

THE THOMAS BENYON CHARITABLE SETTLEMENT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was incorporated as a charity (number 2711331) in 1976. The trustees (full list on page 2) meet regularly and discuss the business of the charity and take decisions on various projects the charity is undertaking.

Risk Management

The trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year and confirm that they have taken all prudent steps to ensure that the charity operates in line with other similar charities. The trustees have developed systems to ensure that risks and security are monitored to mitigate any impact they may have on the charity in future.

Objectives

The objects of the charity are to seek to alleviate suffering on the part of those:

- (a) who lack food and medicines in particular amongst selected WWII veterans and their widows in Zimbabwe; in this we act in conjunction with various UK services charities;
- (b) on the part of clients of Prison Fellowship;
- (c) on the part of those caught up in Operation Clear Out Rubbish;
- (d) on the part of Aids sufferers, widows and orphans in Zimbabwe.

Financial Review

During the financial year, the charity managed to raise enough money each month from donors in the UK to provide sufficient financial assistance to cater for the growing demands on its limited resources. From the birth of the charity some four years ago the Trustees have striven not to raise expectations of those in need in Zimbabwe that its financial support can be supplied indefinitely or that the quantum of funds can necessarily be increased to meet the ever rising demand for aid. Nonetheless the Trustees are aware that inevitably expectations have been raised and that from now on as the Sorcerer's Apprentice in the fable, they will simply have to continue to find the donors prepared to provide financial support at an increasing level each year to avert a financial catastrophe amongst the growing numbers of needy who are now wholly reliant on help from the charity. Although the number of veterans from the Second World War and their widows ineluctably declines from emigration or death, as the financial position of the country deteriorates and with inflation at around 2000%, the number of people who need the charity's support grows inexorably each month.

In August 2005, the charity was greatly saddened by the death of its chief financial coordinator in Harare. However, we are pleased to report that as before, its financial operation is run scrupulously and is in excellent hands.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006 (Continued)

Financial Review (Continued)

After much careful deliberation, the Trustees have decided not to employ professional Fund Raisers or a full time staff member, but instead rely on the efforts of unpaid Trustees. However, the raising of money for charitable purposes in the UK is a highly competitive and complex business and we have learned the hard way that donor loyalty is fickle and cannot be taken for granted. Many of those who give only give once. It is clear that when in future years many donors are in the giving vein they donate to any cause that happens to catch their eye. Therefore, despite its now substantial donor base, continual efforts have to be made each month to generate new benefactors. To that end, the charity, inter alia, raises money through the extensive use of mailing lists (provided at cost by one of the Trustees) and personal contacts. To generate the necessary funds, the charity is obliged to employ the services of a leading Design Team and a Mailing House to facilitate this process. The growing expenses involved in this exercise cannot be avoided.

All cheques have to be signed by two Trustees. The charity's affairs are effectively run by an executive committee comprising two Executive Trustees; however, recently the scale of responsibilities and demands on the time of trustees has grown exponentially so the employment of further part time administrative assistance is necessary to handle the increasing paperwork and administrative responsibilities that are an occupational hazard of the job. In order to maintain an accurate record of what the charities annual real costs are, the Trustees charge out of pocket expenses; in some cases they make donations in excess of these expenses back to the charity.

Achievements and Performance

The charity's detailed method of operation is confidential to its Trustees, who are proscribed on the grounds of security in detailing further the workings of its financial operation or setting out the scale of its work on an open site. Suffice it to say in Zimbabwe, the charity liases with other charities and organisations to ensure that the work of assisting the needy is coordinated so that donor money is not wasted by, for example, two charities assisting the same person. Some 41 care and nursing homes and any people who live in the country are now reliant on the support of the charity.

During the period the charity continued to focus on support to Word War II veterans and their widows and many others who face acute hardship as inflation spirals even further out of control. The charity daily assisted circa 2,000 members of the white community who otherwise would be denied food, medicines and financial support; without such help they would face grave hardships, starvation, untreated illness and an untimely death.

The charity continues to work with UK services (and other) charities in identifying suitable people who may qualify for their charitable aid. The Trustees are most grateful for the assistance and vigorous co-operation that has been offered by these charities over the past three years.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2006 (Continued)

Achievements and Performance (Continued)

The charity also assists the black community across the country and is expanding its programme, concentrating partly on those with AIDS and widows and orphans. The charity assists financially a rape clinic in Bulawayo as well as Prison Fellowship in Harare.

The Trustees are grateful to all those involved with its work, its Council of Reference and of course our vital Donors for their great generosity in supporting this essential work.

Plans for the Future

In view of the expansion of the activities of ZANE (see www.zane.uk.com) in relation to the activities of the other aspects of the Thomas Benyon Charitable Settlement (charity number 2711331) which was founded many years ago as essentially as a 'family charity', the trustees concluded that it was in the interests of the donors and ZANE beneficiaries present and future to form a new charity catering solely for the activities of ZANE. We were fortunate to recruit solicitors practised in such work, Harris & Harris of Wells, Somerset, so during the year a new charitable company was formed: Zane Zimbabwe A National Emergency (number 05604011), new Trustees/Directors were appointed; funds from the settlement were transferred to the new ZANE charity in the Spring of 2006.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In so doing, the trustees are required to:

- S select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- S make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- S prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board on 29 November 2006

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Mr T Y Benyon