

Families for Children

It has been a very exciting year here in the Timmerman household, exciting and busy. Peter and I celebrated our 50th anniversary (many thanks to all who shared their gift with FFC). We then went with Jeannine and her family to Holland and on a Mediterranean Cruise. So now it is time to get back to reality and see if we can support Sandra with her difficulties encountered in Podanur. Last year I told you all about the new direction for FFC. The House of Hope that was purchased as our first home in 1990 with the Dorchester proceeds is now demolished because it was beyond repair. Even this demolition permit took close to a year.

We were and still are going to build a one-storey building containing about 7 rooms; the centre will have the bathrooms and we planned to put stairs and/or a ramp at one end for a future second floor. We now have two quotes, it did take this past year to accomplish that and they are higher than anticipated, (\$ around \$ 125 000.-). We have one special donation as starter money, but and I will quote Sandra *"We have run into a big snag. One of the donors I was hoping would fund a major part of the building has now said they could not hold the money any longer and have committed to other organizations. I am waiting to hear from another who was going to send proposals to some Indian corporations. I am thinking we might have to go small and start with the money I have and hope more comes through."*

Okay, this is enough sharing of our frustrations and it is time to let you all know the good news. Last year, you dear FFC friends, raised \$ 41914.- by attending our Dinnerless Dinner. Thank you! I'll share with you the schooling that continues to be such a very important part of the work. Our oldest children are now in Grade 5. We have 104 students in our Preschool to Grade 5 and 2 Special Education classrooms. The formal registration of the "FFC Elementary School" is close to completion - something that has required a mammoth amount of paperwork. We hope that next June, our Grade 5 pupils will join the other FFC children and enter the neighbourhood schools for Grade 6. The Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes share the ground floor of the school building. Both are large classes and have special needs children who will spend many years at this level. Upstairs, the Grades 2 & 3 share one classroom and the Grades 4 & 5 the other. We have hired an additional classroom teacher (we now have 9) and a young woman to teach dance to the KG and Grade 1 classes. Our regular dance teacher is marvelous but could not find time in his schedule for our growing school. We hired one of his students and she is terrific.

Thanks to Susan Dutton for her continued guidance of our home schools.

Lawrence, our goat keeper sent us his report as follows:

September- 2011 goats and kids stock in our goat farm 57.

Milking goats: 18 (Ten goats too aged) Pregnant goats: 18 (eight goats too aged)

Teenagers: 6 Male kids & clip male kid: 9 Female kids: 5 Matting Buck 1.

Now we know the number of goats, here is the number of children you are supporting.

Sp. Care boys – 42 Sp. Care girls – 32 Extra sp. Care – 31 Babies – 42 Toddlers - 25

Boys – 63 Girls – 68 Leo's class – 17 Total 320 children.

Sandra, in one of her many emails wrote: *"One thing I have learned over the years. NOTHING goes easy for FFC but it all turns out great in the end"*. You friends make this happen year after year and without you we would not be able to continue this work, so thank you.

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