful discussion, it was proposed that as the Manipur Project had been on hold for two years this should be a pilot study to test the feasibility. Shirli Lickfold contacted Joanne Kipgen, Head of Emmanuel School, Manipur India, and Angela Rees, one of those originally preparing to go to Manipur, and organised a three-way meeting for herself and the two others. After a very fruitful meeting a plan was devised that Angela would have some weekly meetings with a small group of teachers to improve their spoken English. With Joanne Kipgen possibly going back to India in March or April 2021, this would be the earliest this could begin. There is the possibility that another member who was scheduled to go to Manipur in 2018, might also be joining Angela Rees to do online teacher training in his own subject when they are able to commence.

Supporting schools during the pandemic

In consultation with the SVN Trustees, the Leadership Team decided that SVN should provide financial support to schools known to us during this challenging year. Needs varied, including providing some financial support for teachers who were not receiving any payment whilst the schools were closed. Below are some more details of how SVN was able to help and the response we received.

SVN's Gift to City Gates School, The Philippines

In the past, SVN has partnered with head teacher, Lynette Orange, on two occasions to give training to teachers in The Philippines. During the pandemic, we have had to put off a third visit. Instead we asked Lynette if we could give some financial support. We were very pleased to hear that enough money had already been raised to supply each child at City Gates School in Manilla with a tablet to study online at home. A container was being sent over with equipment ready for the return of face to face teaching. There was still a need to buy exercise books from England instead of using the sub-standard paper available locally. SVN donated £500 to cover this cost. Lynette wrote to give her thanks to SVN and to say the books were on their way across the sea to Manilla.

Jane Caine

SVN's Gift to the Diocese of Kingali, Rwanda

In the thank you letters received from Rwanda the SVN gift of £2,000 was described as 'manna from heaven'. It supported 96 struggling teachers in non-government aided schools who had not received any pay for 8 months. Some of the money also went towards hand washing stations for Pre-Schools, as these were a requirement for reopening the schools. In addition they acquired thermometers for checking the temperature of each pupil every day before they attended school.

Here is an extract from one of the letters we received:

'Please receive our warmest greetings from Rwanda; and especially from Education team and our Bishop Nathan! Rwanda eased restrictions in these times, and our team got time to visit teachers in three chosen areas to give the support SVN sent to support those in miserable conditions.'

SVN's Gift to 3 schools in Zambia

The £2,000 sent to Zambia was shared between 3 schools:

Kumbaya School with 9 teachers and 480 pupils

Crown of Life School with 13 teachers and 500 pupils

Garden Hill School with 7 teachers and 120 pupils

Here are some extracts of the grateful thanks received for the donations and the earlier SVN project which involved 6 SVN members and was led by Ann Williams:

"We would like to thank Ann Williams for the teachers allowances which has really helped with teachers during the Covid period. Without the donations we would have faced a lot of hardship. Thanks to all have made the donations towards our school especially the teachers."

As Kumbaya we cannot forget Ann because at that time most of our teachers if not all were untrained and depended entirely on teaching skills acquired from Mission Direct workshops which Ann lead. We are happy to hear about her unflinching passion for consideration for teacher allowances during this difficult time."

SVN's Gift to Jubilee School in Guinea

The school had to move out of the building it was using and the SVN gift of £2,000 helped to pay the rent for the first year in a new building. Here is what Maina, the Principal wrote:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the money SVN sent to us. It really helped us with our rent. We are very grateful to you. We are always praying for you all.

School is going on and we are in the building you all helped us to have.

Please extend my regards to all the members of the SVN. We are grateful to you all. Thanks once more and God bless you.

Conference 2022

We are going forward in faith and are planning a conference at Kings Park Centre in Northampton for March 2022. The title is:

SVN Recalibrated

This reflects the broadening of SVN work in response to changing circumstances. We intend to use the internet to involve people from far off places who could not normally be part of our conference.

Membership of SVN

SVN membership has remained static at 64. We made SVN known through short articles but there was no response. Undoubtedly the best way to get people interested is to speak those we know. However, some people who have not been able to travel abroad may now become more involved because of online training.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Year ended 31st March 2021

An unusual year for the Trust following the incursion of COVID-19 into our lives. In this regard I quote from my previous annual report:-

" there is no doubt that the board of trustees must now give consideration to awarding grants, obviously for educational purposes, which do not include overseas travel especially as the present situation does not indicate when normal travel will resume."

As overseas travel was not possible the Management Committee decided to send five grants totalling £8 500 to various places in Africa, India, and the Philippines. This resulted in a expenditure exceeding income of £6 453.80

Members will note that other expenses were either reduced or not even incurred as the Management committee could only meet in cyber space through the medium of Zoom .

With the present situation on the pandemic being eased and government's plan to lift all restrictions, hopefully, on 21st June it is evident that our prayers have been answered.

Despite the unusual excess of expenditure our cash resources ended up the year at £24 376.48 which is more than adequate for the new financial year.

Respectfully submitted,
P H WOODWARD

1 April 2021

Financial summary

Income

General donations	290.00	
Gift aided donations	2,251.00	
Tax refunded	557.75	
		3,098.75

Expenses

Administration expenses	-1,052.55	
		-1,052.55

Grants paid	- 8,500.00	
		-8,500.00

Bank Account

Surplus/Deficit	- 6,453.80	
Accumulated Funds	25,276.28	
		18,822.48

Bursary Fund	5,554.00	
Accumulated Funds	18,822.48	

Bank Balance as of 31 March 2021		24,376.48
---	--	------------------

Leadership Team

Chris Stickland (Chair)

Jane Caine (projects)

Barbara Priestley

Michael Priestley

Shirli Lickfold (projects)

Ann Williams (projects)

Dorothea Hall (administrator)

John Hallett attends meetings when he is able to

Christine Perkins serves as a consultant to the Leadership Team

Catriona Baker services the SVN website

Trustees

John Perkins (Chair)

John Sisson

George Case

Colin Hyland

Angela Sisson

Peter Woodward (Treasurer)

Julie Ashman

Contacts and links

SVN Administrator

Anchor Education

City Gates

Hope for Tanzania

Mission Direct

OMF

Watchmen International

email: svnetprojects@gmail.com

telephone 01896 850562

www.anchorededucation.org

www.citygates.org.ph

www.hopefortanzania.org

www.missiondirect.org

www.omf.org

www.watchmeninternational.com