



Nagaland

Nagaland Mission Ongoing Projects

Organised by Southwick Christian Community Church. Registered Charity No: 4292136
1-5 Roman Crescent, Southwick. www.southwickchurch.org.uk



BACKGROUND TO NAGALAND

Nagaland is a state in North East India, bordering on Burma to the East and Assam to the West. Although part of India, it is ethnically, culturally, economically and spiritually different from the rest of the country. The Nagas bear Mongolian features and are divided into 16 main tribal groups. Some live in towns but most live in the 800+ small, isolated villages, surviving on agriculture and animal rearing. Here, the infrastructure is very inadequate and there is limited funding from the Government. There are poor roads, limited electricity and running water, and lack of educational and medical facilities. However, the people are extremely warm and hospitable with a deep Christian faith.



AKUMEN VILLAGE: What's it like?

Akumen is a small, isolated village surrounded by jungle with 400 adults and 60 children close to the Assam border. The village has just received electricity but there is no running water and only a narrow dirt access road. The nearest bus is 3 km away. The village has a small school for the youngest children, a village hall and a church providing the focus of the community. The villagers live in simple cane, wood and bamboo houses.

Medically, the only facilities are the small medical centre we established on our last visit and the services of a doctor who makes monthly visits to the village to do health checks.

Educationally, at all levels, provision is extremely limited. The school is under-equipped with no visual aids or equipment to facilitate learning and make it interesting.

On the building front, the level of Government funding to develop the infrastructure of the village has been pitifully small and this lack makes life in the village extremely limited.



Ongoing Projects needing sponsorship

In the last 5 years, groups have visited Nagaland to undertake relief work in the small jungle village of Akumen and have achieved the following: Rebuilding of the Church and 2 bridges into the village, the setting up of a medical centre with monthly visits by a doctor, establishment of a sponsorship scheme for school children, provision of uniforms for the village school, the setting up of a small educational resource centre, an animal rearing and land development project and an income generating craft project in weaving, sewing, card making and carpentry. Some of these projects are continuing and need ongoing financial support as follows:



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

Each year we raise money to sponsor all the village children to go to the first school in Akumen (£5 per child) and then continue education in the neighbouring village (£50 per child). We sponsor one teacher who heads up our village sports project training children in badminton, football, cricket, table tennis and volleyball etc.



LAND DEVELOPMENT/CRAFT PROJECT

Animal rearing (pigs and chickens) has begun in the village and crops have been planted on the plot of land. These include oranges, pineapples and bananas. We need to ensure that this project is fully established and begins to realise an income for the village.



Finances still needed to buy further seeds etc., maybe to begin a small fish project and to appoint a manager for the plot of land. We envisage this will cost something in the region of £1000 per annum. Craft work is also developing (see separate sheet)



MEDICAL PROJECT

Prior to our visits there were no medical facilities whatsoever in the village. We now finance a small primary health centre in Akumen and pay a doctor and nurse to do monthly health check visits. This together with medical supplies costs £2000 per annum. We also finance a small van which acts as an ambulance in Medical emergencies



If you would like to help please contact:

Revd Lynda Hulcoop 2, Marlin Court, Brighton Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8EX, Tel: 01903 522279, email: lhulcoop@ntlworld.com.



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New Projects for 2009/10

ADVANCED ADULT CRAFT TRAINING

We have already begun training in craft production and a training centre has been built but it is vital that this project is extended so that a small cottage industry can be established to bring much needed revenue into the village. Thus we are planning on-going training in weaving, sewing and woodwork to give villagers better skills to produce high quality goods. We hope to equip up to 50 villagers and also give them training in marketing, bookkeeping and accounting. We are also planning to market goods locally, in India and abroad via product brochure and a website. In the future this project will help provide resources to pay the doctor, teachers and generally improve the well-being of the village.



How can you help?

We hope you have found the projects presented here of interest. It may be that you are particularly stirred by one aspect of our work and would like to get involved in some way. You may have expertise, equipment, time or financial assistance to offer. If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us via our addresses on this leaflet and for more information, please visit our website www.southwickchurch.org.uk or e mail us at email@southwickchurch.org.uk

WATER PROJECT

With all the developments in Akumen one major hindrance is the lack of piped or other available water in the village. The aim of this project is to bring water in to the heart of the village by means of a well/bore hole being dug and water being piped to four locations. This will provide larger quantities of water e.g. for irrigation of the land and hopefully clean water for drinking which will improve health. This project is now in its final planning stages and it is hoped that piped water will be available by the end of 2009



SPORTS FIELD PROJECT

With the development of the sports project, we are seeking to buy a small piece of land in the village as a sports field with a small club house. This will be used for inter village sports events and special village Celebrations. For this we need to raise the sum of £3000.



Project Co-ordinator:

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