



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 01 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2012

AIM & PURPOSE

Bridge of Love Trust (BOL) is a non-profit organisation and a registered UK Charity (Charity No: 1096302). It is a community based Christian outreach work of Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship, Manor Park, London E12. Our chairman is Rev G I Ebenezer.

The Trust was started for the purpose of protecting and supporting those who are oppressed, especially widows and orphans. The trustees have been involved themselves in various issues to safeguard the interests of poor people who are often the victims of civil war and present developmental trends.

ACTIVITIES

Bridge of Love confines itself to community development in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the tribal areas in Tamil Nadu, South India. Over the past seven and a half years we have been financially supporting registered local organisations and Churches who work among the oppressed, broken & abandoned, poor & needy, widows, orphans/ semi orphans, child labour victims and war victims in Sri Lanka and India.

We are providing regular monthly financial support to most of our projects. In addition to our regular financial support, whenever there is a specific need, we assess it and approach individuals & organisations for aid and financial help. We then channel these funds to different trustworthy organisations to meet their needs. We try our best to ensure that the organisations we support are genuine.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Over the past nine years we sent more than **£375,000** for our projects. In 2012 we received **£53,144** and sent **£52,602** for our projects. 2012 Project details (including financial information) are covered in the summary of main achievements section.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACHIVEMENTS

Orphans, Widows and children

Over the past eight and a half years we have been financially supporting registered local organisations and Churches who work among the orphans and widows. In 2012, we sent more than £23,059 for the following projects.

- Canaan Children's Home, Vaddukodai, Sri Lanka
- Bethany Children's Home, Anaicodai, Sri Lanka
- Canaan Children's Home, Badulla, Sri Lanka
- Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka

Bridge of Love - Reaching the Unreachable and Touching the Untouchable!

- Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Pitakotte, Sri Lanka
- Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka

Rev G I Ebenezer, Chairman of Bridge of Love (BOL) and senior pastor of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship (ETCF) and his wife, Sis Soma, met the Dehiwela widows and Pitakotte widows during their visit to Sri Lanka in February 2012.

Relief projects

Bridge of Love has donated more than £10,400 within the last three years for the War orphans at Canaan IDP Children's Home in Jaffna. Luke Mahendra, BOL Trustee & Treasurer of Bridge of Love, is the coordinator and main donor of this project. Luke met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in December 2012.

Sis Suseela, wife of Bridge of Love donor Br Logathas carried out relief projects in Mannar during her visit to Sri Lanka in May 2012. Br David Ratnasingam of Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship (ETCF) also carried out relief projects in war affected areas for Bridge of Love during his visits to Sri Lanka in November 2012.

We contributed more than £715 for the relief projects initiated, coordinated and carried out by Miss Shanty Ponnu's prayer group in remote war affected areas in 2012. We also carried out around Rs 100,000 (£475) worth relief projects through Bro Rameshkumar (cousin of Jenny Jebanesan Duraisamy of ETCF) of Elim ministries in the war affected areas during Jul – Dec 2012 period.

In June 2012, we organised and carried out more than £2,250 worth relief to around 260 internally displaced families in Mavaddapuram, Jaffna. Some of these people still carry pieces of shell in their bodies. Rev Nixon and Rev Kathireson coordinated this project with the assistance of Mr Panchu and Shantheekaran. During his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012, Bridge of Love secretary along with Rev Nixon and Rev Kathireson, also organised and carried out more than £475 worth relief to around 80 internally displaced families in the same area.

