

FRIENDS OF SERAMPORE

Serampore College (and University), India
Founded by Carey, Marshman and Ward, 1818
www.seramporecollege.org

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Dear Friends,

In mid-November we told the Principal that we were about to send almost £6000 as our annual remittance, adding: "This is a quite exceptional amount (over £1700 more than our usual) - partly because we were able to generate a lot of interest following our visit in February, bringing several new members and also a number of one-off donations, and partly because Broadmead have caught up with a back-log of income tax refunds. We shall have a much harder task raising even our normal amount next year."

Dr Lalchungnunga replied, "Thanks to you, and praise for our God who is so gracious." A few days later, "The College Council, at their annual meeting, acknowledged with deep appreciation the continued support of Friends of Serampore." That means many thanks to you all.

He has also sent us an update of recent happenings:

1. The Theology Department had three day programme before closing for one month Christmas Holidays. The programme included an Open air carol service in front of the Main Building. There was a good participation from the Arts-Science-Commerce department also. The gift exchange and bonfire programmes were enjoyed and done meaningfully for the whole community.

2. We were rather tensed during the preparations for the ASC Students Union election on 22nd Dec. The tension was mainly due to the volatile political situation of West Bengal in general, and incidents of students clashes in some colleges which resulted in violence and deaths. People prayed, and we too prayed and crossed our fingers. The Election day came, and everything passed off peacefully, thanks to the restraint and discipline maintained among the local political community and the students and staff of the college. They co-operate with the administration very well. The local civil authorities also played their part very well. 150 police personnel were with us helping us maintain discipline. We were so relieved when everything was over.

3. We will wait till June 2011 to see if we should go advertising and seeking for a new Principal, because we hope the Government of West Bengal by then would have taken a clear decision whether college teachers, including the principal, should retire at the age of 60 or more. Please pray for wisdom and guidance.

4. We are trying to get funding from Denmark for the restoration of the St. Olave's Church. One retired professor and his wife visited and had a close look at it on 23rd Dec. Please pray for positive responses to all attempts.

5. National Assessment & Accreditation Council visited in September, and gave our college Grade A.

Hliri joins me in wishing you all strength and blessing from God in this New Year.

They were unable to visit UK in November as previously planned, but now hope it may be possible in May - "I have to be in William Carey University USA to address their Graduation Day on 15th May. If situation in West Bengal permits (West Bengal elections may happen that month), I want to think of visiting UK before or after that." If this visit happens, and is similar to the previous plans, there may be opportunities to meet them in Oxford, Didcot (BMS headquarters) or here in Malvern - please let us know if you would like to be kept informed.

From the College website we have picked up further news, including the following:

M.Sc. in Human Physiology has been introduced from the session 2010 – 2011.
(The first post-graduate course in Arts-Science-Commerce department)

Remedial Coaching programme for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) & Minorities has started from August 2010.

(We could not resist including this because of its wording!)

Further to websites, on the Senate one can be found these photographs showing the entrance to Serampore railway station, and inside it on the left the memorial to William Carey. This is new since our time there, and



is yet another indication of the great honour in which Carey is held in Serampore, not just in Christian circles.

We found another new (to us) fact about Carey in India Discovered, by John Keay:

"William Carey, a great Sanskritist and the promoter of the Bengali language, kept a small zoo..." !

The 1994 edition of Pearce Carey's *William Carey* (from Amazon for £2.59 hardback plus p&p!) ends with Nathaniel Wallich's tribute: "Incomparably the best, the greatest (English)man India ever possessed - take him all in all."

You will be interested to read this Appeal, which the College Council has sent to the Churches in India:

When William Carey and his associates founded Serampore College in 1818, they meant it to be "pre-eminently a divinity college" and "a handmaid of evangelization." True to the original vision of the Founders, Theology Department of Serampore College continues to train men and women for the Church. Many Pastors, Bishops and Church Leaders of today are former students of Serampore College and its affiliated colleges.

The College belongs to all the Protestant and Orthodox denominations, as they are constitutionally its constituent bodies. So, the Churches have the obligation to support it financially and with personnel, because it is not owned by any particular denominational Church. The College does not have any substantial regular source of income, apart from the students' fees, which are not sufficient to meet the total requirements. The department has annual deficits to the tune of [£28,000] every year, when total requirements and total fee income are compared. The deficits have to be met from donations.

Apart from the needs for running the department, and Poor students' scholarship, there are needs in the areas of electricity bills and maintenance of the old buildings. The College is approaching its 200 years of existence, to celebrate which major projects are going to be undertaken.

Such support, in interest, finance and prayer, is **our whole purpose as Friends**. As far as finance is concerned, your further gifts are welcome at all times. Please make cheques payable to "Friends of Serampore" (or 'Broadmead Baptist Church' if you have made a Gift Aid declaration) and send to us at the address given in the heading.

With our warmest good wishes,

Edward
Rosemary

These accounts for 2009 were omitted by oversight in the last newsletter:

INCOME FOR 2009		
Balances b/f on 1 Jan 2009:		367.42
Donations and subscriptions to Friends and through Broadmead Baptist Church (incl. Gift Aid refunds 649.00)		4331.60
Bank interest		<u>0.07</u>
		<u>4699.09</u>
EXPENDITURE FOR 2009		
Journal subscriptions		27.32
To Ser.Coll.:		
Support of staff member	2000.00	
For Theology Dept. appeal	1600.00	
Donation earmarked for Scholarship	641.00	4241.00
Expenses: Newsletters, postages and computer use, etc		93.57
Balances c/f on 31 Dec 2009:		<u>337.20</u>
		<u>4699.09</u>