

ASCT

ASIAN STUDENTS CHRISTIAN TRUST

NEWS October 2010
Issue 41

**Changing young lives, one at a time.
Caring and educating vulnerable
children in the Philippines.**

Greetings to all friends and supporters of ASCT. We have traditionally had a strong base in Camberley but it is great to see that there are new areas of interest and activity getting underway in other places too. ASCT has no boundaries on geography for support, indeed we have friends scattered around the world and from a variety of backgrounds as well. Our latest promotion was to have a film produced showing how we reached children and young people and for them to tell their life story and what a difference ASCT has made to them. We had a joint launch with one in Manila, hosted by the British Ambassador, Stephen Lillie and one in Guildford hosted by one of our patrons, Bishop Christopher. The short video I would urge all of you to see on our website www.asct.org.uk or request a copy from the ASCT office as it explains just what it means to have a new life and hope when faced with over whelming despair. Our young people have made a remarkable and moving testimony so do please have a look.

Times are getting tougher and for the first time in a while we are looking at a decline in income. Inside this issue there are a number of ways to help with Christmas cards, a Barn Dance, ideas on fundraising and a Christmas gift list but above all, do tell your friends just what ASCT is doing. The personal touch is so important and we pride ourselves on maintaining a friendly link with all our supporters and of course the children in Manila. There is also a list of things we need right now, so if you feel that you, your church or school group could fundraise for something more tangible, please do consider this.

Thank you for your continued support.

David Cox MBE, ASCT Chairman



OUR FANTASTIC STAFF IN THE PHILIPPINES

FUNKY REPORT

Seven members of the FUNKY Group (Finished University No Kids Yet) from St Paul's Church Camberley recently visited the Philippines. Here is an account of this visit written by Kristen Suderman.



'On May 25, I had the privilege of travelling to the Philippines along with six other members of FUNKY to help re-paint Cashew Tree School. While we were in

the Philippines, we stayed at Mango Tree House with the ASCF staff and students, all of whom went out of their way to make us feel welcome. They also, without even realising it, blessed us through their words and their actions, whether it was telling us how much they appreciated the work we were doing at Cashew, jumping up to offer us a comfortable seat on the sofa during evening devotions or ensuring that our favourite food items were available to us at meal times.

I was oftentimes amazed and humbled by the thirst for knowledge that was demonstrated by the Filipino people, irrespective of age and income level. The desire for a good education is obvious and seemingly borders on desperation at times. As the Filipinos living in the slums know, a good education presents the greatest chance they have to gain a professional career and escape working as a scavenger on the rubbish dump in Payatas. At times, it broke our hearts to listen to the children tell us how they wanted to be nurses, teachers, or social workers, as we could not help thinking that the obstacles these children would have to overcome in order to achieve their dreams appeared almost insurmountable.

During our time in the Philippines, we were exposed to some of the poorest members of Filipino society and had to endure for a mere two



weeks what they must endure every day. The sweltering heat and stifling humidity were two of our greatest challenges. The average temperature was 35° Celsius; our only reprieve from the heat came from our twice-daily 5 minute cold water showers or our occasional visits to an air conditioned shopping centre. Needless to say, it took some adjusting to the extreme heat particularly when we were working or trying to sleep. The heat, besides making us sticky and uncomfortable, caused the heaps of rubbish sacks lining the streets of Payatas to rot, creating stench that, at times, made our stomachs churn in protest.

Through it all, however, the blessings were never-ending; just when we thought the Mango and Cashew staff and students could do no more to bless us than they already had, they would humble us once more with their love and generosity. The Filipino culture is one of community; everywhere we went we were treated as honoured guests who warranted the best of whatever could be offered to us. For the staff and students of Mango and Cashew, Luke 21:1-3* is not just an occasional occurrence, demonstrated whenever it happens to come to mind; for them, it's an action that recurs daily and is lived out without a second thought. That, for me, was the largest, and most humbling, blessing of them all.'

Members of the FUNKY group are happy to talk to groups or churches who would like to learn more about their visit. Please contact Alison for more information.

** And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all.*



Fundraising

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped fundraise for ASCT in the last few months. Collingwood College, Camberley, organised a sponsored walk for over 1,300 students with ASCT receiving over £800 as a proportion of the money raised. High Cross Church's organ recitals raised £450, a big thank you to John Wood and David Markby for organising the concerts. Funds were also raised by Heatherside Church, Beaconsfield Baptist and The Bridge Church St Ives. Thank you to these and many others.

