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Name: The Christadelphian Bethazer Fund

Australia
BSB: 014-002
Account Number: 4848 55637

New Zealand
Account Number: 06-0237-0502754-00

Cheques made out to "The Christadelphian Bethazer Fund" can be sent to:

Australia
PO BOX 186
Wamuran QLD 4512

New Zealand
31 Matatiro Street,
Titahi Bay: Porirua 5022

Michael Hewitt, Secretary
Terry Nutter, Chairman
Beth Errington, Treasurer



ANNUAL Report

2016 - 2017



Spreading the good news
Helping the Needy

Chairman's Message

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

These words of the Apostle Paul remind us of the importance of the Christian act of giving. It is as though Paul is telling us that it is a greater gift of God to be in a position to give than to receive.

In view of Paul's words here cited, when we look at our own individual circumstances and recognise that we have been blessed with plenty – in a relative, or comparative sense – then that recognition ought to be accompanied by an awareness that we have the opportunity to be "more blessed" as we ourselves bless others. But in fact, when we "bless" another through the act of giving, it is nothing more than a sharing of a portion of something already received from God.



So, truly, it is more blessed to give as blessings abound in the act of giving – or should we say, the act of sharing! We might also suggest that the simple and selfless act of giving by one of God's children surely does not go unnoticed by our great Provider, above.

Bethèzer (a name which comes from two, merged Hebrew words individually meaning "house" of "help") as an aid organisation, came into existence some years ago in good part because we understood we were in a position to give and felt we could make a lasting difference by doing so. Ever since, it has been our intention and aspiration to add blessings to others in need through the projects we have taken on – primarily the dormitories in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and the mission school at Loanialu, Tanna, in Vanuatu. Bethèzer's projects are therefore the instruments of our Christian care and generosity of others who have genuine and, in some cases, dire, needs.

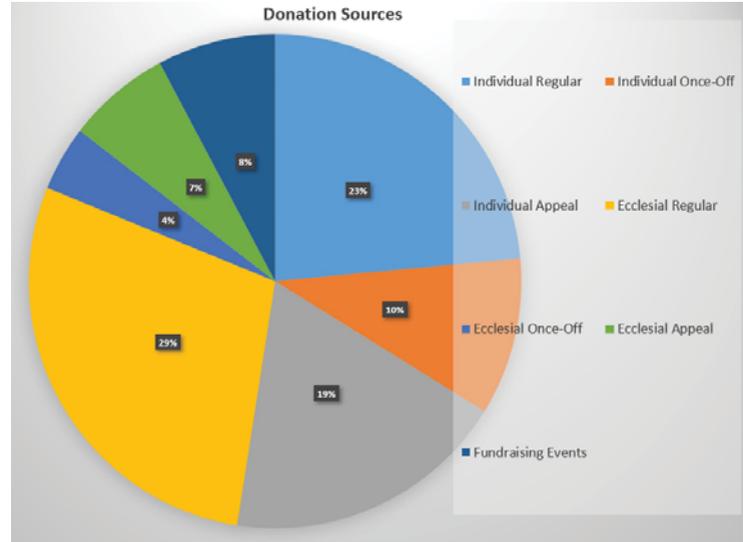
Added to the blessings of Bethèzer have been the financial gifts and volunteering of many, many others whose generosity and thoughtfulness have at times simply staggered us. In fact, those of us involved organisationally with Bethèzer, have marvelled on many an occasion at the generosity of the Christadelphian community, which time and again has responded to our appeals with enthusiasm and selflessness.

These blessings from our brothers and sisters are, of course, essential for both the continuation and the ongoing effectiveness of our work. We, here, at Bethèzer thank you. Without your blessings, ours would not be. And so we find deep truth in Paul's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Terry Nutter



July 2016 - June 2017



Notes: Donation Sources

- Over 50% of our funds come from ongoing regular donations from individuals and ecclesias.
- Individual donors are extremely generous when it comes to appeals (eg. For the Vehicle Fund).

Income and Expenditure July 2016 - June 2017

In the last financial year, we undertook a lot of building and repair work at the Kapalpal school, particularly after cyclone Pam. The previous reporting period was one of consolidation for our two key projects and of planning for the future.