Puthukkuthiyirrupu; the stronghold of the LTTE group after 2004, is where the final battle was held. The people who survived were sent to Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camps in April -May 2009. The resettlement of approximately 2000 families in and around Puthukkuthiyirrupu began in August 2012. 206 families of Mullivaikal (the place where the war ended) were moved in here by the government in between Dec 11 to Feb 12. Out of which about 50 families have moved back to Mullivaikal after the area opening in Aug 2012. The village is left with 150 families who have decided to make Thimbly their home and further about 100 new families were brought into this village and were resettled in Sep 2012 (Those who didn't have permanent land in Vanni were resettled here. These 100 families were given 1/4 acre of land). Approximately 250 permanently settled here with no or very limited access to basic necessities (housing, drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, transportation, etc) Approx. 1250 to 1500 population in the village over an area of about 100 to 150 acres of half cleared jungles.

The Hope Centre (set up by Peoples Church Relief and Development, Sri Lanka in Puthukkuthiyirrupu) has been providing practical support to the war victims for more than two years. During his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012, Bridge of Love Secretary along with Bro Arun and Sis Dinah of Hope Centre, organised and carried out more than £740 worth relief to around 150 internally displaced families in Puthukkuthiyirrupu.

Heavy rains caused flooding across Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka in November 2012. The resettled people of Puthukkuthiyirrupu who were living in the half-cleared jungles in Thimbili and Aaththupilavu villages were very badly affected by these floods. In addition to very limited access to basic

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necessities, snakes were a day to day problem as well. Broken bridges caused a critical transportation problem as the villagers were unable to do their day to day work. Children could not go to school and the bread winner of each family was unable to go to work during this time. Bridge of Love sent more than £2500 for the flood and war relief projects carried out by the Hope Centre. With this donation, the Centre was able to reconstruct the broken bridges and construct a tube well and provided flood relief to the affected people. Over 100 families benefited through this project.

In total, we sent more than £6,660 in 2012 for relief projects.

Educational projects

We run an Evening Study programme for the Slum children in Pittakodde, Colombo. We are renting a hall to conduct educational and religious activities for these people who live in a slum area where there is neither electricity nor educational care available. Sis Nalayini Sarvananthan and Mrs Jennifer Shiromi Amirtharaja of ETCF are the main sponsors of this project. Rev G I Ebenezer, chairman of Bridge of Love, and his wife Sis Soma Ebenezer met these children during their visit to Sri Lanka in February 2012. Bro Chethuran of ETCF (along with his wife and children) met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012. BOL Secretary also met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012.

Tuition for Untouchables: Dalit, also called Outcaste, is a self-designation for a group of people traditionally regarded as Untouchables. While the discrimination based on caste system (not caste system itself) has been abolished under the Indian constitution, there is still discrimination and prejudice against Dalits. Jayakumar, a social worker, and his wife have been providing free evening tuition for the poor outcaste children in Trichy, South India for more than five years. We contribute a small monthly financial assistance towards the running of this excellent community service.

Mr Rameshkumar of Elim ministry initiated, organised and carried out £550 worth educational projects in war affected areas in March 2012.

In June 2012, Michael Nathan of Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship (ETCF) skydived and raised more than £5,000 to build a library for an orphanage in Trichy, South India. Lydia Sriyoheswaren and her friend raised more than £1500 within three weeks and went from London to Trichy to serve these orphans in November 2012.

Due to the closest local government school situated about 4 Km away, most kids in two remote villages in Puthukkuthiyirrupu had to walk to school and they only go to school 2 or 3 days a week. Some didn't go to school at all due to no transportation. Transportation using a Three wheeler (3 to 4 trip in the morning and afternoon - each trip can take 8 to 10 kids) was initiated and organised by the Hope Centre and Bridge of Love financially support this worthwhile project. More than 60 kids are now benefited from this project.

In total, we sent more than £9,267 in 2012 for educational projects.

Income Generating projects

In Dec 2012, Bridge of Love initiated and organised income generating projects donating cows, goats and sewing machine to 10 widows in Mulaitheevu district. Rev Suresh Paul and Rev Kathireson coordinated this project. Bridge of Love secretary met these children during his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012.

Bridge Love also donated more than £700 for three war victims/ breadwinners to start small business in Puthukudiyirrupu, Mullaitheevu and Kandy in 2012. Bro Arun, Rev Sureh Paul and Rev Vasanthan coordinated these projects for Bridge of Love.

