

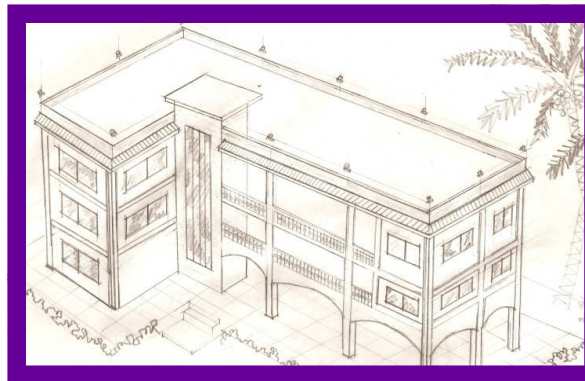
Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter with an update on the Seedling project which is due to start within weeks now. We have news on our two recently appointed patrons, Michael Gove MP and Bishop Christopher of Guildford, fundraising, a page on "Farewell to some of our students" and the annual reminder of Christmas postal details. It is often the work at Mango Tree house, the residential home that gets the most publicity, but we do also run a children's preparatory Cashew Tree school for the five to seven year olds with nearly 180 children attending. In addition, the Grapevine project, where family care and additional tuition for the children and young people in this scheme provide excellent support, and some first class results for the forty students. All this on £115,000 a year in Manila and £14,000 for UK costs – I hope you will agree that this is amazing value. On behalf of the trustees, thank you.

David Cox MBE, Hon chairman



The Seedling project

As I write this, at the beginning of October, it seems that the contract to start building our new children's home is to be signed within the next few days and construction should start soon after. We were so very close to reaching our Trustees goal of having 80% of the contracted costs in place, that a decision was made to start to build with the hope that it will be completed by the start of the next school year in June 2009. Your response as supporters has been tremendous and we have been deeply appreciative of the offers of help, in both gifts and loans. We have no Federal reserve to save us if things go wrong, so as you can appreciate in such financially unstable times as these, we must be realistic and proceed in faith as well.



We have to take into account many factors, the world financial situation, the exchange rate between the peso and the pound and the way the credit crunch has affected our charitable support and giving by supporters. We actually have three spread sheets showing varying levels of exchange and on one of them we have a £20,000 shortfall and on another £30,000 showing how much the rate can affect us!

The planning and cross checking has taken a lot of time with weekly Skype telephone calls which take at least an hour but fortunately cost us nothing. Now after all this we can proceed. The plans and drawings are complete, the builder appointed, the contract is in its seventh version and excitement is high.

We are extremely grateful for your generosity and giving. Thank you all very much, and we will post our progress on our website www.asct.org.uk and Alison can respond to telephone or email enquiries from you.

The building is estimated to take eight months so should be nearing completion, assuming we start very quickly, by end of May 2009.

Thank you all
David Cox

Did you know?

- ◆ We have 593 supporters.
- ◆ Of which 193 are regular donors.
- ◆ ASCT care for 245 children.
- ◆ The first children we helped are now in their 40s.
- ◆ We employ 22 staff in Manila.
- ◆ Our UK office runs on 20 hours a week.
- ◆ 20 volunteers have been sent over to work in Manila over the past few years.
- ◆ We rely on individuals, churches and schools for nearly all our income.
- ◆ We need more Trustees to add to our current six.



Fundraising



Chris Green successfully completed his sponsored bike ride from Camberley to Land's End at the beginning of September. Many thanks to Chris for all his hard work. Here is his report:

'Preparation and planning is the key to success, I frequently reminded myself in the busy months and weeks leading up to 29th August. Nevertheless, as the number of sponsors built up, so did the responsibility of turning the plans into reality. With lots of support and a warm send off, I was soon on my way, enjoying quiet roads, pretty villages, meadows and hills.

I covered an average of about 60 miles each day, and enjoyed breaking my personal speed record, reaching 38 mph as I left Shaftesbury on a rather scary hill! However the 1 in 6 hill taking me onto Exmoor was quite a test of stamina. The next day the weather began to deteriorate with a strong headwind and rain sweeping in from the Atlantic, coinciding with the longest distance I planned to cover in one day and getting lost, wasting valuable time. In hill fog, darkness, wind and rain I eventually reached shelter at 10.30pm!

The remaining distances became less each day and my aching legs began to recover! I reached Lands End on the morning of 5th September, having covered 355 miles, but could not quite believe that my mission was accomplished.

So many people have been very generous and to date I have collected over a thousand pounds and still have more to collect in. Thank you to all who have supported me by their sponsorship and words of encouragement.'

On one of those rare sunny days of the early summer the Junior Church from Banstead United Reformed Church held a barbecue for the entire Church family. The children and their leaders sold tickets, prepared salads, erected gazebos, barbecued the food, hulled the strawberries and even did the washing up. The children acted as waiters and waitresses and ensured everyone received excellent service. They are pictured enjoying a well-earned rest from their labours on a train ride from the manse garden to the church. The event was held to raise money for, and awareness of, the ASCT and raised over £450.