Expenditure was divided almost evenly amongst our two key projects (Phnom Penh Dorms: \$44,787.55; Kapalpal School Tanna: \$41,148.75). At the end of the financial year the Vehicle Fund Account had \$39,200.73, with the plan for the vehicle to be purchased and housing for it built in the next financial year.

The Bethazer Fund

Finance Report

The wise king Solomon spoke many times in Proverbs about the blessings for those who give to the needy:

- Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. 19:17
- Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. 22:9
- Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered. 21:23
- Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. 28:27
- Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor. 14:21

The Christadelphian Bethazer Fund would like to thank the generous individuals and ecclesia's that have donated as the Lord has blessed them. How grateful those of us are to be in a position to give, and we acknowledge those who support the projects in other ways.

As always, our projects aren't limited by a lack of need, but by insufficient funding and enthusiasm to undertake the work. We would love to be able to purchase more equipment for teaching use at the

dorms (eg. Projector, desks, chairs) and the school is always looking to be able to accept more children and subjects that are limited by lack of resources. A low Australian dollar and rising living cost, particularly in Cambodia (eg. Rent, utilities), has meant that the cost of funding our projects are growing yearly. We would hate to have to reduce the scope of our projects if funding does not continue to grow, but we are confident in our Father's providing and answering of prayer.

We also thank the many people who have given of their time to assist in fundraising efforts for the Bethazer Fund. If you, or your ecclesia or youth group, would like to assist in conducting a fundraising event, we would be happy to help with resources and suggestions for activities. Please email bethezer@gmail.com or contact Beth Errington on 0420 989 664.

As the Bethazer Fund runs all its own projects, we know exactly where the funding is going and we aim to constantly improve our efficiency and impact per dollar. Our volunteers generously give of their own time and funds and do not receive any payments for flights or expenses whilst in our areas of operation. Administration cost (eg. Printing, auditing, bookkeeping) are donated so as to not take from our general fund.



The Phnom Penh

Dormitory Project

2016 and 2017 have passed quickly for the Phnom Penh Dormitory Project. With support from our individual donors and the WCF, we provided accommodation for between 36 and 42 students attending university in Phnom Penh. Bethazer provided through the Phnom Penh Dormitory Project;

- Accommodation and living support for boys and girls in two separate dormitory buildings
- Scholarship support for two students
- Regular English classes
- Training for students on nutrition, financial literacy, first aid, Bible studies, environmental awareness and cultural studies



The middle of 2016 saw another dormitory move. The previous dormitory villa, beloved by students, was put on the market by the owner and sold, requiring a move. Many landlords prefer not to rent to large groups of students and the property market has increased significantly over the last five years. Unfortunately, the only solution was to split the dormitories and site the girl's and boy's dormitories separately. The sites are not ideal, but within our budget. Unfortunately, the dormitory has faced security challenges in recent months. Whilst petty crime has always been an issue in Phnom Penh, with intermittent thefts and drive-by bag snatches, a major break-in occurred at the girl's dormitory in October 2017, with three motorbikes stolen by thieves after shearing the locks on the

The Phnom Penh Dormitory Project (PPDP) provides educational and spiritual development opportunities to young Cambodians from provincial areas. The dormitory houses up to 40 female and male students and provides a series of programs aimed at developing a social consciousness, spiritual awareness, supportive study environment and increased capacity in English. The dormitory covers the general costs of accommodation and directly supports some students, providing medical support, vaccinations and basic psychosocial support.

outer gate. This has shaken the girls and the dormitory has established new security processes, including the purchase of video cameras to dissuade local criminals.

We have said farewell to a number of students over the period. It is often difficult to predict when students will leave the dormitory. While most graduate, some do leave to take jobs or pursue scholarships in other countries or at government institutions. In 2016, In Sreyppov, left to get married to another previous dormitory student. Sreyppov has been a long-time student and sister to one of our original dormitory students. Other students leaving in 2016, were Tom Ra, Maov Sinat, Hy Sing Hakmony, Doung Vicheat, Soun Sokol and Sok Davin. In 2017, Sun Sopha, Liv Ranny, Sum Sam Ath and his brother, Sum Samon, Phorn Puthsa and Ranh Somrin all left the dormitory.



Other extra-curricular activities included regular BEC seminars, classes on domestic abuse and child protection, nutrition, financial literacy, first aid and fire safety. Students travelled to Koh Dach and Tamao Mountain for the yearly environmental program, where they collect rubbish and discuss environmental impacts.



