



Whitefield Christian Trust

Whitefield Christian Trust, Newsletter No. 4 June 2010

It is time to send out the next newsletter giving you news of the Whitefield Christian Trust during the past year. I must begin with thanks to those of you who have continued to support the Trust whether through your prayers or your financial donations. This letter will also be going to those who have been helped through WCT, and I know they would like me to express their thanks for the homes they enjoy as the result of your commitment and support.

In this newsletter, I bring news of two of the people we have helped during the past year, **Dorothy** and **Celia**, who now have the security of their own homes. You will hear from them and I hope this will encourage you. The Trust has also continued to work with those who have applied for help and whose applications are in process. In one case, the negotiations to buy a new home are ongoing and we hope will be concluded soon. That story will have to wait for next year! We continue to be involved in maintaining the properties we own as well as acting as advisors to the owners of properties in which we have a shared equity.

Dorothy writes:

"I first went out as a missionary in 1970. At that time I began fifteen years of service at a boarding secondary school for Zambian girls in the northwest province of Zambia. I spent the last six years there as Headmistress and then handed over to a Zambian colleague before returning to the UK. I worked in the home office of the mission (Africa Evangelical Fellowship) and then after four years became International Personnel Coordinator. I was in this position when AEF merged with SIM in 1998 and I was asked to go to SIM International in the USA, where for the last ten years I have served as International Personnel Director for SIM.

In all these years I have never had the financial resources to get into the UK housing market. I always planned to retire in the UK but nearly two years ago it became clear to me because of my mother's growing health needs that I should now play a greater part in caring for her. I heard about WCT from a colleague in SIM



who had already received help, and I applied to WCT early in 2009. Then, a year ago now I found a flat in Bury St Edmunds which is ideal for me, and located close enough to the SIM UK Office, and to my mother in northeast London, to be just right. The purchase went through in August last year and I moved into the flat in December. I cannot express strongly enough what this journey of faith has meant to me in trusting God, and receiving help from many people. I am especially grateful to WCT for taking a share in this lovely flat and enabling me to settle here."

Celia writes:



"On Ascension Day 1976 I was watching the clouds out of my window on a flight to Lima, Peru. It seemed an appropriate day to be up in the air amongst the clouds remembering Jesus' return to heaven, what a comfort to know that he was at the right hand of God ready to hear my prayers – and there were plenty of them that day! It was the start of 30 years of service with Latin Link: 19 in Peru and 11 based in the UK. In Lima I was involved in Christian education - working with children, training Sunday School teachers and writing teaching materials - however I also became involved in shanty town work – evangelism, pastoral work, discipleship, feeding programmes etc. For family and health reasons I returned to the UK and took up a pastoral role, supporting our team members both in the UK and abroad, travelling out to Latin America three times a year to visit them.

In 2006 I retired from the mission and came to Herne Bay to take up the position of Pastoral Care Worker at Christ Church, which also includes leading services and preaching. So here I am in a little flat with a garden, just five minutes from the Church - I can actually get there in three minutes if I run! My living room is used for Bible study groups, Pastoral Care Team meetings and individuals who come in need of help. Many have said what a lovely flat it is and that it has a really warm atmosphere, it's a joy to be able to use it for the Lord. Initially I bought the flat with my sister's help with an inheritance from my mother but last year my sister needed the money she had invested and it was then I turned to the WCT for help. They bought my sister's share of the property and I am so very grateful, without their help I really don't know what I would have done. It has been a very tangible expression of God's loving care and provision."

Pamela, who featured in our last newsletter (May 2009) moved in to her home on the edge of Ross-on-Wye in February 2009. Here she is outside her new home. She writes, *"It's almost a year since I have been here – it is so lovely, spacious and beautiful. Many of my old colleagues from Senegal and elsewhere have enjoyed little breaks here."*



During the past year the trust has lost the services of **Alastair Watson** who was one of the founding trustees and who has had an invaluable role in moving the trust forward. His legal advice has been instrumental in helping us all. We welcome a new trustee to help us with the legal work, as well as giving general advice. He is **Roger Snowdon**, who practices as a solicitor in Dorset. **Janet Dain** has also joined the team and brings her skills in business, counselling and mission.

The **WCT website** has recently been updated to include past newsletters and an article by **Ann Lycett** – "A Tale of Two suitcases" about her experience of moving from Nepal into her own home in Essex. We enclose a bookmark, and a card which features Ann, both of which we hope will enable us to share information about WCT with more people. If you feel you could use more of these, please let us know. There is also a new link on the website to "**Just Giving**", which is an easy and secure way of giving online. If you have a computer and would like to give, please try to use it and let us know how you get on. We are also now listed on www.oscar.org.uk, the UK information service for world mission. We are always on the look-out for new ways of encouraging support for WCT. Please share any suggestions you may have. We would be most grateful and will pass them on. We are only able to help people applying to us as we have the funds.

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