

NEWSLETTER -- THOMAS-COSMADES-FOUNDATION 2011

Thomas-Cosmcades-Stiftung
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Projects:

- Literature
- Christian Mission Charitable Trust, India
- Projects in Greece
- Support of pastors in Turkey
- Biak Hnin in, pastor in Myanmar
- Computer Training Center, Mindanao, Philippines

Dear contributors,

We wish you and your family a good, successful and blessed 2012. For your support we thank you from the depth of our hearts. – especially on behalf of those whose are dependent on the Foundation for their livelihood and to finance their projects.

Since the establishment of the Foundation we could successfully support various projects.

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Finances

The work of the Foundation is carried on without honorarium. Only the minimal costs are incurred for postage and bank charges. Therefore, supporters of the Foundation can send their contributions direct to the bank, designating which project they wish to support, and their gifts will be channeled to the project they wish to support. In 2011, we received gifts in the amount of 19,735 Euros (€). We could support the projects in the amount of 22,550 €. Postage costs were only 38 €, as most of the communication was done through e-mail. In addition, we had to spend 232 € for bank charges.

Literature

One of our main efforts is directed toward the production and distribution of the Holy Scriptures and Christian literature in Turkish. The book, "*Confident Steps of Wisdom*" (a modern translation of the Book of Proverbs), could be financed, prepared for the press and printed. This book was printed in Turkey and can be obtained here in Germany through the literature service of Mission-für-Süd-Ost-Europa (Mission for South East Europe). The new printing of '*Su, Ekmek, Yaşam*' (*Water, Bread, Life*) – a modern translation of the Gospel of John in pocket format, could also be partially financed. The printing of the book, '*Anatolia! Anatolia!*' (written by Thomas Cosmades and translated into Greek) will be printed by the 'Historical Greek Evangelical Archive, Greece. We have helped in the printing of this book. Our goal is to provide literature at a minimal price for everyone who asks for it.

Computer School, Mindanao, Philippines

For a number of years Günter Schelenz has been carrying on the training of young Muslim fellows of low income in a center he has established in Mindanao. This ministry is partially supported by the Evangelical Church in Memmingen, Germany. With the knowledge and training they have received on using computers and computer hard- and software, five of these young men who finished the course last May were able to get good employment. Thirteen of these students came to faith in Jesus Christ. Four were baptized. The study of God's Word and the basics of Christianity taught there are the foundation for spiritual awakening in Mindanao.

Christian Mission Charitable Trust – India

Dr. Colleen Redit leads one of the most amazing works, centered in Chennai, India. For many years this now over 70-year old woman directs this ever expanding work among the poor with full strength and devotion. This project includes (1) A hostel for 160 girls. The poorest of the poor from the slums and from the streets receive a home, food, clothing and schooling, along with Christian training. (2) Bethany School, starting with kindergarten and up through the 12th class. (3) Vocational training school for boys in Mechanics, Painting and

other areas. (4) Hospital – here local doctors, nurses, lab technicians, administrators, cooks, etc., work. (5) Meals on wheels – around 500 people in the slums receive a warm meal daily. (6) Tsunami rehabilitation project. A village was built, comprised of small houses for the survivors of the Tsunami of 2004. Here weekly evangelism is held in their little town hall. (7) Medical care and medication given to lepers and those infected with HIV. (8) Teaching sewing and handwork to needy women, so that they can support themselves. **For further information, look at the website of CMCT: www.christianmissionsindia.com**

Turkey

The financial situation of evangelical pastors in Turkey is extremely precarious. The fellowships themselves are too small and poor to give the pastors what is needed for their essential existence. Support, therefore, is necessary to enable the pastors to carry on their many-sided tasks in their wide areas of ministry. Also there are always threats and repression coming from authorities and others. Orhan is pastor of the Agape Church in Samsun. Alongside his pastoral duties, he is actively engaged in planting a church in Amasya and other cities. He also visits high-security prisons. Here is a quote from one of the prisoners: *“I used to always wait for the end of my imprisonment; now I wait for your weekly visits.”* Orhan also serves Armenian prostitutes for whom he has special Sunday services and meals. New Testaments, Bibles, and other Christian literature on an open bookstand outside the church are often secretly taken by interested passers-by at night. Also, enemies of the Truth sometimes help themselves to literature. Here is a quote from one of them: *“I wanted to bring financial ruin on those who put these books here, but then I started to read....”* Also in other cities of Turkey, churches, pastors and Christians are diligently working for the Lord, but space does not permit us to write about them here. We actively help one other young pastor.

Myanmar

We hope that the slight relaxation of political pressure will increase and that the land will be more open to the Gospel for evangelism and service for Christ. There is no possibility of financial provision within the land itself. Pastors such as B.H. are therefore dependent on our help. They need support not only for their ministries, but for their daily provisions. They live an extremely simple life and need to be able to provide for their bare essentials.

Facts about Myanmar

Population: 54 million people

It is multi-ethnic: Burmese 68%, Shan 9%

Karen 7%, Rakhine 4%, Chinese 3%,

Indian 2%, Mon: 2%, Others: 5%

Religions: Buddhists 89%, Christians 4%.

(Baptists 3%, Roman Catholics 1%)

Muslims: 4%; Animists 1%, Others: 2%

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As we embark on another year, the Foundation will do all it can to continue to support the above projects and Christian workers. You are a part of this work! Without you, this work cannot be done.

We trust that also in the future your prayers and financial support will continue for the glory of God and that His work in these places of our earth will be effective.

***“Truly I say to you, whatever you did for the least
of these my brothers, you did it for me (Jesus).”
(Matthew 25:40)***