

To Mike

Michael F James



Nineveh Trust
Park Farm
Frittenden Road
Biddenden
Ashford
Kent
TN27 8LG

Dear Robert GH Lewis, Michael F James and John D MacGregor,

I am writing this letter as another thank you for your kind donation to my cause. I returned home from Sri Lanka in August and wanted to update you on everything you helped support. I first wrote to you requesting funding for this amazing journey over a year ago and I can honestly say it changed my life and I hope the lives of a lot of the people I worked closely with while abroad.

During my year, I worked with an organisation called Senahasa Trust, who were set up after the 2004 tsunami. I worked as part of their English division, teaching grades 1-5 (age 5-10) in 3 schools in the Galle province of Sri Lanka. I lived in one of my schools, called Unawatuna Maha Vidiyalia. While there we spent 5 days a week teaching the children as well as a netball club and extra tuition. Although I don't doubt that my job as a teacher greatly impacted them educationally, I believe that the main influence I had on these children was emotionally. In Sri Lanka education is of utmost importance and from the young age of 7 they begin after school classes sometimes lasting till 6 pm. They also teach in a very behind way children spend their entire educational life copying from a textbook. My lessons, however, they played games, sang songs and learnt little everyday things in a much nicer environment. On one occasion a local teacher said to me 'the children like you better than their usual teachers as you are fun and don't beat them', This really broke my heart as I was aware that the cane is still used in Sri Lanka but until I got there I had never realised quite the emotional effect it had on children.

In Sri Lanka, I quickly realised a few quite significant areas in which they were very behind from the UK I am used to. These were litter/pollution and the treatment of women. My fellow volunteers and I were deeply upset by this as they are issues close to all of our hearts. We attended a women's support group and spoke to our kids trying to empower the young girls to want to be doctors and teachers instead of just mothers, something that was extremely noticeable especially in our more rural schools. We also set up Environmental English Activity Days, in which we set up lots of activities and got them to think about the effects of their everyday actions as simple as leaving lights on, littering or using plastic bags. We also refused plastic bags from every store and brought our own bags, something we got very strange looks for as in Sri Lanka you will often see a single item getting wrapped in up to 3 plastic bags. We were also involved in some of the beach cleans. In Sri Lanka, the beaches were particularly littered with empty bottles and other items

people have just thrown. We got involved with Greener Galle and did litter picks as well as a scuba diving reef clean.

Since returning to the UK, I have started to undertake a 3 year Nutritional Degree in Kings College London which is keeping me incredibly busy hence the delay in writing to you!

Once again, I am incredibly grateful for your tremendous support. None of this would be possible without you.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas,

Natalie McCall