



St Lazarus Charitable Trust Newsletter

MAY 16, 2018

*From the
Chairman*

*A new approach
for the Vidiyal
Trust*

*EMMS
International
Symposium*

From the Chairman

I hope you will enjoy reading this first newsletter detailing some of the projects the Charitable Trust is supporting. This support has been made possible by generous benefactions in the past and by current giving by members of the Order of St Lazarus. Here I should like to thank all those who supported the work of our Charity following my letter last November. The response has been encouraging.

If you are not already making a regular donation to the charitable work of the Order, what better time to consider this than in the season of Lent when all Christian people should be considering their responsibility to the less well-off and to those suffering from poverty and illness? Leprosy inevitably affects those afflicted by all three of these deprivations and our major focus is the financing of treatment and care for those who have this disease. So many think that Leprosy ceased to exist by medieval times but members of this Order know that it is still far too prevalent in the modern world. Please do all you can possibly can to support your Charity and enable it to fulfil the original motives that caused the Order to be founded.

Very many thanks are due to Dame Val Hiscock for originating and editing this informative source of communication to the Members of our Order.

David Powell KCLJ

A new approach for the Vidiyal Trust

Since 2014, SLCT has been supporting the work of Canon Pat Atkinson and the Vidiyal Trust, working with leprosy sufferers in one of the most deprived areas of India. Canon Pat wrote in January:

“Today has been a red letter day in that I have been able to gain entry to the government leprosy home and clinic. It has taken 2 years, but I am over the moon to have finally broken a big barrier down! I have spent the whole of this afternoon with the patients, most of whom are severely disfigured. Several from the colony we have been helping for the past couple of years were there

today for treatment, all of which helps with being accepted.



“The conditions in the home which houses 180 are really bad, but at last we are "in" now and we will gradually assess and respond to need. I am so pleased to now be in a position of acceptance, and thanks to your funding we can really help some of the very poorest.”

The intention had been to use our grant to provide an auto-rickshaw to transport patients to and from the hospital, but Canon Pat’s latest update tells us that plans have now changed. She writes:

“I have been home for 2 weeks now, after spending a second afternoon in the leprosy home. This second visit changed the plans already made! Hospital visits are not that frequent. Records show that only 12 visits have been made in the last 6 months - this does / did not justify the expense of a new rickshaw as our current ambulance can be utilised. So we returned the rickshaw we had just purchased (with your funds)!

“A general meeting was called, and it became apparent that food and medication, plus antiseptics are the real need. Patients are supplied with rice, (poor quality), they grow some vegetables, have a few chickens - and some eat the monkeys who live in the site. Most of the patients have not left the site for several years. A government pension is given of around £10 monthly, this seems to be spent on supplementary foods - and cigarettes. After the general meeting I was able to visit individual "homes". It was obvious that my initial assessment of poor diet, lack of bandages and antiseptics was correct. I was also aware of a general apathy. They need to be hugged, loved and valued. They have nothing to look forward to, and their living conditions are really bad.

“So, what we would like to do with your grant is this :-
Provide 25kg of sugar every month. Cost £12 monthly. £144 pa
Provide a high protein 2 course feast every month. Cost £1 per head, food to be prepared in our kitchens and taken to the home. Cost £180 monthly £2160 pa
This leaves £700 for antiseptics, bandages, soap and toiletries - none of which I could see on my house visits. These are already being delivered, soaps this month, with antiseptics and



cotton bandages. Toothbrushes next month.....

“The feast will be made in to an event - we have some wonderful volunteers, many of whom have grown up with us. I return in September, so can reassess then. The first feast is planned for this month, and we took the first 25kg of sugar on my second visit.

“I so wish that I could have been there longer, but perhaps it is good to move slowly. It would be wrong to rush into helping, and more assessment is needed, but these are the real sufferers.”

You can find out more about Canon Pat's work with leprosy sufferers at www.vidyaltrust.com

EMMS International Symposium

The St Lazarus Charitable Trust has supported the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS) for a number of years.

As part of the celebrations to mark their 175th Anniversary, EMMS International held a Symposium on ‘The value of the student elective’ on Saturday 23rd January 2016 in Glasgow, which was attended by Chevalier John Reid KU and Confrere David Knox OU, both Trustees of the SLCT. The symposium was attended by 9 students, three of whom had recently returned from their student elective abroad, supported financially by EMMS with funding provided by SLCT.



The afternoon was introduced by James Wells, the CEO of EMMS, followed by John Reid who spoke on the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem and the St Lazarus Charitable Trust. This was followed by an

overview of the EMMS Student Elective Bursary application scheme by Dr Joan McDowell, the lead scheme assessor and a Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Healthcare and Associate Academic (Institute of Health and Wellbeing) University of Glasgow.

There then followed a talk by Dr Tim Lavy, a Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, entitled “What Value the International Student Elective Experience adds to the NHS”. Dr Lavy has spent a number of years working as an Ophthalmologist in Africa and the Middle East

**The St Lazarus
Charitable Trust**
Registered charity
no 286918

Chairman:
David Powell KCLJ
Clerk:
Dame Val Hiscock
DCLJ

(The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital).

Following a break for refreshments, there were brief but profound presentations by three Student Elective Alumni, who reported on their respective experiences. Two of these trainee doctors had worked their electives in Malawi and one in Zambia & Swaziland.

The students were followed by Prof David Galloway, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, talking on “The Value of Global Health Engagement”, and finally, Tony Gaston, a Relationships Manager of EMMS International speaking on “Because Every Life Matters”.

Throughout all the presentations there was a strong sense of Christian belief and commitment.

Following the Symposium, EMMS International had arranged a Burns Supper and Ceilidh which was attended by around 60 students.

The whole event was well organised and everybody was most welcoming and interested in the links with SLCT. The Student Elective Alumni all wished they had had more time to talk about their experiences and were very appreciative of the financial support they had received from EMMS student elective bursary scheme and the SLCT. Discussions took place with the Student Elective Alumni and James Wells about linking Student Electives with individual Commanderies and this will be followed up. EMMS intends to extend its Student Elective Scheme to Universities in England and Wales and this will facilitate a link-up between student and Commandery.



Following the symposium, we have been pleased to learn that the new round of applications for student elective bursaries has attracted a record 38 applications from across the UK. If your Commandery is interesting in knowing more about sponsoring a student elective with EMMS, please contact Dame Val Hiscock, Clerk to the Trustees (val@lawfordpark.co.uk) for further information.