Particular thanks to our patrons who both gave up their time to support ASCT. Michael Gove acted as quiz master at a very successful evening in July that raised over £900, while the Bishop of Guildford hosted an information evening in Guildford.

The next ASCT event is a Barn Dance at High Cross Church Camberley on November 20th, full details can be found on the back page, but keep an eye on the website for future events.

If you would like to raise money for a specific project or larger item we have listed a few ideas below. As the number of children we support grows so do our needs and these items have been identified by our staff in the Philippines as things they require.



Collingwood College students taking part in a sponsored walk.

Beds, mattresses and bedding for new Mango children	£1,300
Kitchen equipment and fixtures at Mango Tree House	£426
Library books and equipment at Mango Tree House	£860
Books and teaching tools for Grapevine project	£550
Office equipment	£676
Educational resources for Cashew	£640
Furniture for Cashew School	£380

Please give some consideration to fund raising for ASCT. We can always help with ideas, posters and sponsorship forms so why not have a look at the fundraising information on our website or contact Alison in the ASCT office.

Alternative Christmas Scheme

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. Every penny donated via the scheme will be sent out to the Philippines and be used to buy the items chosen for the children and families supported by ASCT.

Product	Price	Quantity	Sub Total
Set of clothes	£15.00		
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:

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





The staff in the Philippines have produced an excellent film showing the stories of children who have grown up in the care of ASCT. You can view the film on the ASCT website but if you would like to have a copy of the DVD, to be viewed on your computer, to show a group or share with friends please contact Alison in the ASCT office.

ALL CHANGE

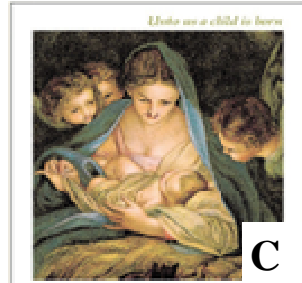
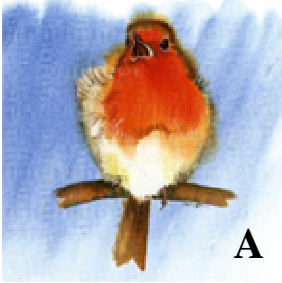
It is all change on the ASCT trustees board as we say farewell and thank you to Brian Higgs who has been a trustee since 1997. Brian has had several roles over the years but most recently was the UK project co-ordinator for the building of the New Mango Tree House. We thank him for all he has done over the years.

We welcome several new members to the board; David Regan, Nicola McDonnell and John Wenger. We now have nine trustees and are continuing to build our skills base to improve the running of ASCT.

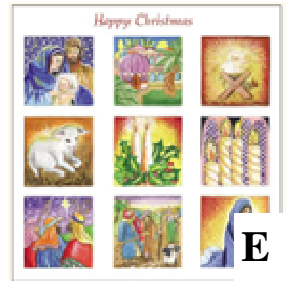


The ASCT Trustees and Executive Administrator, Alison Morey

ASCT CHRISTMAS CARDS



@ £1.60
per pack of
5 cards



Message inside all cards is: 'with best wishes for Christmas and the new Year' and on inside cover in designs C, D & E 'Glory to God in the Highest'.

To order Christmas cards send your order form and cheque made payable to ASCT to the ASCT office. Alternatively collect in person from the office (do phone or email in advance).

Please include p&p cost as shown below * with your order
60P from each pack will go to ASCT funds

Name and address:					
Design	A	B	C	D	E
No. of packs required					
Total cost @1.60 a pack					
Total cost including post and packaging: £					

* Post and packaging cost: 1 or 2 packs = 60p, 3 or 4 packs = 85p, 5 or 6 packs = £1.23. For larger orders please contact Alison directly.

ASCT BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

AT HIGH CROSS CHURCH

CAMBERLEY

*Dancing starts at 7pm. Wagons roll at 10pm.
Bring your own drink*

**Cost of ticket £10 (£5 for under 12s)
Includes a hot meal**



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 30th 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.



Patrons:

The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education and MP for Surrey Heath

The Right Revd Christopher Hill, The Bishop of Guildford

ASCT

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