South African Partnership

3/30/14 @ 2 pm at 84 Chipmunk Lane, Monmouth

Present: Charles Barker, Carole Barker, Tom Barker, Jean Roesner, Rick Ness, Sebastian Roesner

Open with prayer: Rick Ness

Minutes of last meeting: approved

News update: trial of Oscar Pistorius. Cape Town Jazz festival, ½ of folks attempting to quit smoking have failed, trial underway relative to Aug 13 strike wages and working conditions. 34 strikers were killed, 2 officers killed, 76 folks injured. All this from “The Mail and Guardian” – [www.mg.co.za](http://www.mg.co.za) The Mail & Guardian Online is South Africa's oldest quality news source on the web and Africa's first online newspaper. Check it out!

Treasurer Report:

* $4000 sent to the Macfarlan Partnership Bank Account to cover the upcoming visits of Tim and Artwell for their continued work.
* $604 raised for World Aids Day offering at the MATE churches – THANK YOU!
* Winnie has a new computer! Cost was $940 + 4.99 fee from XOOM to do the wire transfer. ~$1000 raised separately by Ed. **(Yeah Ed!) [And Ed says “thank you” to the 6 SAP members who stepped forward].**
* Bonnie and Ed raised $300 [and counting] with a craft sale and cheese & wine party in Florida.

Tim’s report of his March visit is on the website.

Susan Richards from London: Comic Relief is a UK charity for UK-based organized work in Sub-Saharan Africa. Susan is part of the UK teaches program in the Tyhume Valley that works with Winnie, and she is asking if we want to be part of their grant request. We’ve submitted a proposal for $10,000/year for garden fencing, training and equipment. Do not know the timeline for hearing whether this is a ‘go’ or not.

Old Business:

* Women’s exchange: Rita (Deb) Burgess and Jean Roesner going from Leeds; Elaine Brown from Mid-Coast.
* Funding: propose asking MATE to fund 50% of the PNNE cost for MATE attendees – dependent on how the Leeds’ fundraising is going. Leeds is planning a supper for May 17th. Paul Brown called and set May 1st deadline. All funds to support the folks attending the trip from Leeds. Jean will reach out to Rita/Deb to see what her status is. We need to know what her needs are, soon.
* Proposal to MATE for GRANT needs, on behalf of the Women’s Exchange, can we ask for them to send funds to cover Rita? Finance committee meeting on April 10th (?) meeting?. Request $2000 to support the Presbytery Women’s exchange. (Matching funds (1500) have been supplied already by participants). The $2000 would cover Rita’s costs and the extra would go to the Presbytery. We’ll accept anything though. There is also a fundraiser at LCC on May 17. Approved! **Ed will write this up and submitting it to the finance committee!**
* May 17th workshop in Bedford, NH Jean, Rita, and Elaine must attend.
* 2014 MATE trips:
	+ Oct 2 to 30 (more or less): attending: Charlie Barker, Ed Jesteadt [Bonnie is 90% sure she is a ‘no’], Ed and Darlene Scott from NJ, & George Hardy.

Need to work on: Communications with South Africa. Concern about Winnie being the only point of contact with folks. If Winnie is unable to do what she’s been doing, who is the next in line? Hard to find someone with the skills are needed. Need to have someone to coordinate. Artwell and Tim could be the only other contacts. This is a goal of the Oct 2014 trip.

Can Tim and Artwell develop leadership for this project? Leadership is perhaps one of the most critical issues for the partnership to continue.

Is there any value in bringing folks from South Africa over this way for a year or two or three? Who and what?

October: looking for a focus on who is there, what is there, how does this project move forward? What is the continued need? Who is the leadership? How do we respond? Can we get more in church-to-church relationships? Perhaps a lack of vision, not of leadership?

October questions: What is the population base of folks from 15 to 25? Gardening important to older generation? When folks are working to survive, how do we grow vision? Who can answer those questions?

New Leadership in SA has a different vision that the SAP currently. This means that we may not have the resource we need to have a connection.

Accomplished a lot. Time to reflect and need to see where we’re going.

Next Meeting Date: May 4, 2014 at 2 pm at Leeds Community Church

jr/ecj