

Minutes for ACA's Africa Outreach meeting - 24 June 2017.

Attendees

Beryl: Chair
William: Literature Secretary
Marion: SA Rep
Sarah: Zambia Rep

All above are officially unelected. Perhaps we can vote at next month's meeting.

Unfortunately, Grant was unable to attend yesterday. Grant reports that he has made both verbal and email inquiries with hospitals in Nigeria. He is waiting for their response. He intends to contact AA's helpline in Nigeria and Ghana in an effort to establish links with potential ACA's in these fellowships. This is with a view to at some stage, hopefully starting an ACA meeting.

I too have contacted 12 step addiction centres in South Africa. The first contact I made was with a centre which is based throughout South Africa, namely Akeso. A fellow traveller in the UK sent me info of an ACA meeting which is held at Natal University in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. The group that were responsible for starting up the ACA meeting was Akeso. After initially making verbal contact, I was asked to email them as well as another group. I await their response. Online, I came across 2 ACA meetings in Glenwood, Durban, Natal, SA. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any contact details, only the address was available. I spoke to a lady based in the W.Cape who confirmed that there are currently 2 meetings in this area. Marion was able to confirm that currently there is 1 meeting held in Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa. I have come across another centre in SA, who had a write up about Trauma and Childhood on their website. I will endeavour to make contact with them this week.

Sarah, Zambia's rep, (is currently based in Washington), reports that there are about 6 members in their group.

Sarah has not committed to, but explained that there is a possibility that she might be visiting Zambia next year, and will hopefully be able to take literature out again.

South Africa's rep Marion, has previously been instrumental in getting literature into the country. On one occasion she ordered 3 boxes from the States. She footed the bill initially and then sold the literature on in order to recoup her initial outlay. Unfortunately only 2 boxes arrived, what with the 3rd box to date unaccounted for. This unfortunately is the nature of the South African postal

system, and one's best bet is to courier Literature etc. in. The other massive obstacle is the cost of postage which is absolutely extortionate. Marion reports the group's core consists of 7 members with a floating population of 5 fellow travellers.

Our literature secretary William has agreed to assess the cost of posting literature from the UK, i.e to South Africa, (and obviously as the need arises we might have to look at other African zones as well), to see if this offers a more affordable solution in terms of cost.

William will advise me of these and I will include these in next month's Agenda. Marion has agreed to email details of how much it costs to purchase the ACA literature from S.A as well as the postage fees involved. I have explained to the group that I'm contemplating going out to SA, perhaps in December 2017, with an effort to taking some ACA literature out there. I haven't been back since 2009 and maybe it's the right time for that too. Marion reassures me that it won't be necessary to declare the books, and that fellow travellers in SA will provide the necessary documentation to keep us on the right side of the law. William has agreed to check this info out too.

I would like to say a big thank you all of us who attended and made the meeting possible. Thanks for our service.

Yours in fellowship

Beryl