



The Link



Sri Lanka Youth Camp by Chris Sowton International Development Co-ordinator



A scene from the youth camp held recently in Sri Lanka organised by St John. As well as art classes such as this, the participants participated in a number of activities including first aid education, film shows, a youth parliament and Tsunami-related counselling.

With many losing parents, guardians, siblings and friends, the Tsunami in Sri Lanka affected children more than any other group - and this is to say nothing of the psychological impact. In response to this, St John Sri Lanka organised a youth camp in December 2005 - one year after the terrible event - to do what they could to support these young people. In total, 273 children and 27 parents or guardians attended from all over the country.

A huge range of activities took place on the camp, which was run by St John members in association with a number of experts such as counsellors and physical instructors. A number of positive outcomes emerged out of the workshops which took place within the camp such as leadership development, psychological counselling and rehabilitation, developing relationships between different social and ethnic groups and children's

understanding about their rights and roles within society.

With 99% positive feedback, the camp was an enormous success. One of the younger participants, Jude Donnel from Kalutara District, said that he "had gained knowledge, and new hopes about the future. He felt the career guidance lecture and the workshops were a most useful and rare opportunity". Likewise Mrs. Premawathi from Matara District, one of the parents in attendance, saw the camp as being "very useful to children to get rid of their bad memories."

Funding for the event was donated by the Youth Team at St John England. The money - a total of £9,396 - was raised by a number of cadets selling jubilee badges.

Communication by the Secretary General

The Order Secretariat makes great efforts to ensure that messages from the office reaches the St John Associations in an efficient and timely manner. For this purpose we use all methods of communication, both email, telephone, ordinary post and faxes. It is therefore remarkable, when Associations are invited to comment or contribute views, how little response we get.

I therefore take this opportunity to encourage St John Associations to respond to the Order Secretariat's communications by any means possible. We are here to support you, but we are unable to do that properly unless you communicate with us.

To assist this process, I therefore repeat our various addresses for your benefit:

Office postal address:

The Order of St John
Priory House
25 St John's Lane
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Email address: esther@orderofstjohn.org

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Andrew Gough, Secretary General

Ambulance to Pakistan



In recent weeks the Secretariat has been involved in supporting the transportation of two ambulances to the Babaji Welfare Association in Pakistan, a local NGO attempting to establish a First Aid Centre in the district of Khanewal. The SUFI trust in the UK, chaired by Mr. Makhdoom Chisti - a member of St John in the West Midlands - was the instigator of this process.

While the ambulances sat in Karachi awaiting clearance, the terrible earthquake of the 8th October struck. Through the good offices of the British High Commission in Islamabad, it was possible to release them for use by the Red Crescent for the purpose of emergency relief. The ambulances contained 600 first aid kits, six bed stretchers, three marquees and a host of other useful equipment.

Many St John Establishments pledged support to victims of the earthquake, and channelled their funds through the Red Crescent, with whom St John is closely associated in Pakistan.

News from Canada

Judy Robinson is Coordinator of the Therapy Dog Program for the Hamilton-Wentworth Branch of St. John Ambulance Canada.

On January 30, Judy's work was recognized when she was presented with the Hamilton Spectator's Community Service Award.

Hamilton is a city of about a half million people located at the western end of Lake Ontario. The Spectator is Hamilton's leading newspaper. The award, now in its seventeenth year, is presented annually to a volunteer who has made a difference in the community.

Two St. John Ambulance Canada volunteers, Jim and Doreen Newell, started the Therapy Dog Program in

Peterborough, Ontario, in 1992. The Program now has over 2,000 volunteers across the country.

Judy Robinson started the Program in Hamilton in 1996 with two dogs. Now, 76 volunteers and 68 dogs are regular visitors to over 30 hospitals, homes for seniors, retirement living communities and nursing homes. To date, they have logged over 10,000 visits and over 50,000 community service hours, and have earned the support of medical and health care professionals.

In Memoriam

Brigadier George E. (Ted) Beament passed away in September at the age of 97. A former Chancellor of the Priory of Canada and a member of the Order since 1959, he had been appointed a Bailiff Grand Cross in May 1995.

Dominica



First Aid Training taking place in the Carib Territories of Dominica

The St John Association of Dominica was officially formed in 2002, following a request from a group of people known as the Emergency Medical Services Organisation of Dominica. It signed a Relationship Agreement and Deed of Indemnity with the Order of St John in 2004. As of 2006, there is an established Council with 14 members and a total membership of the Association of around 115 persons. All those currently working in the Association do so as volunteers.

While the St John Association in Dominica has been able to undertake some commercial first aid training activities (including training within the Banana Growers Association) access to this market is restricted given limited commercial enterprise on the island. St John has however, started training in some of the more remote rural communities of Dominica, notably around Castle Bruce and the Carib Territory. They are finding a lot of interest from men and women of all ages, in situations where health care is often far from local villages. In addition to learning about first aid, local communities have expressed a need to be more informed about HIV and AIDS prevention measures and home care for the elderly.