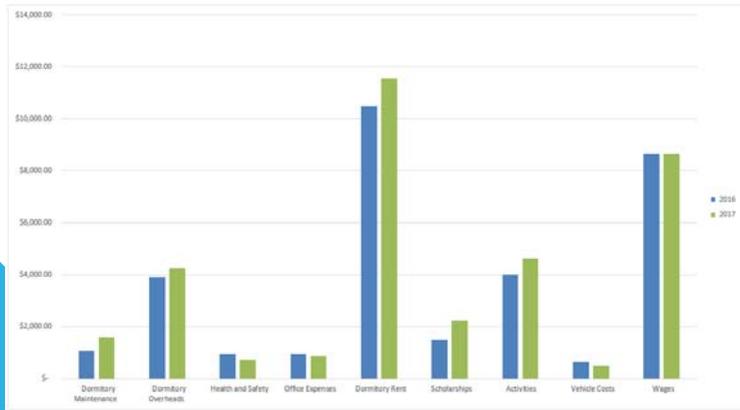
In addition, the students have also committed their time to assist others with visits to Kampong Speu Sunday school and a trip to student villages in Prey Vihear and Siem Reap, where students trained village children on hygiene practices.

Our activities always include strong parent engagement components, with the dormitory manager and small groups of students visiting parents in the provinces and hosting a parent's day at the dormitory. In August, 2016, a small group of students visited a newly established farm run by Alan Lampe from Australia. The team helped cut down small trees and spent an enjoyable time together on the farm. Finally, the dormitory reached out to ex-students, with the management team visiting various past students to offer support and rebuild relationships.



July 2017 also saw a sad goodbye to Richard Benson from the UK. Richard has been working closely with the dormitory students, supporting their English and Bible studies. Many thanks to Richard and the other volunteers from the Bible Education Centre (BEC) for all their efforts.

The presence of volunteers from the BEC supporting our activities is vital for developing the student's capacity in English, something which opens many job opportunities. Regular spiritual development classes are supplemented by visiting teachers at the BEC, and students are able to attend. A number of students, studying with BEC teachers have chosen to be baptised into Christ. Yim Putya, Nak Soneth and Soun Sokul were all baptised in July, 2016.



VOLUNTEERS

In 2016, we had over 50 volunteers visit the school. They filled all sorts of functions- teachers, nurses, builders, electricians, plumbers. We also had people who ran camps and others taught about computers. The volunteer response has been wonderful. We are very grateful to the WCF for providing the volunteers accommodation cottages in 2014 so that more volunteers have been able to come to stay. Some have stayed for a week – others for up to 6 months. Their service has been invaluable.



In 2017, the volunteer cottages were full almost constantly throughout the year. It was really good to have a family of five staying at the school for 3 months early in the year. Parents assisted with RE and Bible studies as well as involving themselves in ecclesial work. The three young children took to their new environment like ducks to water. Long stay volunteers have an opportunity to develop relationships with our brothers and sisters as well as people from the community in a really meaningful way.



We would like to say a huge thankyou to those who help with what happens at the school- to brethren and sisters who spend time running stationary drives, helping fundraise, visiting the school, helping with teaching, sewing and building.

Thankyou also to the groups who have made it possible for us to run some of the programmes that we are developing- Feed my Starving Children for the Nutritional supplement, Meal a Day for freighting it, WCF for helping to provide textbooks for each student as well as for the volunteer accommodation. It would be impossible to run these very necessary programmes that help the children in this community so much without your help. May our Father see your service and be filled with joy.



SPIRITUAL STUDIES, BIBLE CAMPS

Secondary students continue to have Bible studies for an hour each day. Bro Jack Nafeali is our Bible Studies teacher. Primary students have devotions each day and an RE class each week. Many of our volunteers help to teach these classes.



A primary camp was held in July of 2016. The camp run by an Australian group was on the life of Joseph. The primary students really enjoyed the Bible stories, craft activities, games, sports, songs, projects, etc. The secondary camp on Moses was held in August. This was coordinated by a group from New Zealand. The young people who helped run it did a fantastic job. The students really loved it.

A camp on the life of Moses was held for the primary school in 2017.

