

Date: 13th December 2017

Mr RGH Lewis
Chairman
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm
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Dear Mr Lewis

Peter Coombes – Project Trust Year in South Africa 2017/18

Since arriving in South Africa at the beginning of September, I have settled in well to my Project and enjoyed my first 3 months overseas a great deal. I work with 2 other Project Trust volunteers in a youth development centre (Girls and Boys Town), which helps to care for and guide young boys with serious behavioural issues. My role is to assist the youth care staff with supervising and managing the boys, as well as basic maintenance around the site.

My day to day work consists of two shifts. In the mornings our work involves maintenance work around the campus, which is a former convent and is now occupied by Boys Town. Many of the buildings are quite dilapidated and part of our role is assisting with repairs and maintenance. This has posed a lot of challenges and I have learnt a lot of new, hands on skills during my time here. My work during this part of the day has ranged from building fences to cutting down trees. A lot of my efforts have been focussed on restoring an old church and bringing it back into beneficial use. Together with the other volunteers I have been responsible for repainting the interior, and we are assisting with the repairs to the roof. When the work is complete, the building will provide a great space for the boys to have functions and music lessons. We are also responsible for managing the gardens around site, to keep the campus a well maintained and safe environment.

In the afternoons, the boys return from school and we help them with homework from school and set them additional work to try and improve their skills and boost their chances of passing the year. This is quite a challenging part of my day because it is sometimes hard to fully motivate and inspire the boys to do their work, especially just after a long day at school. However, I have seen great results as some have taken a keen interest in homework, and developed a desire to do well in school.

Following homework, we supervise the boys for activity time. This consists mainly of playing football and swimming when the weather is good and watching TV when the weather is less forgiving. Our role here is important, as we are working on building relationships with the boys and becoming role models to show them key values such as respect for others and helping to maintain a safe environment for them.

Peters Year in South Africa



A Year To Make A Difference

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