Building Collapses in Nairobi, Kenya



"The afternoon of 23rd January 2006 was a sad one for the people of Kenya. A building which was under construction along one of the busiest streets in Nairobi collapsed, with over 100 workers on site.

St. John received information about the disaster immediately from a neighbouring Police Station. Many other people called our Control Room including Reuters and a United States based media firm, who wanted to get information about the disaster. The Ambulance Controller on duty sent four ambulances to the scene and contacted volunteers who assembled quickly. Within the first 30 minutes, 60 St. John volunteers had started providing First Aid at the scene. The number of St. John volunteers grew to 140 within the first 1 to 2 hours. Some of the volunteers heard about the disaster from the

media and went to the scene.

In total, 214 St. John volunteers participated in the rescue operation working day and night. St. John Ambulances ferried 8 casualties to the main referral hospital (Kenyatta National Hospital) and private hospitals. One of the ambulances was used as a Treatment Centre at the scene.

During the entire rescue operation, St. John worked closely with both the Government, Non-Governmental and Private Organisations.

Many Organisations and individuals were impressed with the work that was done by of St. John volunteers. Well wishers donated food and medical supplies, while several people expressed an interest in joining St. John as volunteers. We also received telephone calls from many people thanking us for the service we provided. Others still would stop our volunteers and staff on the streets to thank them for a job well done.

We learnt many useful lessons which we shall use to strengthen our disaster response and partnerships with other Organisations.

It was extremely satisfying to help save lives!" *Eva Mwai, CEO, St John Kenya*

Does anyone have anything they wish to write about, or let people know about for the next issue of The Link? All items welcome. Just contact Esther@orderofstjohn.org
Please note that PDF versions of each new Link can be found on the Order of St John website

Capacity Building Column

by Pippa Hoyland

International Development Officer, Order Secretariat

Recent consultation workshops with different participants from St John have introduced people to the characteristics of a successful St John Association. Since this information has sparked a great deal of interest, it seemed useful to provide the basic information below. However, if you would like a copy of the full presentation by email or CD, please contact: pippahoyland@orderofstjohn.org

A successful St John Association should have:

*A clear mission which may usually be reflected in a mission statement in line with the overall mission and goals of The Order of St John

- *A sound legal base which ensures that the Association is legally and appropriately registered in its country
- *A constituency both of members and of beneficiaries and clarity about who the Association exists to serve
- *Good leadership and a clear governing structure
- *Appropriate resources, including human, financial, material and physical
- *Effective programmes and operations and the ability to learn from and monitor its work
- *Strategic analysis to ensure the Association remains relevant to a changing external environment.

Please feedback any comments you may have. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Around the World

In Brief - Malta



The Order of St John has a long and proud history in Malta - during the Middle Ages it was the Order's headquarters for some 200 years. Today St John in Malta continues to thrive,

dividing its activities into three sections - Training, First

Aid and Nursing, and the Rescue Corps. There are over 400 members of St John, Malta.

Key data

Population 400,000
GDP per capita \$US 17,633
Life Expectancy 78 years
Adult literacy rate 88%

People

There are St John Establishments (Priory or Association) in 40 countries around the world. In each issue of The Link we talk to somebody who is making a significant difference in one of these countries. In this issue we talk to Clem Powell Director of Training in Jamaica.

How long have you been involved with St John?

I enlisted in St. John on January 1 of 1956 as an Ambulance Member. I worked my way up through the ranks until I became Director of Training in 1980. I was Secretary of the Council of the Order of St. John for Jamaica from 1961 to 1969.

What does a typical day involve?

A typical day for me is based on 24hrs round the clock for Administration, Brigade Activities and First Aid Training. This is possible as I am now retired. Being so old and involved in the work of St. John, my experience is being sought after not only in the St. John family but throughout the length of Jamaica where I am well known for my expertise, especially in the line of Training.

What benefit does your work have for the people in your country?

Thousands of persons have been trained directly and indirectly in First Aid and Nursing Care by me. People

from all walks of life starting from University Level with Doctors, Undergrads, Nursing Students, Secondary and Lower level Schools, Industries, Airlines, Factories and a cross-section of the population have benefited. This has kept the work of St. John most prominent and sought after as the number one provider of First Aid in Jamaica.

What has been the highlight of your work for St John?

One of the many highlights of my performances, I would wish to state that in 1965 I was on a Junior Officer's Training Course at the military camp in the hills of New Castle. A one month old baby was thrown in a latrine with just a front part of the head exposed above the faeces. I took the baby out of the undesirable situation and bathed her properly at a standby pipe. I then proceeded to the military camp, one mile away, had the baby properly washed again, powdered and gave it some warm tea. It vomited some of the faeces which she had swallowed I then took the baby to the University Hospital ten miles away. After careful examination by the doctors, a clean bill of health was given to the baby and I was commended for my action. This remains indelible in my mind as I was instrumental in saving the life of a baby that should now be about 41 years old.