

News of Students at BEDCO

BEDCO is a well established Lesotho-wide organisation which offers training and business start-up assistance. We have been supporting half a dozen students at the Leribe branch for several years to undertake 6 month courses in carpentry. During our last Trustee visit we were honoured to attend the passing out ceremony of successful students and to meet some of those you have enabled us to help.

Another cohort will be completing in July 2005, all of whom are in their twenties. Most are single although one has 5 dependents. The majority are intending to start their own business or to be self employed in their home area although one already has a new job and one intends to seek work from a company in Lesotho. It is good to see that their new skills will be put to use within the Kingdom rather than be deployed outside.



Studying at BEDCO has given our students a new perspective and focus for their lives. Before starting the course, several said they were “unsure” about how to earn a living while others said “it has given me new skills that are essential”. Several feel they have improved job prospects. The success at BEDCO in Leribe has encouraged us to expand our involvement with the organisation and we hope that next term we will also be helping students at BEDCO in Buthe-Buthe.

42 Ridley Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9XW

Charity Number: 285451

www.basotho-educational-trust.org.uk

2005 Annual Report

The Basotho Educational Trust is still working, still assisting needy students gain a qualification that will lead to work. We are also looking at new ways of keeping the UK committee in touch and encouraging new links.

At the trustees meeting in May the suggestion was put forward that we might consider sending an ordinand on a four to six week placement to Lesotho. It is not unusual for students preparing for ordination to explore a different aspect of the work of the Church of God and in this age to see the African Church at first hand can only be good. Our thinking is that sadly Lesotho is not well known, we want to improve that. If we could get together the fare to fly someone to Maseru we think that there are all sorts of activities in which they could engage. Amongst the trustees there are those who would specifically donate toward this project if it were accepted.

The Society of the Sacred Mission work in the Maseru area, amongst other things they link with local parishes, build bridges with those trying to nurture children whose parents have died through HIV/Aids and generally get involved. Our thinking after some preliminary discussion is to send a student to spend some time living in community, sharing with SSM and also have a fact finding role for us. This could involve visiting colleges, meeting with the Lesotho committee and meeting with some of those who have completed courses with our help.

We are excited by this; our estimate is that we would need to provide for something in the region of £1000, this would cover fare and essential travel costs. SSM are discussing the possibility that their way of helping us would be to provide accommodation and food. If you feel this is a worthy project we would like to hear from you.

Financial Accounts

Notes:

Policy on Reserves:

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to fund all sponsored students for the complete duration of their course in the event that no further funds are received.

Restricted Funds:

All covenants and one off donations from individuals were received for the purpose of sponsoring selected students.

The figures represent the audited accounts of the Basotho Educational Trust for the year ending March 31st 2005. They were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held at the Community of the Holy Name, Derby on Saturday 22nd May 2005.

Income

Fund Raising	838.04
Covenants	3512.99
GYE	24.25
Legacy	0.00
Gift Aid	3058.00
CAF	850.00
Churches	5078.00
1 off Donations	1002.00
Trusts	170.32
Interest	734.76
Inland Revenue	1152.73
Bank Refunds	11.58
	16433.22

Expenditure

Bank Charges	0.00
Admin	104.76
Lesotho Costs	4005.53
	4110.29

Out-Turn

12322.93

Balance Sheet

Previous Balance, year ending 31/3/2004	36251.21
Surplus on year ending 31/3/2005	12322.93
Balance	48574.14

Accounts

Current Account	5322.68
Capital Reserve	43251.46
Total	48574.14

Students

School / College	Number of Students
TSL	9
Leloaheng	2
LTI	0
St Elizabeth's	5
BEDCO	1
St Mary's	10
Bishop Allard 0	
Bernada	3
Loika	0
	30