Some of our students were invited to Vila for a camp run by Southern Vales ecclesia in May, 2016. They really appreciated it. They were also invited to the South Pacific Youth Conference that was held in Port Vila over the Dec/Jan school break. It is really good to be able to coordinate with some of the ACBM activities in Vanuatu. It is of immense value to the spiritual development of the students at the school.



STATIONERY DRIVE

In January each year, a stationery drive is held in Australia for the school. This coincides with the back to school sales that are held. We are able to get large quantities of material at much lower than normal prices. The response is always fantastic. The stationery is usually packed into home sewn pencil cases (an enormous task in itself) and in boxes and shipped over to Vanuatu in May each year. Stationery, like all other imported materials, is expensive in Vanuatu. Shipments went in both 2016 and 2017.



AGAPE IN ACTION

Early in 2017, we approached Agape in Action and Agape very kindly consented to sponsor some of our Vanuatu children. They have managed to find sponsors for a significant number of our kids. This is really great since it means that we can run much more effective hygiene programmes, (we hope to provide each child with a new toothbrush, tooth paste and a bar of soap each school term), hopefully start a uniform making business with the 'cooks' who do lunches every day and a few others. Training for uniform sewing began in November 2017. Agape will also contribute to the Vanuatu end of transport costs for our nutrition supplement from the USA.

The Bottom Line

The dormitory has a tight budget. Thanks to the WCF and other donors, we have managed to maintain costs, although increasing rental costs and inflation threaten the extent to which we can provide a holistic support to students and preclude further development of the dormitory and Bethazer programs.

Jackie Grieve from New Zealand performed an audit on the dormitory finances and processes in August 2016, with the staff receiving a good result in compliance to financial and management processes.

Expenditure has remained similar between 2016 and 2017, although increased inflation and the change in location has increased the rental payments. Travel costs (under administration), increased in 2017 due to increased provincial travel by the management team on visits. One of our scholarship students has completed their studies, but come the end of 2018, scholarship donations will have concluded.



Plans for 2018

With the dormitory move, we are consolidating in the new premises. That having been said, the separated dormitories are not ideal and with increasing prices in Phnom Penh, it will be increasingly difficult to maintain premises close to the universities.

Dormitory programs will continue this year, with social awareness activities through a visit to a cultural landmark and workshops on current social issues within the country, particularly corruption. We will increase the environmental awareness of the students through our annual 'clean-up day' and workshops on waste management and environmental issues faced in Cambodia. Workshops on a variety of health-related subjects and financial literacy will strengthen health and financial awareness, and we will continue engaging closely with the Bible Education Centre.

With the changing political situation in Cambodia, the government is paying closer attention to registration and NGO implementation. Bethazer will be working on improving our processes. While we have registration and submit our reports, we will be establishing a stronger system for developing reports and submitting reports that satisfy the new processes being implemented by the Government.

Finally, with costs rising, it becomes more imperative we find regular donations to maintain the work of the dormitory. Please consider a monthly donation to help sustain Bethazer's Phnom Penh Dormitory project. Another alternative is to consider sponsoring a dormitory student for their studies and stay at the dormitory with a scholarship. These scholarships allow us to help the poorest of students in rural Cambodia.

Kapalpal Christadelphian School

In 2016, in the wake of Cyclone Pam, Kapalpal Christadelphian School has continued to function and provide for the educational, spiritual and physical needs of over 400 children in the area. It was a year of repairs and 'catch-up'.

2017 was a great year at Kapalpal . Over 300 children continued to be educated, fed and clothed, Bible studies were taught, additional interested friends attended the meetings, and we had lots of volunteers visiting the school to help out with Bible camps, Bible studies, building, and support teaching. It was a really positive year in which lots of good things happened.



In July 2017, Kapalpal participated in an interschool Educational Day. We fared reasonably well in the competition that was held. A report by one of our principals is attached.

FOOD SCARCITY

2016, continued to be a time of severe food scarcity for the people in the area around the school. Drought followed by heavy ash-fall from Mt Yasur, a volcano a short distance away, made it impossible for local people to harvest a crop. In a completely subsistence economy, where there is no work available, and consequently, no income generation, this is a complete disaster. The ash-falls, which completely destroy their food crops, were among the heaviest we have seen.

