



TABITHA FOUNDATION

(Canada)

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D. Governor General of Canada

March 7, 2009

Dear Friend of Tabitha,

The Annual General Meeting of the Tabitha Foundation, Inc. will take place at the Calvin Christian Reformed Church, 1475 Merivale Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

In the course of the meeting elections will be held for the Board of Directors and Executive for 2009-2010; reports will be received and other matters that require attention will be dealt with. The agenda for this meeting, as well as the slate of board members and officers is printed on the back of this letter.

According to our Articles of Incorporation, anyone who has made a donation during the year is, by that fact, a member. As a donor to the Tabitha Foundation in the past we ask that you consider making another donation, continuing your affiliation with the foundation and in so doing, helping the poor people of Cambodia improve their lives.

All members are warmly welcome to attend and participate in the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman's report is enclosed, outlining many of our accomplishments that have come about as the result of your generous contributions.

The Board of Directors thank you on behalf of our friends in Cambodia.

Sincerely, *Mollie Stokes*

Mollie Stokes, Secretary to the Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting of the Tabitha Foundation

Calvin Christian Reformed Church, 1475 Merivale Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Wednesday, March 31, 2009 at 7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 9, 2008
3. Chairman's Annual Report for 2008
4. Tabitha Cambodia Annual Report, 2008
5. Financial Report for 2008, proposed budget for 2009
6. Election of Board of Directors, 2009-2010
7. Election of Officers, 2009-2010
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

The AGM will be followed by the regular monthly board meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF THE TABITHA FOUNDATION

Darryl Carter, Terry Ann Carter, Bob Carver,
Theresa de Vries, Lucia Dolcetti, Glenys Galloway,
Yolanda Henry, Jim Kirch, Gordon Longmuir,
Jennifer MacKay, Lisbeth Mousseau, Larry Neily,
David Peck, Maureen Rice, Bonnie Robertson,
Joanna Smith, Nancy Stelzer, Mollie Stokes

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS FOR THE TABITHA FOUNDATION

Chair - Larry Neily
Vice-Chair - Terry Ann Carter
Secretary - Mollie Stokes
Treasurer - Darryl Carter

The help that we give will last a lifetime, rather than a moment.

Tabitha Foundation (Canada), Merivale Postal Outlet, Box 65057, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2G 5Y3
Please visit our website for news updates and cottage industry products: www.tabitha.ca

Tabitha Foundation (Canada)

Chairman's Report - 2008-09

Each year I relish the opportunity to write this report. It allows me both to pass on the past year's progress and, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Tabitha Foundation (Canada), to thank you all very warmly for your contribution to our extremely successful work in transforming dreams into realities in Cambodia. There is precious little in the way of good news in the world these days, so it is a very pleasant task each year to inform you, our faithful supporters, of the heartening and yes, astounding progress being made by Janne Ritskes and her brainchild, the Tabitha Foundation.

Janne, as Director of Field Operations, reports that 36,189 families with 289,512 dependents (up over 10%), were involved in our community development programs last year. In 2007-08 Tabitha began operations in Cambodia's Battambang province and approved expansion into Koh Kong province at the request of the governor and several local chiefs. In a piece of amazing news, the work in Kompong Som province will be closing down because the level of poverty has decreased significantly!

The cottage industry program continues to provide work for some of the most destitute Cambodians, especially women. It allows them to work at home, while they care for their children. Profits from cottage industry support much of the administrative costs of the other programs in Cambodia.

An amazing 888 houses were built in the past year by 79 teams with a total of 2370 volunteers (up 277 houses and 345 volunteers from last year). These house-building trips give Tabitha many of its most enthusiastic and solid supporters. In an entirely new project, in conjunction with PACE, six classrooms were built in Prey Veng allowing 380 more children to go to school. The well digging program saw 1045 (up from 48 last year) wells dug for 4,421 families with 35,368 dependents this year. Additionally, 6 ponds were built, providing water for 689 families in areas with no ground water. Provision of potable water for drinking and vegetable gardens is one of the most important initiatives to help families in need, in a nation where only 10% have good water.

As in all charitable endeavours, it is you, our faithful and generous donors, who provide the funds necessary to operate these wonderful programs. All of us thank all of you so much. Tabitha Foundation (Canada) received over \$206,000 in charitable gifts this last year, a more than 30% increase from 2007.

Our dedicated all-volunteer Board here in Canada and the many additional volunteers helping us have, because of their combined efforts, allowed nearly all funds raised to go directly to aid the work in Cambodia. This is so very important for you as a donor that I know you will join me in giving them a huge and well-deserved "Thank you." I give special thanks to the close-knit group who regularly attend our meetings and deal with the mundane business of running the charity.

This year I would like to especially thank two of our most important board members. Jim Kirch is retiring as our treasurer after 10 years of guiding us so well in that capacity. He has done an outstanding job keeping our books, dealing with government regulations, satisfying auditors, and giving us solid financial advice. Another person without whom the ship would have sunk long ago is Mollie Stokes, our secretary since 2001. It has been to her that much of the work of running the foundation has fallen. She has consistently risen to the occasion and done more than her share to make sure the day-to-day operations of the foundation have run smoothly. As we have grown her workload has increased, as have her skills in dealing with it. It has been a pleasure for me to work with both Mollie and Jim. Let's hear a big round of applause for both of them!

The Canadian Board of Tabitha is pleased to welcome Bob Carver from Ottawa and Maureen Rice from Calgary to our fold. Bob has headed the Rockin4Tabitha events and house-building initiative for several years now and has become increasingly involved with the Board here in Ottawa. Maureen has been involved with Tabitha as a house-builder and board member in Singapore and now becomes the Canadian board's Alberta representative.

This June, Janne Ritskes and her daughter, Miriam, will be coming home for a family wedding and some well deserved rest. While she is here, she will be featured in an event in Ottawa (see newsletter) and also in events in Toronto and Hamilton. Please check our website at <http://www.tabitha.ca> to get more up-to-date information regarding these events, as well as updates on the field work and programs, a cottage industry catalogue, and links to our four sister foundations. If you would like us to email you the monthly field reports and updates, please send us your email address. We would be pleased to add you to our private distribution list.

Janne Ritskes and her capable, all-Cambodian staff continue to produce miracles in the poverty stricken areas of Cambodia. We thank Janne, her staff, and the government and people of Cambodia, who have embraced and supported the goals of Tabitha. And once again I thank each donor. Please send your prayers along with your donations. May we all continue together, in grace, with this work in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry E. Neily