A letter from Craig

The world has a big debate about nurture versus nature and as a Christian I find it difficult to come down on the side of nature. Christ's love is transforming and, with the love of the staff in the Children's Home, we have seen children, who grew up without discipline and surrounded by vice in the cemetery, become mature young people and fine Christian examples. While some of us waste our time in the evolution v creation debate I believe our time would be far better spent pointing out how transforming a relationship with Jesus can be. We can moan about the lack of morals of the youth of today or we can show the change that Christ has made in our lives. What about you? What about me? How has Christ changed us? Being born again is not a onetime action; we need a daily journey with Jesus, a journey of faith and transformation. We hold the keys to society, politicians can make laws but Christ can change lives, what is more powerful? We see the difference that Jesus has made to the young people at ASCT. I am humbled, coming from a nice middle class background, when I see that the children from the cemetery are witnessing to me about how I should be reflecting Jesus. During a recent party at MacDonald's organised by some visitors from England I was stressed and frustrated. The manager berated me about the street kids sniffing glue in the toilets and anger rose in me until our students from Mango reminded me that I had to reflect Jesus, as this was the only hope the children from the streets had of changing their lives. I am a work in progress, we all are, so let us daily take time to ask; how can I best reflect Jesus today?



CRAIG BURROWS MBE IS OUR RESIDENT DIRECTOR IN MANILA..

ASCT Patrons



We are delighted to announce that Michael Gove, Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath and The Right Revd Christopher Hill, The Bishop of Guildford have both agreed to become a patron for our charity.

With Michael's well-known support of charity work, his concern for world poverty, and his achievements as Shadow

Secretary for Children, Schools & Families, we are very much looking forward to his participation in the work of ASCT.

Michael commented: *"I am extremely pleased to accept this patronage and wish this Surrey-based charity every success in its continuing work. Its record in providing much-needed care, education and social welfare to some of the most deserving young people is enviable. This is why I am so proud to have been asked to get involved."*

Bishop Christopher commented: *"I am very pleased to become a patron of ASCT, a Surrey based Christian charity which is well supported by churches in the Camberley area both financially and through prayer. Their work, with children living in very poor conditions, is very deserving and worthwhile. I am glad to be able offer my support and prayers to their cause."*

We are very much looking forward to his encouragement and prayers in support of the work of ASCT.



Farewell to some of our students

Each year a certain number of children leave the care of ASCT. A class of Cashew children graduate at the end of their preparatory year. Some of our Grapevine and Mango children leave after graduating from College or High School. Some Mango children will be reintegrated with their families while some of the Grapevine children may move out of the area. The ASCT staff in Manila work hard to encourage every ASCT child to remain in education for as long as possible. Below you will see a list of students who have left the care of ASCT for various reasons in the past year.

We wish all our children every success in the future.

Student	Age entered care of ASCT	Age at leaving ASCT	Grade obtained	Reason for graduation
Naida Duglas (Grapevine)	12	17	Completed first year at college	Moved to be with her Father in provinces. Hopes to continue college.
Marvin Francisco (Mango)	8	13	Grade VI elementary	Reintegrated with his family. Now at High School.
Joleto Leonido (Grapevine)	9	16	First year High School	Moved to the provinces. Still at school.
Marlon Anata (Mango)	12	17	First year College	Reintegrated with his family. Still at college.
Jimbo Rodriguez (Mango)	11	13	Grade II elementary	Reintegrated with his family. Still at school.
Clarissa Labro (Grapevine)	9	16	Second Year High School	Moved to be with her Mother in the provinces
Maricel Encina (Grapevine)	10	18	First Year college	Moved away without informing ASCT
Mark Cabangonay (Grapevine)	10	16	Grade IV elementary	Moved to live with his sister.
Nidanny Arca (Grapevine)	8	20	Graduated with BSc in nursing	Working in a district hospital
Mark Alas (Grapevine)	14	23	Graduated with BSc in Elementary education	Started his teaching career.
Rachel Gonzales (Grapevine)	11	17	First year at college	Working as an office clerk.

At Cashew Tree School 74 children successfully graduated and move on to elementary school, having been given an excellent start to their education.

Alternative Christmas Scheme

Following the fantastic success of our 'Alternative Christmas Scheme' we are repeating the scheme again. Last year we raised £1,450. Every penny of this money was transferred to the Philippines and used to buy gifts for the children and families supported by ASCT.

If you would like to take part in the scheme, simply fill in the form below and return with a cheque (made payable to ASCT) to the ASCT office. In return you will receive a gift certificate which you can either keep yourself or pass on as a present to someone else.

Product	Price	Quantity	Sub Total
Set of clothes	£15.00		
School Bag	£5.00		
School Supplies per student	£10.00		
Books for Cashew	£5.00		
Pair of shoes	£6.00		
Vitamins	£5.00		
Rice and canned food per family	£10.00		
Blanket	£3.00		
Total			

Name: _____ **Tele no.** _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Completed forms should be received in the ASCT office by December 12th.



Annual General Meeting

The ASCT Annual General Meeting will be held at High Cross Church, Camberley, Surrey on Saturday 18th October at 9.30 am. This is a short meeting covering statutory legal and financial matters, the chairman's review of the year as well as appointing Trustees and officers for the coming year. As supporters of the charity you are all welcome to attend. If you would like to be there please contact Alison on 01276 707633 or e-mail office@asct.org.uk as soon as possible.

Christmas post.

Christmas time is fast approaching and, like all other children around the world, the ASCT children are eagerly anticipating the day. If you sponsor an ASCT child and would like to send them a card and/or a monetary present the Christmas package will be sent from the ASCT office on the 28th November. Some of our children do not receive a Christmas gift. If you would like to give to one of these children please send a cheque, made payable to ASCT to the address below.



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Community Link, Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3HH
Tel: 01276-707633
Website: www.asct.org.uk E-mail: office@asct.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 272328