South Africa Partnership Meeting

Sunday, June 1, 2014 @ 2 PM

Home of Charlie Barker, 19 Dawn’s Way, Leeds

Meeting Minutes

* Open with Prayer – Pastor Rick
* Chairman’s Comments – updates from the [www.mg.co.za](http://www.mg.co.za) news reports. It is no surprise the Pres. Zuma was re-elected.
* March 30 meeting minutes – Approved as written.
* Treasurer’s reports:
	+ World AIDS Day – 2013 - $~~604~~ $1,004 raised in total! Thank you letters have been sent to all the MATE churches Clerks of Session.
	+ New Computer for Winnie
		- 7 SAP members responded to the call for funds –$1,145 donated; ink & paper for printer will also be paid for with the excess!
	+ Craft Sale in Florida - $570 in sales & donations – thanks, Bonnie.
	+ Memorial donations in memory of Russ Kaniuka- $320
* Reports from Tim Wigley and Artwell Chivhinge –
	+ Reports are on the website – go to <http://www.missionattheeastward.org> and click on the South Africa Partnership or go to <http://southafricapartnership.weebly.com> directly – then under “2014 News” you’ll find Tim’s March & May 2014 report and Artwell’s April 2014 report in the upper left column.
	+ Based on these reports, Ed will work closer with Tim and Artwell to identify specific families for fencing and to assure the most needy are being served.
* Old Business
	+ uBunye Women’s Exchange
		- Candidates – Rita Burgess and Jean Roesner going from Leeds; Elaine Brown from Mid-Coast.
		- Funding – Propose asking MATE to grant $1,000 to the PNNE Ubunye committee. Motion to do so made and approved.
		- Dates – July 24 to Aug. 13. Ed to send to Charlie Barker the itinerary for the trip via ‘snail-mail.’
	+ 2014 MATE trip -
		- Dates – Oct. 2 – 30 – more or less – Ed to begin serious planning for the trip in June. Preliminary thoughts:
			* We will update the 2012 Home Garden Committee rosters and collect meaningful statistics and pictures – visiting all 10 villages – Sompondo, Mazotsho, Kwezana, Majwareni, Lalini, Sigingqini, Jonini, Frances, Dyamala, Krwakrwa.
			* We told the Sompondo Village [Mr. Mayekiso] we would help with the church completion – and have collected some modest funds for this.
			* We will explore the potential of working with Jikani.
			* We will coordinate a visit by both Tim and Artwell while we are there to work with them 1st hand in the villages.
	+ UK contact – Susan Richards – Log onto [www.tvschools.org.uk](http://www.tvschools.org.uk) to see what they are doing there. This may be a new connection that focuses on youth, jobs, training, etc. Hope to hear on the grant in mid-June to help with the Home Gardens project. Also check on [www.jikani.com](http://www.jikani.com) and look at Dr. Norma’s latest venture into helping others who are far less fortunate.
* New Business
	+ Some realities of where we are today:
		- No longer a church-to-church partnership – that ended in August 2010. From 2000 to 2010, the Partnership was driven largely by the pastors of the 2 churches. That same connection is not present today. With that said, we feel MATE should still maintain a relationship with the Macfarlan Church.
		- Without Winnie as the link – there is no contact.
		- Home Garden committees are seemingly not as well-organized as we would hope.
		- There is a need to work closer with Tim & Artwell to direct their efforts – Winnie would support this.
		- As an outreach mission for MATE churches, trips are out of reach for most – or certainly hard to justify spending $3,000 per person. The World AIDS Day response, and the support for a new computer for Winnie, indicate there is still interest and viability.
		- We have all but dropped out of attending the PNNE uBunye Committee meetings. It is time to at least officially state that MATE does not have an active Partnership, but we still have an active outreach and interest in the people with whom some of us grown quite close.
		- It is difficult to quantify the impact of our efforts. With Winnie’s bouts with medical issues and her computer crashing – collecting meaningful feedback from the villages has been spotty at best.
	+ Proposal for the future:
		- It is realistic to state that when Winnie is no longer able or willing to be the contact at her end, we are largely done, unless …
		- There remains residual interest in what few contacts and projects that remain, and working through an established NGO in the area can provide a way forward – Jikani.com may be the means – although at the moment, it is focused on Hogsback.
		- If the grant proposal we were invited to join with the UK Teachers group does come through [mid-June, maybe], this may open a new channel for us. Especially exciting is the prospect of doing youth-oriented activities associated with the Hobbiton Outdoor Education Centre in Hogsback & Camp at the Eastward – but this for another time and another year!
* Next meeting – August 24, 2 PM at Charlie Barker’s home.
* Close with prayer