Fortunately for the students at the school, **Christadelphian Meal a Day** has come on board. The nutrition supplement that is provided free of charge by **Feed My Starving Children** in America is being freighted for us by Asia Pacific Meal a Day. We are able to receive a 20 foot container full of food to feed all of the children at the school for one year. This has ensured that the children have received one healthy meal

each day. The food has been prepared by the local sisters who have come to the school each morning (sometimes from the bottom of a very steep hill) to prepare lunch for the students and staff. Volunteers were also included. This food has been making an amazing difference to the lives of these children.

In 2016, Bethazer also supplemented food supplies for the **elderly and the widows**—about 80 families. We had enough funds to continue to do that until May.

Food scarcity is always a problem for the people in this area. Weather patterns are unstable and ash falls seem to be increasing. We hope for a time when there is no food scarcity throughout the world. Praying for His return. Meanwhile we do what little we can.

In 2017, ash fall was slightly less serious although local people still had difficulty in gathering in a crop. We began an experiment with walpinis. The walpinis are an attempt to defeat ash. They are an underground greenhouse with a plastic roof. We have some concerns about insufficient light, mould, airflow, composting, watering (not a thing done in Van) etc..etc..etc.. If they work, they will allow the locals to grow the food-stuff that is grown on the rest of the island but that they can't grow—beans, peas, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, broccoli etc.. It's not a big enough area to help with kumala, taro, manioc or yam. Six walpinis were started in the local community. Some of them have functioned ok others not so well.



BUILDING

A generous donation has allowed us to build **two secondary classrooms** in 2016. These were urgently needed. Our volunteers arrived in early June and a second team followed toward the end of the month and stayed till mid-July The first team completed the structure and second finished the cladding and a storeroom etc. This allowed us to move classes out of the UNICEF tents provided after the cyclone and into permanent buildings. The tents had been seriously damaged by the strong winds in the area and rain was coming inside.. We are, as always, extremely grateful for the work done by the volunteers who come and help.

A **new kindy** was also built with a grant provided by the government this year. A group of volunteers painted the building and did a lot of work on the interior.

Our **toilet block** was finally rebuilt after the cyclone. Building materials are again available. This completes the rebuilding programme from Cyclone Pam. It's great to have them functioning again.



TEACHER'S HOUSING

The community is required to provide adequate teacher accommodation for our staff.

Unfortunately, this has never happened. This year, we have constructed our **first teacher's house**. It is 6m x5m and has a better block fireplace (extremely popular) in a room for living and sleeping. The sleeping area is partitioned off with a curtain. It is suitable to house a couple or 2 single teachers. A second teacher's house (family size) was added in 2017.

VEHICLE PROJECT

Because Vanuatu is an island nation with little or no manufacturing industry, most building materials need to be imported. This makes all of our building projects very expensive to run (particularly in contrast to other third world countries where goods

and services are comparatively cheap). Quite a large component of our costs is freight. Transport costs, even on the island, are expensive. A lot of time is also wasted in trying to get materials. Trucks aren't always available (especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays) and you have to walk significant distances to get one - or pay \$80 down to Lenakel and back if you phone for one. Our costs, just for the Tanna section of the freight, are quite high when we ship materials from either Australia or from Port Vila.

Brother Chris Powell who had been pretty heavily involved in the school since it's inception passed away in January 2016. His wife, Lea asked for donations toward a vehicle fund for the school rather than giving flowers at the funeral. Chris had been frustrated by the amount of time and money spent in transporting goods on Tanna and felt that a vehicle was a necessity there.

And so, the vehicle fund was born.

Before we can buy a vehicle, we have to consider building a garage. The ash-fall rusts out metal (as evidenced in the roofs of our buildings) very quickly. A vehicle would need a garage. We also hope to use the vehicle to teach some classes for the secondary students at the school. It would be good to provide short courses in vehicle maintenance during the holidays. It would give the students an opportunity to learn whether or not they have any aptitude for work in this area.



In April 2017, a cook book was produced in order to raise funds for the vehicle. It's colourful photos of life in Tanna and a collection of recipes made it a 'nambawan' best seller. A 'cultural day' was held at the school to demonstrate how local food is cooked, and to display local dances, clothing etc. Nearly all of the photos in the cookbook were taken at this event at the school.

We hope to have enough donations to buy a vehicle in 2018.