MATE SOUTH AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

MATE-SAP

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

Meeting at the home of Charlie Barker, 19 Dawns Way, Leeds, ME – 2 PM

Attending: Tom Barker, Carole Barker, Dan’l Barker, Rick Ness, Jack Kallis, Bonnie Frick-Jesteadt, Joanne Hardy, George Hardy, Charlie Barker, Steve Row, Dory Dickman, Paul Dickman, Ed Jesteadt [Scribe]

         Opened with Prayer – Pastor Rick Ness

         Chairman’s Comments – Update on happenings in SA; recommends periodically checking [www.mg.co.za](http://www.mg.co.za) for news from South Africa.

         June 23 meeting minutes – approved as submitted.

         Treasurer’s reports - The following reports were handouts to bring everyone up to date on what we did in 2012 and year-to-date results [through 9-14] for 2013 – below are summary highlights of the reports:

o   2012 –

  MATE-SAP – ‘Income’ of $13,448.25; Sent $14,350 to Tyhume Valley Bank Account for Home Garden [fencing and tools, and training] and $1,050 for Sompondo church roof.

  Tyhume Valley – This report shows in rand [net exchange rate was R7.48 = $1] how the $14,350 was spread among the 9 villages and 2 consultants [Tim Wigley & Artwell Chivhinge].

o   2013 –

  MATE-SAP – YTD ‘income’ of $9,502.69 [Afghan raffle, SA craft sales, MATE church donations, other individuals & Partnership Patrons].  Disbursements of $7,796.44; of this, $7,500 was sent to Tyhume Valley Bank account, primarily for payments to Tim & Artwell.  Current SAP bank balance is $7,202.22.

  Tyhume Valley – [Net Exchange rate R8.78 = $1] Shows the usage of the $7,500 expressed in rand – payments for Tim, Artwell and a special fund for fruit trees.  Current Bank balance is ~ R27,000.

  Note that the exchange rate has improved from 2012 to 2013 [from a USA perspective]; currently it is ~R9.5 = $1.

o   Matching Gift donors – Anonymous donors have pledged a total of $3,500 as matching funds – if we receive $3,500 in donations from others, it will turn into $7,000!

         Secretary’s Report:

o   Website updates of Correspondence – A work in progress: Some correspondence from SA to MATE since the 2012 trip is captured on the website. Visit the website by going to [www.missionattheeastward.org](http://www.missionattheeastward.org) and clicking on the link to the SA Partnership.  I PROMISE to work harder to get the website up to date and current.  Samples of recent correspondence were passed out at the meeting:

  Artwell’s Nov. 2012 Reports.

  Winnie’s report of Tim’s August 2013 visit & his report.

  Letters received from Mazotsho Home Garden Committee.

  Tim’s “Food Forest” article.

o   August 2013 request from Sompondo – request for help to buy materials for the new church floor – R18,000 = ~$1,900.  In 2012, we sent $1,050 for materials for the roof, a project we were to do in 2010.

o   Recent email inquiry by Susan Richards in the U.K. – Winnie Maneli has been involved with an effort from the U.K. to augment training in the Tyhume Valley schools. We are exploring if there can be any synergy with their efforts and ours.  Their website is  [www.tvschools.org.uk](http://www.tvschools.org.uk)

         Action Items:

* + 2014 Women’s Exchange – MATE’s participation and support.
    - Application form is due by 12/31/13.
    - Cost - $1000/applicant – Scholarship assistance available
    - Fundraising help is expected – total cost ~ $3,000/person [uBunye Committee and Churches to raise the other ~ $2,000].
    - Action – We will ‘advertise’ this opportunity in the MATE churches over the next few Sundays to determine interest [Rick, Charlie, Steve & Ed] and have ‘solid’ input for our next meeting.
  + Proposal for the next 12 months:
    - Training, monitoring & mentoring done by Tim & Artwell:
      * Artwell – Jonini, Sigingqini, Kwezana, Marjwareni, Dyamala
      * Tim – Sompondo, Mazotsho, Lalini, Francis
      * 6 visits /year by each – 3 in spring/summer; 3 in fall/early winter = ~R80,000 [includes misc. costs for catering & supplies]
    - Fencing & equipment: ~R90,000 spread over 9 villages [actual allocation by village to be done in consultation with Winnie]
    - Total annual costs: ~ R170,000 = ~$18,000 @ $1 = R9.5
    - Add to this $2,000 to be raised for the Sompondo church – this could be less, as they continue to do their own fundraising as well.
    - Action:
      * $20,000 budget approved.
      * Based on 6-12-13 email from Rev. Tom Robinson [Flemington Presbyterian Church Pastor who, with his wife, joined us for part of the 2012 trip], Ed will send a letter with a proposal for FPC to carve out a piece of our program for their support.
      * Ed to also send letter and proposal to other churches who have expressed an interest in strengthening the bonds/linkages with MATE.
      * Members of other churches who provide support to MATE-SAP are welcome to join us on future trips to SA.
  + Bonnie has been raffling an Afghan Ed’s sister made for us as a fundraiser – we thought it might be good to share it with the ‘southern’ MATE churches & other venues. The Hardy’s took possession of the Afghan – the drawing will be held Nov. 17 at the Fairbanks Church.
  + Potential trip in 2014 – target Oct/Nov.  This will be a ‘working’ visit.  Potential to overlap with a visit by Tim and/or Artwell.  Details to be worked on in 2014.  Would like to limit size of group to 12 or less [2 vans]. Strictly 100% self-funded.  Duration ~ 3 weeks+ [can be less for anyone who can only do 2 weeks].
  + Other fundraising:
    - George agreed to seek additional funding from sources within the Church and private foundations.
    - We could use ‘grant writing’ help from others who can search the internet and look for $$$ to support our work on sustainable gardening as the primary food source for the families in the valley.
    - World AIDS Day is Dec. 1, and it is on a Sunday this year.  Ed to prepare a flyer for MATE Council use with all MATE churches to take a special collection in support of the Home Garden Program.

         Next meeting – Sunday, October 27 – 2 PM – and Charlie has agreed yet again to host us at his home in Leeds.

         Closed with prayer by Pastor Rick – he especially mentioned the recent losses of Sister Gugwini; Winnie’s son-in-law [father of Phelo & Bongo], and Bruce Andrews [Nashua PC rep to PNNE uBunye Committee since its inception].