In total, we sent more than £1,340 in 2012 for income generating projects.

Christmas Gifts

We annually provide study material as Christmas presents for more than 800 poor children. In December 2012, we sent over £4,420 worth Christmas presents to more than 1000 children in Puthukudiyirrupu, Batticaloa, Valaichchennai, Pitakotte and Trichy. Bro Arun, Rev Karunanithi, Bro Yoganathan, Rev Kathireson and Jayakumar coordinated these projects for Bridge of Love. Mr Logathas and Mr Sam Nesan Duraisamy of Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship donated generously for these projects.

Other/ poor and needy

Bridge of Love provides monthly support to three poor widows and their children in Urani, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. Bridge of Love secretary met these widows during his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012.

Bridge of Love has been financially supporting three disabled children and their poor mother for more than six years in Eravur, Batticaloa. We also provided financial assistance to build a bathroom for these disabled children. One of these disabled children died in 2012. BOL Secretary met the poor mother and two of her disabled children during his visit to Sri Lanka in September 2012. He also met some war victims and poor and needy in the same area. Bridge of love has been financially supporting these people since September 2012.

Bridge of Love has been providing a small monthly financial support to 10 poor pastors in Batticaloa for more than six years. Mr & Mrs Watherstone of Transform Newham are the main sponsors of this project. Rev Karunanithi is our local project coordinator.

Since October 2007, Bridge of Love has been providing a small monthly financial assistance to a poor evangelist in Bangalore whose two children are struggling with depression. Rev G I Ebenezer, Chairman of Bridge of Love and senior pastor of Emmanuel Christian Fellowship this evangelist during their visit to India in February 2012. Bridge of Love also provided financial assistance to another evangelist in Chennai in March 2012.

We also donated around £450 towards a Church building project in Urani, Batticaloa and around £600 for the roof repairing of another Church in Mannar. Rev Karunanithi and Rev Vasanthan coordinated these projects.

PARTNERS

We sincerely thank our partners and Emmanuel Tamil Christian Fellowship members for the invaluable prayers and financial support which have enabled us to be a bridge to the oppressed, broken & abandoned, poor & needy, widows, orphans/ semi orphans, child labour victims and war victims in Sri Lanka and India.

CHARITY FRAMEWORK

Charity name: Bridge of Love Trust

Other names: BRIDGE OF LOVE (Working Name)

Address: 735 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex IG2 6RJ

Governing document: DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED 02/02/03

Date of registration: 03 Mar 2003

Organisation type: STANDARD REGISTRATION

Charitable Objects: THE TRUSTEES SHALL HOLD THE TRUST FUND AND ITS INCOME UPON TRUST TO APPLY THEM FOR THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") IN INDIA, SRI-LANKA, AFRICA, UK. ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT") TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROVIDING OR ASSISTING WITH THE PROVISION OF BOOKS, EQUIPMENT AND GRANTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES. TO RELIEVE POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS IN PARTICULAR AMONGST CHILDREN, WIDOWS AND PERSONS BEING PERSECUTED AS A RESULT OF THEIR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

Charity Classification

What

- GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES
- EDUCATION/TRAINING
- THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH OR SAVING OF LIVES
- DISABILITY
- THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY
- OVERSEAS AID/FAMINE RELIEF
- ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING
- RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
- ARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE/SCIENCE
- AMATEUR SPORT
- ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/EMPLOYMENT
- OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Who

- CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE
- ELDERLY/OLD PEOPLE
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PEOPLE OF A PARTICULAR ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGIN
- OTHER CHARITIES OR VOLUNTARY BODIES

How

- MAKES GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS
- MAKES GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS
- PROVIDES SERVICES
- PROVIDES ADVOCACY/ADVICE/INFORMATION
- OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES